



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 8pm In the Community Office

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Tom Bindoff (TB) – Vice-Chair  
Ian Hill (IH)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)  
Tony Williamson (TW)  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Fergus Lapage (FL)

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

25/18 Apologies for Absence

Bob West, Fiona Butler, Jenny Wilkinson.

26/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 which were accepted by Council on the 21/2/2018 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.

27/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

28/18 Matters arising

**Kissing Gate at the Recreation Ground** – RB said that he is seeking quotes for this work. RB/KT  
To ask Martin Gammie when the tree works are being done in the rec if they could put some bark in this area. **TB/KT**

29/18 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

1. **Cobbles by Public Conveniences clearing out** – This is currently being done. Bob Thomas is looking for a better tool to do this with.
2. **Leylandi trees in the Hill Road Car Park** – KT has now heard from BT. The land on which the Leylandi are was given to SODC in 2007 and now belongs to us. We are responsible for cutting them and CwT have been asked to put these back into the tree works.
3. **Trees in Watlington** – Work is being carried out in the week 26-30 March 2018.
4. **Marlbrook Green Space** – Leaflets about not driving/parking on the green have been sent out

5. **TrailTale** – TJ said that she thinks the one to put on website is the Watlington Town Walk –the Office will do this.
6. **Removal of white line at the Town Hall** – This is still on the OCC list of works to be done but they have given no update as to when this will be happen.
7. **Hedge between Rec and Allotment** – This work has been completed by Devey Tree Care.
8. **Noticeboard for Children’s Play Area** – on-going.
9. **Watlington Map on entrance to Car Park** – Bob Thomas has removed this. He has cleaned the map up and is presently fixing the frame.
10. **Updating Public Conveniences** – this work will start on the 15th April.
11. **Hearing loop for the office** – following an anonymous donation a mobile set has been purchased for use in our buildings. KT to ensure that this is charged up for meetings.
12. **Hedge Cutting on Shirburn Road** – It was noted that the hedge trimmings have now been removed.

30/18 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. Trees

The programme of works was noted in the item above.

2. Highways

Highway Signs at Christmas Common – It was noted that these are very dirty. OCC are no longer cleaning them. It was agreed that we ask for volunteers to clean them. WPC have Hi Viz jackets available to use.

3. Footpaths

a) **Footpath 13** – TB has asked for a quote for works for this footpath.

31/18 Open Spaces

1. Recreation Ground /Sports Field/Pavilion

a). **I-Play** – Bob West needs to speak to Playdale regarding this. KT will chase him.

b). **MUGA Proposal for Recreation Ground**

RB updated the Committee on the research that Nicky Smallbone and he have been doing and stated that the PSFC committee would like to introduce a MUGA to the recreation ground. The current basketball area is tired and underused, the surface being extremely unforgiving especially for younger children.

The MUGA would be enclosed by a purpose built 3m high fence with a lockable entrance gate and lighting to be added so the area can be used all year round.

The original proposal was to just use the current hard standing area but on further investigation it would seem more sensible to extend the site to accommodate two playing areas within the MUGA. If the right surface is chosen, tennis, netball, basketball, hockey, cricket and football could potentially all be played to varying levels.

It would be expected that users would pay for sessions, the income generated to be ring fenced for the maintenance of the MUGA.

The current approximate estimate of cost would be between £90k and £180k depending on size. Enquiries have been made to the SODC Community Grant Scheme and WREN and have received very favourable responses. The Sports Lottery Fund will also be looked at. RS and NS will also speak to other Parish Councils who already have one about costs of maintenance etc.

To move on to the next stage planning permission is required as the height of the fencing and lighting are above permissible levels.

After discussion a vote was taken: 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

1. That Council approve the principle of a two pitch MUGA.
2. To put in a Planning Application for the fencing and lighting.



2. Paddock

a) **Performance Space** – KT to ask Bob West for an update on this.

b) **Hedge in Paddock** – Our Gardeners has cut this to fence height.

3. Grass Cutting Tender – To appoint a contractor for April 2018 - all members had received a copy of the Tender Price Document. Three contractors had tendered.

