



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 16th March 2016 At 8pm in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors: Tom Bindoff (TB) - Vice-Chair
Ian Hill (IH)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Tony Williamson (TW)

Officer: Denise Allnut

25/16 Apologies for Absence

Bob West, Terry Jackson, Roger Beattie.

26/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th February 2016 which were accepted by Council on the 8/3/2016 to be agreed as a correct record

The following changes were agreed:

- 19/16b: Watlington Support Fund should read 'Watlington Public Charities'.
Doris Field Charity should read 'Doris Field Trust Charity'.
The sentence 'Rainbow Nursery.....fundraise for this' to be removed.

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

27/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

28/16 Matters arising

Highways Issues (Minute 18/16 refers): TW said that following the WPC meeting, Keith Stenning has met separately with TW and some Age Concern representatives about the comments made on the survey for Older People. TW asked that this be an agenda item for the next meeting. At the meeting with Age Concern representatives, KS agreed to look at the pavement between the Hill Road Car Park and Couching Street as it is very uneven and narrow, and has been the site of several trips and falls. The pavement outside the Fat Fox should also be looked at.

29/16 Outstanding Issues

i) **Drain Cover- Watcombe Road** – KT has contacted Openreach (Ref THOAVP88). The latest update is that a new cover and frame has been ordered. Still not repaired. Contacted again on 4/2/2016 not helpful. Will re-contact. This has still not been repaired as at 16/3/2016

ii) **Play Inspection Report** – KT is working through this.

iii) **Breedon Path weeding** – IH has spoken to our Gardener, Tracey, and she will do this with weed killer when the weather is suitable. Notification will be given to residents when we know this will be happening by signs asking people to keep off the grass and also to keep dogs away from the grass.

iv) **Recreation Ground Car Park and Lighting** – Seeking more quotes – There has been no progress on this issue. Waiting for information from the Football Club.

v) **Watlington Walk Leaflet** – KT is looking into whether there is some money available to reprint this leaflet. This will need to wait till the accounts for 2015/16 are prepared.

vi) **Bin outside K is for Kitchen** – IH circulated quotes which had been obtained a few years ago for a wooden slat bin similar to that at the Town hall. The bins on the High Street are owned by SODC but we could put in an extra bin at a cost of about £400. It was thought we should ask if SODC has any budget left to replace this bin and to also see if there are any grants available.

Actions: RH will check if there is a grant available for bins as we would also like to put a new bin in at the Town Hall. TB will contact SODC about this issue.

30/16 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. **Speedwatch issues** – TB said they have the equipment in Watlington for one week. They will be doing surveys at Christmas Common, Hill Road, Howe Road and Britwell Road. TB is organising these.

2. **Cobbles outside Public Conveniences** – These will be done in the spring by Watlington in Bloom.

3. **20mph speed limits in Watlington** – RH said there had been recent comments on the Watlington Town Noticeboard Facebook page in favour of introducing a 20mph limit. TB stated that the survey he did at the Xmas Fayre 2014 confirmed this and it will be incorporated into the NP. It would cost in the region of £5000 as it would need a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). There would also need to be a public consultation on this.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Council adopts a 20mph for the town. This will require a decision on which roads should be included, and needs to be discussed with OCC to determine what is feasible.

4. **Potential Improvements to Watlington footpaths** – Note on this was attached to the agenda. TB said that we could add other unmapped footpaths to the NP. He would like them added as an appendix to the NP and to add a wish list as per the possible footpath improvements attached to the agenda (copy attached to these minutes). IH pointed out that if too many items were added to the NP and accepted it could impose significant problems on future Parish Councils as CIL money became available. We could not earmark CIL funds for particular purposes until specific developments were proposed and accepted.

5. **Tree Report** – Martin Gammie has contacted the office to say this will be done by the end of March. It should be an agenda item for April.

6. **Updates on any other issues** – There were none.

31/16 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

i) **Lighting in this area** – To be discussed at the next meeting.

b) Paddock

i) **New Play Equipment Project** – RH has got quotes and recommended that the committee should agree on the 2nd most expensive scheme which is from Playdale and will cost in the region of £20,000.

