



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 At 8pm in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

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

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Bob West presided over the meeting until the election of Chairman.

49/16 Election of Chairman

Rachel Huckvale proposed Bob West and this was seconded by Tom Bindoff. There were no other nominations. **Resolved:** That Bob West be elected unanimously as Chairman.

50/16 Election of Vice-Chairman

Rachel Huckvale proposed Tom Bindoff and this was seconded by Terry Jackson. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Tom Bindoff be elected unanimously as Vice-Chairman.

51/16 Apologies for Absence

Ian Hill

52/16. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th April 2016 which were accepted by Council on the 10/5/2016 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.

53/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

54/16 Matters arising

Report on Queen's Birthday Event – TJ reported that this went very well and people worked very hard to make it such a successful community event. There was a very good atmosphere. The NP stall had a lot of interest shown in it.

Painting of Main Office – Quotes to be sought. BW/KT

Cleaning of Main Office Carpet – It was agreed that this needs to be cleaned and the Clerk will

organise for this to be done.

55/16 Outstanding Issues

1. **Drain Cover- Watcombe Road** – KT has contacted Openreach (Ref TH0FWU78) – On-going.

2. **Play Inspection Report** – KT is working through this. On –going.

3. **Watlington Walk Leaflet** – KT has checked the Year End Figures. There is money available to print more leaflets.

Resolved: That we order 5000 Watlington Town Leaflets at a cost of £531.00 . KT to contact Glyn Kuhn and order these.

4. **Unofficial path to Watcome Road in the corner of the Hill Road Car Park.** – TB will be putting up a barrier to stop this being used.

Resolved: That we put up signs alerting residents that this will be having a barrier put up. KT to do this.

56/16 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. **20mph speed limits in Watlington** – The email from Anthony Kirkwood in response to our letter was discussed in which he stated *‘Such a limit could be introduced by the County Council (as the highway authority) by promoting a new speed limit order - this is a legal process requiring extensive consultation, and although very straightforward, would only be initiated if there was both funding available, and if the proposal was judged to comply with the Department for Transport (DfT) guidelines on setting speed limits - see*

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/63975/circular-01-2013.pdf - and specifically sections 6.1 and 7.3. The process normally takes a minimum of around six months to complete from an instruction being given to our legal services team to start work on the speed limit order to when the speed limit is operational (and timescales will almost certainly be longer if supporting traffic calming measures are needed). I am afraid though that we have no funding for a scheme here at present, and given the very severe financial pressures we are facing, this is very unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. There are though precedents of parish councils funding speed limits; a first step would be to carry out speed surveys to assess the need for traffic calming measures in addition to the speed limit signing; surveys are currently charged at £100+ VAT per site, and it is likely around 10 surveys would be required here (our transport monitoring team may be able to offer some discount to the above fee for this quantity of surveys). If it is then mutually agreed to progress this further, the fee for the legal / administrative work is £2500, and added to this is the cost of any calming or other measures that may be required to support the limit, together with the costs of the new speed limit signing. While the signing costs would perhaps (as a very indicative figure) be in the order of £5000, any traffic calming measures that may be needed are likely to be appreciably more expensive. I should also stress that irrespective of the source of funding, we are required to consult widely on speed limit changes and that a decision on whether to proceed would be taken after considering the responses’.

TB said that Lancashire has introduced 20mph and he will look into their scheme which is called Twenty is Plenty and will update the committee on this at the next meeting.

2. **Tree Report from Martin Gammie** – All Members were emailed this.

TB stated that he has spoken with Robert Barber, the other tree warden and he suggested that Martin Gammie be asked to meet with TB and RB to discuss the report and prioritise issues and we then invite Robert Barber to the meeting when this will be discussed.

Trees in Paddock that need work – Martin Gammie has previously quoted for works to these trees and KT will circulate this quotation.

Trees in Beech Close – TJ said that the trees outside her house are making her house very dark and they need pruning. It was noted that this is an OCC issue and that she should deal with OCC direct.

3. Updates on any other issues

There were no other issues that needed updates.

57/16 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

1. **Car Park Marking out** – Awaiting plan from KW.

2. **Car Park Sign from Shirburn Road** – A quote has been received from Archers Signs for a double sided finger sign. The wording was discussed and it was agreed that it should read 'Free Public Car Park'.

KT will ask for an updated quote to reflect the change in wording.

3. **½ Pipe Painting** – TJ reported that Neilsen's painted the framework of the ½ Pipe and thanks were given to them. The boards still need painting and Tim Horton has said that his offer to paint these still holds and he will organise this. BW is chasing up the contractors as there is a problem with the rivets coming out.

b) Paddock

i) **New Play Equipment Project** - RH gave an update on this and said that an anonymous donor has offered £1000 towards this equipment. We have also received the donations given on behalf of Ted Backhouse.

We now only have a very small shortfall and she asked if we could now be in a position to order the equipment and gave out a paper on this. This was discussed and it was:

Resolved: That this paper is given to the Finance Committee as they have been delegated by Full Council to make a decision on whether the order can be given to Playdale.

It was thought that this area should be called 'Teddy's Play Area'. Discussion also took place on the existing benches for the play area which could be re-used for this area and it was agreed to take out the bench which is included in Playdale's Quote and re-use our existing one/s which are in the shape of a crocodile and a fish.

It was agreed that we get quotes for removing the willow hedge at the back of the play area. The fencing issue will be looked at once the play equipment has been installed.

Congratulations were given to Rachel Huckvale for all her work on this project which is now in a position to order the new equipment.

ii) **Puddle by gate at Library end** – One quote from Neil Allen which was received a year ago was attached to the agenda. BW will have another look at this problem and speak to Neil Allen about it.

58/16 Property

a. Car Park

1. **Enforcement of 2 Hour Bays** – Recommendations will come out of the NP Infrastructure report.

This issue will be taken off the agenda until these are received.

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** –TJ/RB

RB said that he had a site visit with Neil Boddington and they have come up with a job list which includes: new windows, decorate inside and outside the building, safety flooring etc, It was noted that we have now received a reply from SODC on windows which stated '*Changing the windows would not be a problem, you do have the option to upgrade the current windows as long as they don't detract from the character of the property (being in a conservation area) obviously obscured and re enforced as the current windows but colour, style and materials are down to you*'. Flooring options were discussed also. It was noted that there is no Full Council meeting in August and the committee would like to progress this issue.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Operations Committee be delegated to make a decision on choosing the quote for the refurbishment/upgrading of the public conveniences.

The Clerk reported that she is still concerned about the cost of the water to this facility. It was agreed to ask Bob to check the settings and ask Lee Beckett to have a look at the sensor in the gents.

59/16 General Issues

1. **Recycling Bins for the Town** – TJ to do a survey of the bins in the Town and report back to the next meeting. TB was thanked for his offer to refurbish the wood bin at the Town Hall. It was agreed that we ask SODC for a new bin outside K for Kitchen.

2. **TRELLO** – It was agreed that we have a half hour meeting at 7.30pm to discuss this issue before our next meeting on 20/7/2016 at 8pm. All members to bring their tablets/laptops with them.

60/16 Correspondence

1. **Peter Logan** – faded white lines at the junction of Couching Street and Shirburn Road – see attached email. It was noted that OCC removed these as they caused severe traffic problems.

2. **Katie Roberts** – Recreation Area complaint re rubbish after Icknield leaving party and that a dog bit her child. It was agreed that she should contact the Police regarding the dog incident and that ICC have been sent a letter regarding the rubbish at the recreation ground. KT reported that the PCSO did patrol this area during the day but it was the evening party of school leavers that left the mess. It was noted that we need to try and preempt this happening next year.

3. **Helen Fowler** – Chapel Street – traffic issues – see attached email.

61/16 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. **Cobbles outside Public Conveniences** – It was agreed to obtain a quote from Richard Allen and Dave Pullen. **BW/KT**

62/16 Any Other Business

Triangle on Cuxham Road – TJ said that this need cutting. KT will obtain a quote from Berinsfield for this work.

Walkabout – This will take place at 11am on 20th July. A route will be circulated in advance of this meeting. BW/TB to do this. The next meeting will be held at 8pm on 20th July 2016.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40pm

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