The document was discussed and it was:

**Resolved** to appoint Contractor A (Berinsfield) for grass cutting and gardening works and Contractor 3 for the hedge works (Devey Tree Care).

Once the grass season is underway two Councillors will go round the areas to check that the cutting is as per the specification.

4. Other Areas

a) **Landscape Design for Triangle on Cuxham Road** – TJ has asked two companies to quote but they have not yet got back to her. She will post a notice asking for contractors on the Town Facebook page.

32/18 Property

1. Car Parks

a) **Recreation Ground Car Park** – It was noted that the temporary marking of this is working out very well and it could do with being done properly. The company we use for the Hill Road Car Park marking has only re-marked existing spaces they have not done it from scratch. KT to ask them if this is something they do and if so to get a quote for works. We would also need two other quotes.  
**RB/NS/ KT.**

## 2. Public Conveniences

There were no issues that needed discussing.

## 3. Parish Office

**Carpet for Office – Quotes are being sought for this**

We have one quote and seeking two others.

## 33/18 General Issues

a) **Attracting Volunteers** – JW had produced a draft note for discussion.

**Resolved:** That the note below be put in the Watlington Times, Facebook Pages etc to see if we can get some volunteers to come forward.

### **‘AN HOUR TO IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY?’**

The spending cuts to the county/district/parish means that many services have ceased or been greatly reduced. You may have noticed more litter, weeds and lack of repairs and shabbiness around the town. You may notice things that need doing in your area round the outside of your house and street. Unfortunately, Bob, our splendid caretaker can only cover the town centre and the regular cleaning and weeding of kerbs is very infrequently done by the council. Small things can make a big difference to where we live and work. Just an hour of your time could have a big impact in improving people’s lives and the wider community.

There are many of us who already take on little but valuable tasks round Watlington either on our own or sometimes joining a group for a bigger job. Some of these are a one-off, some fit in to a routine.

### **There are all sorts of tasks available**

**Perhaps you are good at gardening and would adopt a tub?** Make more of your window boxes and pots?

Watlington in Bloom is aiming to have an Open Gardens’ Day which has been very successful in the past. Just extending your housekeeping to the kerb side and possibly helping neighbours who cannot for some reason keep frontages clear and weed free would make such a difference to our roads.

**Perhaps you like exercise with a purpose?** A new idea has come from Sweden called “Plogging” which is sweeping America now. You jog and also pick up litter – bending and stretching! Check it out on the internet. Walking probably is more efficient for spotting litter though!

**Do you like cleaning and seeing the results?** There are road signs, benches and many other places that need maintenance. Are you handy with tools and can mend things? There are so many skills and experiences that we gather through life that would be very helpful when applied to our community. When we get together, we celebrate the completion of a task with tea and biscuits.

### **Equipment and advice is available**

To keep us all safe, and to show that we care, we now have high Viz jackets with Watlington Parish Council Volunteer on the back. You are welcome to have one and use around the town. You may have seen some of us wearing them with pride already. There are many organisations running in Watlington that rely on volunteers. This list is on the parish council website

[http://www.watlington-oxon-pc.gov.uk/Core/Watlington\\_Parish\\_Council/Pages/Default\\_3.aspx](http://www.watlington-oxon-pc.gov.uk/Core/Watlington_Parish_Council/Pages/Default_3.aspx)

If you think you can spare even just an hour of your time, please contact the Parish Council

[wpc@watlington-oxon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:wpc@watlington-oxon-pc.gov.uk) and 01491 613 867. The office is open 9.30 to 12.30 Monday to Friday. They would be delighted to advise and guide.

b) **Watlington in Bloom**

TJ reported that WiB will be planting up the areas around the trees shortly.

34/18 Correspondence

There was no correspondence that needed discussion.

35/18 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

a) **Welcome Pack for new residents** – At the appropriate time.

36/18 Any Other Business

**Community Payback Team** – TW said that the team are still in the Churchyard on Mondays but maybe not for much longer. He said that if WPC wanted them to do jobs now would be a good time. TJ and TB will put together a list of potential jobs and give to KT to contact the CPT.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.12PM**

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