Grants that have been sought:

SODC –	10K
Watlington Public Charities -	1.5K
Watlington PC	2K
Doris Field	3K

Other fundraising will also be done. There is an Easter Egg Hunt in the Paddock on the 20th March. Something with the Watlington Band is being discussed and also a Community Poetry Project has been considered. RH said it would be good if the work could be done in June before the school holidays but will depend on whether the total money needed has been raised. RH has also set up a JustGiving page for this project. RH asked if the line of the fence could be moved out by about 1m nearer the path. The Committee did not think this would be a good idea. She then asked if the willow on the back fence could be either taken out or trimmed back. This was thought to be able to be done.

To be further discussed at the next meeting with a view to making a final decision on the fence and willow issue.

Regarding the Easter Egg Hunt, TB asked if they needed a First Aider as he is one and could be available. IH will sort out the Insurance.

32/16 Property

a. Car Park

i) **Car park clearance/drainage ditches** – This work was done on 27/28th Feb and seems to have improved the situation.

ii) **Enforcement of two hour bays** – IH has now received 4 quotes for firms that would be prepared to do the enforcement on these bays. There was much discussion on various options but none seemed perfect. IH has also spoken to Thame Town Council about sharing their wardens but it is unlikely that this would work. TB suggested that we wait for the results of the Car Park Survey before making a decision. All present thought having an actual person would be better than Bob or a Councillor doing the monitoring and recording of parking. TW said we need to prepare a strategy. **Resolved:** That we wait for the results of the Car Park Survey and then discuss this issue once we have the results.

iii) **Request from Co-op to surface the unofficial path to Watcome Road in the corner of the Hill Road Car Park.** – It was agreed that it was better to close off the path than to provide a second exit point on to Watcombe Road. TB will put up a barrier across the path.

iv) **Car Park Re-arrangement** – Further to the David Parker re-arrangement plan. TW will have a look at this and report back to the next meeting.

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** – IH reported that KT has asked SODC whether we could have 3 years maintenance money in advance. They have responded stating that the money is for maintenance and cleaning and asking how we have managed to save money from their grant. KT and IH will reply back to SODC.

33/16 General Issues

1. **Oxfordshire Together** – following discussion on this at March Full Council. - Paper was attached to agenda.

Resolved: That the Clerk respond in the affirmative to this, including the items we think we can deal with.

2. **TRELLO** – Deferred to next meeting

3. **Berinsfield Contract** – Any additional tasks, football club pitches grass cutting issue that need discussing – IH said that he is not sure of the current position and will check with the Clerk.

4. **Times of future Operations meetings** – This was discussed and it was:

Resolved: That all Operation Meetings take place at 8pm.

34/16. Correspondence

1. **Jaine McCormack** – Paint for Christmas Common phone box – KT will order it once it has been sourced.

2. **ICC** – Fairground Rides etc. – attached to agenda – We are awaiting ICC's response to KT's letter.

3. **Robert Barber** – copy letter to OCC on the DMMO for Footpath 4 – Noted.

4. **Car Park Drains** – KT to reply to this giving the cost of the quote previously given of £13K and explaining what the working party have done to improve the situation.

35/16 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. **Half Pipe** – To be painted in the spring. A resident has said that it needs more work than paint. IH will go and inspect this with BW. (Following meeting IH inspected and could see no sign of loose metalwork, although in one or two places there was some give in surface).

2. **Survey for Older People – Highways Issues** – TW – Agenda Item – April 2016

3. **Tree Report** – Agenda item – April 2016

4. **Lighting in the Recreation Play Area** – April 2016

5. **Enforcement of two hour bays in Hill Road Car Park** – To discuss once the Car Park Survey results are available.

6. **TRELLO** – Agenda item – April 2016

36/16 Any Other Business

Paddock - Puddle by gate at Library End – TW has taken photos of this and BW to be asked to have a look at it.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM