



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 16th July 2014 At 11.00 am in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Bob West –Chairman
Robert Barber –Vice-Chairman
Elizabeth Winton
Ian Hill
Tim Horton

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

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72/14 Apologies for Absence

Tony Williamson, Neil Boddington, Keith Lovelace, Linda Nicholson.

73/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th June 2014 which were accepted by Council on the 8/7/2014 to be agreed as a correct record

Minute 66/14, Page 24, line 2 - The following change was agreed, that 'Support Fund' be changed to 'Public Charities'.

Resolved: That with the change detailed above, these minutes be agreed as a correct record of the meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Regarding the Walkabout Notes attached to the minutes – Item 5 should read –Triangle on Cuxham Road, trees and hedge issues – not Hurdlers Green.

74/14 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

75/14 Matters arising

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

76/14 Outstanding Issues

1. **Mat for entrances to office-** This issue was discussed in the light of the quotes received for Coir mats and it was

Resolved: That at this time that no mat to be ordered but that chequered nosing be put on the step. BW and the Clerk to be delegated to do this.

2. **Plastic Bollard outside chip shop** – The Clerk reported that following the manhole repairs by OCC there is no longer enough space to put a plastic bollard in the same location. There was discussion on this and it was:

Resolved: That BW, RB and the Clerk be delegated to look into this issue and if possible to resolve it.

77/14 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

i) **Parish Controlled Trees** – RB stated that he has started work on the specification for the quotations.

ii) **Dog Fouling Issues** - Stoop and Scoop/ Green Dog Walker Scheme – EL reported that they did a dog audit on Monday 14th July and will do another one in September. EL will collate the results once the second audit has taken place.

There has been a request to put in some more dog bins: one in the Goggs area and one by the School. This to be further discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk will have costings for these for the next meeting.

iii) **Skateboard ½ pipe refurbishment**- TH stated that we have received £1000 from The Doris Field Trust. The total cost will be £5,400 of which £1600 of work will be done by volunteers and the work to be done by RSS will cost £3,800. Some more funding may be needed for painting and any other safety aspects that need attending to which will probably be another £300 to the total cost. TH reported that the painting of the metal frame should be completed by Sunday to allow for the laying of the boards and steels on Monday. The backing boards can then be installed. It was agreed that BW order the Marine Ply sheets for delivery next Tuesday. It was noted that this will use up all the Earmarked Recreation Ground reserve of £2000 and the whole of the current budget for maintenance of the play equipment for this year.

After discussion it was:

Resolved:

1. That now we have more detailed information that the Clerk send a further letter to the Public Charities giving them a breakdown of costs and an explanation of the whole situation.
2. That we ask the Finance Committee to consider allocating an extra £1000 to the Recreation Ground budget for this financial year.

BW suggested graffitiing the back boards and EL stated that we should have a launch of the refurbishment on this ½ pipe.

Resolved: That BW, EL and KT arrange a suitable date to have a launch of the ½ pipe and to go ahead and arrange it with the skateboarders, press etc.

b. Mansle Gardens

It was noted that the tree has been removed by Owain Devey and the hedge work has been commissioned to Berinsfield.

c) Paddock

1) **Wish list for plants from our Gardener** – the list was discussed and it was noted that the plants would need to be planted between October and the end of April. She would be happy to supply and give receipts at each stage of planting. KT to speak to Tracey regarding this.

Resolved: That we spend up to £150 on plants for the paddock, to be planted at the appropriate time in the Paddock.

2) **Willow Hedge** – RB to have a look at the hedge to see if it can be weaved or pruned.

3) **Wendy Houses** – BW to have a look at this to see what needs to be done to stabilise one of the legs. KT and BW will then organise quotes or works to be done to it.

