



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 20th July at 8pm in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Bob West (BW)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Ian Hill
Tony Williamson

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

1, Caelia Pereira to speak on Item 6

63/16 Apologies for Absence

Jon Lorimer.

64/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd June 2016 which were accepted by Council on the 12/7/2016 to be agreed as a correct record

Minute 56/16 page 19. 'Trees in Beech Close' should read 'Trees in Willow Close.

Resolved: That with the amendment shown above, these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

65/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

66/16 Matters arising

Watlington Walk Leaflets – Glyn Kuhn has sent through the proof which TW has checked. These leaflets have now been ordered.

Car Park Sign for Recreation Ground Car Park – This has been delivered today and will be put up shortly.

67/16 Outstanding Issues

1. **Car Park Sign from Shirburn Road** –KT has ordered a double sided sign with the wording 'Free Public Car Park'.

68/16 Unofficial path to Watcome Road in the corner of the Hill Road Car Park – Discussion of this item following a number of complaints about fencing this off by local residents.

BW, TB and TJ had visited the site this morning when on their 'walkabout'. Caelia Pereira spoke on this issue regarding local residents views which were not to fence this path as there is no other way to get past the Co-op delivery lorry. BW said that they had discussed this issue on site and BW said that the best option

would be to create a gap in the fence to Johnson's Alley which would be much safer for residents.

After discussion it was:

Resolved: That a piece of fencing be removed on the Johnson's Alley side, the area be weeded etc and then to see if surfacing would be required. BW and TB will look into trying to do it themselves and the gap on Watcombe Road to be left open until the new access point is created.

69/16 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. **20mph speed limits in Watlington** – TB stated that he has contacted the Charity Twenty/Plenty and they would be happy to give us support to do this and TB will speak further to them about this. He said that hopefully the NP will get funds for a traffic assessment and one proposal would be for 20mph limits in the Town so it would be good to get a professional view on this.

2. **Tree Report from Martin Gammie** – TB and Robert Barber are hoping to meeting with Martin Gammie to go through the report.

RB asked that the trees inside the Sports Field Area backing onto Shirburn Road be looked at by our Tree Wardens.

3. **Trees in Paddock** –quotes were attached to the agenda. A cost has been given to attend to the Cherry and the Hornbeam in this area by Consulting with Trees. TB said that the Tree in Gorwell also needs urgent attention. It was agreed to ask Martin Gammie for a price to deal with this tree also. The Committee agreed that it would be good to get all 3 trees attended to.

Resolved: That the work to the two trees in the Paddock be commissioned and also the decision to prune the tree in Gorwell, once a price has been received be delegated to BW, TB and the Clerk to agree to the works if the price is acceptable on the Gorwell Tree.

4. **Updates on any other issues** – None discussed.

70/16 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

1. **½ Pipe** – BW said that at long last he has met with someone from RSS who has fixed the loose rivets. However there is a problem with the ply board rotting (Installed Summer 2014) and showed the photos below:



After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk send an email to RSS about this problem.

2. **I Play** – It was noted that this is not working correctly. RH said that she thinks it is only a speaker that is broken. KT will contact Playdale on this.

b) Paddock

i) **New Play Equipment Project** - The order has been placed. Work will begin on 25th August 2016. The

Clerk will be sending letter to all local residents informing them of this work. A note will also be put on our Facebook page and the Town Noticeboard Facebook Page.

It was agreed that the willow hedge at the back of the play area needs to be removed before the 25th August and the Clerk to ask Neil Allen for a quote for doing this and also for the temporary removal of the part metal fence for these works.

It was agreed that fencing of this area be an agenda item for the September meeting.

It was noted that some residents are interested in taking some of the old wooden play equipment and this would need to be done the week before the 25th August. RH will contact the interested residents about this and to say that any donation would be gratefully received.

RH will be organising an official opening of this area in September and the Watlington Band have offered to come and play at it. It was agreed to ask a member of Ted's family to come and cut the ribbon. KT will contact them regarding this.

ii) **Puddle by gate at Library end** – BW reported that he had met with Neil and Richard Allen on site to discuss this issue. They have suggested that a French Drain be put in by the granite setts and also a soakaway. This would entail digging a hole, putting in a pipe and this would be covered in shingle.

71/16 Property

a. Car Park

There were no issues to discuss.

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** –TJ/RB to update. Quotes received were attached to the agenda.

RB said that he had sent out 5 tenders, through the Clerk. One quotation will need to be re-done as it was not as the specification required.

There was much discussion on various issues. Regarding a resin or terrazzo floor, BW will check whether a resin floor would be slippery.

It was agreed that BW would go through the specification and analyse it to see if the specification is all in order and if not we can ask for re-quotations.

c) Community Office

(i) **Painting of Office** – Quotes have been requested. One quote has been received. This was deferred to the September meeting. One more quote is required and BW will give a name of a contractor to the Clerk.

72/16 General Issues

1. **Recycling Bins for the Town** – TJ –Deferred to the September meeting.

2. **OCC – Oxfordshire Together – Section 101 Legal Agreement** – attached for discussion. The Clerk said that she has requested a meeting with Steve Harrod and Keith Stenning on this as the issue is not clear cut on certain cutting areas. She will inform members once a date is agreed.

3. **TRELLO** – A half an hour meeting was held prior to this one to go through how this works on Councillors laptops/tablets. All members present are now able to log on to TRELLO. It was agreed that we trial this for 3 months. It is important that members log on regularly and update on the tasks they have taken on.

4. **Red Kites** – RB said that he has seen problems on Watlington Hill. (National Trust Land) with the Red Kites with one bird attacking a person and drawing blood. It was suggested that a note should be put up in this area warning people about these birds. TJ reported that the National Trust Warden already planned to put up notices on Watlington Hill.

It was noted that the advice is not to feed these birds but there are a few people in the town who still insist on feeding them which does not help matters.

It was suggested that a talk on Red Kites may be useful either in the Town Hall or the School for the wider community. TB agreed to follow up on this and contact the relevant people.

73/16 Correspondence

1. Ian Kent – Lorries – attached to agenda. Agreement on whether to report lorries to Trading Standards.

It was noted that there is very specific criteria on what to report and a Trading Standards Form is available. RH offered to go through any report on HGV breaches and to see that they are in order before we report them as Trading Standards are very short staffed and do not have much time to dedicate to these reports, and we would not want to waste their time by reporting any lorries that may be legal as this could lead to them not following up on any of our reports.

2. Tony Beckett – unofficial path to Watcombe Road - **Noted in discussion above.**

3. Caelia Pereira -unofficial path to Watcombe Road – **Noted in discussion above.**

4. Phil Hutchins -unofficial path to Watcombe Road – **Noted in discussion above.**

5. Playdale – Sales Order and information concerning the order- **Noted.**

74/16 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. **Cobbles outside Public Conveniences** – BW is looking into this.

2 **Enforcement of 2 Hour Bays** – When recommendations are received from the NP Infrastructure Report.

3. **Recreation Ground Car Park Marking out** – Awaiting plan from KW.

4. **Fencing for Children’s Play Area** – September meeting

75/16 Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.08PM