



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 At 8pm in the Community Office

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Bob West (BW) - Chairman  
Tom Bindoff (TB) - Vice-Chair  
Ian Hill (IH)  
Liz Winton (LW)  
Rachel Huckvale (RH)  
Tony Williamson (TW)

**Officer:**

Sarah Pullen

**Members of the Public:**

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78/15 Apologies for Absence

Terry Jackson (TJ), Roger Beattie (RB)

79/15 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 which were accepted by Council on the 14/7/2015 to be agreed as a correct record

**Resolved:** that these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

80/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

81/15 Matters arising

There were no matters arising

82/15 Outstanding Issues

i) **Traffic Survey at Christmas Common** – Ordered- Awaiting date from OCC

ii) **Posts on Christmas Common verge** –KT will purchase Reflector Strips.

iii) **Area behind Library** – The Clerk has written to OCC regarding cleansing of this area – still no response. KT has taken this up with SH.

v) **Service cover /Drain Cover- Watcombe Road** – This has been reported to Openreach again by KT (Ref THOAVP88). TB has followed up and engineer visited on 11/7. A replacement has been ordered.

83/15 OCC Issues

1. **Pavement on Britwell Road beyond The Goggs-** TB visited today and went into Windmill Piece. Could a footpath be cut through the bank? Extremely keen for a better path. KT to look for the original Windmill Piece planning application. There was also discussion about Section 106 money. It was thought that the Chicane being considered by OCC would be a better option.

2. **Pound Close/Pyrton Lane Flooding issue** – KT has requested an update from OCC. SH reported on this at FC (9/6/2015). This area was walked today by some of the Operations Committee members. Highways have responsibility for this and SH has said it is being monitored. Alan Keen had informed the Committee that camera has been sent down but it is only a 6" pipe. A sleeve has been put in but this is not adequate. When it was an open stream there was never a problem. It was agreed that this could be suggested to OCC. Alan Keen doubted whether it would be allowed on safety grounds. However it was thought worth writing to OCC on this for clarification.

3. **Hamp Assessments** – These are in the process of being re-assessed.

84/15 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

i) **Dog Fouling Issues** - Stoop and Scoop/ Green Dog Walker Scheme/Dog Fouling Enforcement. KT to talk to Biffa. EW to start campaign again in the autumn. Licence for Green Dog Walker Scheme, funding was agreed to be funded by Biffa. Discussion took place on how much work would be involved in doing this. It was agreed to discuss and assess this again at the September meeting.

ii) **Recreation Ground Car Park** – JB has sent a plan to BW. Plastic mesh put under trees would enable more parking and would protect the trees. Martin Gammie has been consulted on this and he is happy about the trees being protected if membrane put down but the area under the trees would have limited value as to use it would reduce the parking space in the main car park. There was discussion about parking alongside the left of the track (when driving in).

KT has written to Beechwood Estate about improving the vision splay at the Shirburn Road entrance. It was agreed that spaces should be marked to allow more cars to be parked. There was slight concern that the surface may not be good enough to be able to mark out. There will be a Work Party held on the 1<sup>st</sup> August at 10 am and they will scrape back edges and remove rubbish etc.

b) Paddock

1. **Fencing** – Discussion took place on applying to the SODC Infrastructure Fund for metal fencing. The fund is still live. WPC would have to provide 50% of the cost. It was suggested that a metal fence would be preferred if there is funding available. Quotes for metal fencing have been obtained. There is a problem with a Hornbeam tree on our land but it is understood that owner has been in contact asking for it to be pruned.

**Resolved:** To see if the Infrastructure Fund would be the right fund to apply for the fencing and if so to proceed with the application for metal railings and path. If it is not then to proceed with chestnut paling fencing.

85/15 Property

a. Car Park

i) **Works to Drains** – A letter has been sent to OPC but no response has been sent to date. TJ is following up. A quote from Hammond Construction has been received. Robert Barber is going to meet TB this Friday to update him on this issue.

iii) **Civil Enforcement** – IH reported that no further progress has been made.

iv) **Bollard for corner of Watcombe Road** – An email has been received from Tim Horton. BW will contact Tim and get the information so we could buy one and install later.

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** – TJ/JBt have been dealing with this issue but as they are both not present there is no progress to report. It was noted that we have a quote from Hammond Construction. BW to look into this issue. TW advised that there is approximately £15k available to use for this project.

ii) **Area behind the Public Conveniences** – WiB are doing this.

iii) **Cobbles outside Public Conveniences** – Awaiting response from SH.

c) Pavilion

i) **Porta loo in Recreation Ground/Tuck Shop** –BW to speak to Robin at the Granary about the tuck shop as it is essential that it is open for the summer sports week.

86/15 General Issues

1. **Summer Sports Programme** – RH to update. Only 1 person has booked so far, external instructors need 1 weeks' notice. KT will print out posters. If it runs need 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and volunteers. RH to send emails out. All to promote on Facebook.

2. **Phone Box at Christmas Common** – WiB are dealing with this issue.

3. **Emergency Plan** – BW to check the phone numbers of contacts to check these are correct before this is issued out to all on the circulation list.

4. **Footpath W13** – TB is monitoring this. The supervisor at OCC says this is nearly at the top of his list for the works to be completed.

5. **Environment Agency Grants for surveying culverts** – IH to talk to KT

6. **Drainage and Street Lighting** – Awaiting OCC response.

7. **Speeding on Pyrton Lane** – KT has contacted Pyrton PC on this issue for their comments.

8. **Issues raised from Walkabout as per note from TB**

- Hedges along pavements and footpaths– whose responsibility are they? TB stated that growth originating within the width of the footpath is OCC responsibility but growth coming from within the property is that of the resident.  
It was noted that they need cutting back in Davenport Place (Nos 3, 4 and 10) and at The Old Forge (Britwell Road), Spring Lane (Ingham Lane end).
- Fencing rubbish following their installation of a new fence - from No9 The Meadows needs to be removed. – KT to write to them.
- Who is responsible for hedges on the footpath from Mason's Wood to the Meadows? IH said that he thinks they may be an OCC responsibility.
- Paddock railings and Hornbeam covered in paddock agenda item above.
- Church grass – awaiting plan.
- Cuxham Road Triangle – It was noted that TJ will speak to Robert Barber about this area.

9. **Watlington Walk Leaflet** – discussion on re-printing of this leaflet. KT has asked SODC if there would be any funding available towards this. KT getting quotes. It was agreed that the leaflet can be printed as it is and that no changes are needed to it. It was noted that Andi West is doing a Midsomer Murder Leaflet for Watlington on behalf of the WBA.

**Resolved:** To go ahead with the reprinting if funding for doing so is available.

10. **Watering Points in the Town** – TJ was not present so no update was given.

87/15 Correspondence

**GT Jones –Tree Issues** – this was passed to TB to look at the issues raised. TB to report. Concern about two Hornbeams and 1 Hawthorne Tree on the road side of the wall. GJ has requested that these be pruned. TB will ask Robert Barber at their meeting on Friday to find out ownership of the trees as this seems a reasonable request.

88/15 Future Issues for Discussion

Paddock play equipment – RH asked when this is appropriate to discuss and was advised that proposals would be needed in time for the preparation of the Budget for 2016/2017 and would be needed by October.

89/15 Any Other Business

**Bank Closure** – there have been requests on FB for the Parish Council to do something. More worrying is the potential closure of the Post Office.

**Iplay** – it was noted that this is not working properly. KT to be asked to report this to Playdale. The bucket swing is still awaiting the part that needs to be especially made for it. It will be put back as soon as the part is available. To ask KT to chase this up.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:42pm**