78/14 Property

a. Car Park

i) **Car Park Entrance/Watcombe Road** – TH reported on the recent meeting with the Co-op this. He said that the quotes received from Ayres on the proposals for Watcombe Road were discussed as well as some bell bollards. A total project cost would be in the region of £15,000. TH said that it was an extremely good meeting. Discussion took place on this and it was then:
Resolved: That we send a letter with justifications, to the Co-op asking them to pay for these works to be done, either by commissioning the works themselves or by giving WPC funding to arrange the works.
TH/KT

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** –BW/TH to meet in August on site and agree the best way forward and bring their ideas back to the next meeting.

c. Community Office

i) **Painting of inside of Main Community Office** – Colours have been looked at with Jaine McCormack and the Clerk to arrange test pots of the colours. It is envisaged that our caretaker will paint this during the winter months.

d) Pavilion Outside issues

i) **Roof Tiles** – It was noted that some damage has been done to the edging of the roof tiles in the location where football is played against the pavilion (even though there are notices requesting that football is not played near the pavilion).
Resolved: That the Clerk obtain a quote from Colin King in the first instance.

79/14 General Issues

1. **Walkabout Issues** – see updated list at the end of the minutes.

2. **Road Issues** – Our County Councillor had informed us that Love Lane is down for a HAMP assessment and it was thought that we should also ask for assessments for Shirburn Street, Couching Street, part of Brook Street and Spring Lane. It was thought that the best way forward would be to have a meeting with Keith Stenning and Stephen Harrod.

Resolved: That we write to Keith Stenning and Stephen Harrod asking if they could attend the Operations Meeting on 22nd October 2014.

3. **Infrastructure Funding Application**- TH said that we will be sending in this application shortly.

4. **Posts down Church Meadow Path** – To note these have all been put back.

5. **Tree by War Memorial** – A complaint has been received by a resident that she is losing light to her property.

Resolved: That RB and BW to go and have a look at this tree and that they be delegated with the Clerk to address this issue if possible.

6 **Rubbish Collecting Issues**– There are no further issues to discuss.

TH stated that BIFFA contributed some bins free of charge to the Town Hall 350th Anniversary event in the Paddock and a note of thanks to Ian Robinson who organised this to be sent by the Clerk.

7. **Footpath 13** – It was noted that Tom Bindoff has spoken to OCC about this footpath. Some slots have been cut so the water drains off this area. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That we formally ask Jonathan Beale the OCC Countryside Officer to look at this footpath between the West Meadow Kissing Gate and the Farm track as per the informal conversation between Tom Bindoff and OCC Countryside Supervisor Matt Ball.

80/14 Action List – To note any outstanding actions if needed and to note completed actions on the caretaker list.

Car Park clearance – has been completed

Mud around Drain – has been completed

81/14 Correspondence

1. Doris Field Trust – Approved grant of £1,000 for refurbishment of ½ pipe. We need to confirm the use to which this grant has been put.– **Acknowledgement has been made and KT to write to them once the works have been completed to give them a report.**

2. Hillwerke Trust – Questions about our outdoor play equipment. - **It was agreed that the Clerk respond to this.**

3. Mr Logan – re overgrowth on Shirburn Road – **KT has reported on FixmyStreet and to SH.**

4. Mr Cave – Safety of Children visiting Theme Parks or other visitor attractions – **Noted.**

5. Steph Van de Petter – South East side of Willow Close –WPC plans for this area – willing to help? It was noted that the area she refers to is the recessed area by the hedge which has been used as a dumping ground and sometimes looks unsightly. RB, BW and KT to have a look at this area.

It was thought that having local people looking after specific areas is in principle a good idea. TH said that he was worried about the triangle on Cuxham Road (Dogwood Area) and wondered if some local people could look after this area. In the first instance it was agreed that RB and TH meet and have a look at this area and see what could be possible to do to improve this area. TH said he had a concern also about the trees in this area.

Resolved: That KT and RB arrange to meet with Steph Van de Petter to discuss this further.

82/14 Future Issues for Discussion

Paddock – various issues– WIB will give us a wish list at some point.

Summer Sports Programme for Watlington in 2015

83/14 Any Other Business

Tuck Shop at the Pavilion – This will be opening next week for four weeks for the sale of drinks and snacks. Publicity has been given to it on Facebook and posters.

Summer Sports Programme – It was noted that there used to be a good sports summer programme in Watlington but there no longer is. KT reported that there is a one day Archery Course run by SODC taking place in August. After discussion it was agreed that we contact Anna Badcock to see if she can speak to SODC regarding bringing back a Summer Sports Programme for Watlington in 2015.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1PM