



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 7th May 2014 At 11.00 am in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Bob West – Chairman
Robert Barber –Vice-Chairman
Ian Hill
Elizabeth Winton
Tim Horton

Officer:

Sarah Pullen

47/14 Apologies for Absence

Neil Boddington, Tony Williamson, Linda Nicholson

48/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th April 2014 which will be accepted by Council on the 13/5/2014 to be agreed

It was noted that on Community Policing Awards (Minute No 44/14 No 3 refers) to read 'we do **not** nominate anyone.

Resolved: That with the addition of 'not' as shown above that these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

49/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

50/14. Matters arising

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

51/14 Outstanding Issues

1. **Pothole by Car Park**- BW reported that we are still waiting for more quotes. BW said that he had arranged to meet a contractor but that he did not turn up. BW/KT will obtain more quotes.

52/14 Property

a. Car Park

- i) **Car Park Entrance/Watcombe Road** – TH still waiting for dates for a meeting

with the Co-op.

ii) **Update of plastic bollard (same as the one by Chip Shop) for bank on Watcombe Road** – It was noted that Scion repair and look after our bollards in the town. It was therefore:

Resolved: That we ask Scion to install this bollard.

KT

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** –BW and TH to organise a date to meet to discuss this. TH has identified some plumbers to quote for the works. The main problem is the Gents.

EW reported that the neighbouring property to the Public Conveniences has a problem with cars parking on her drive. It was noted that this land used to be a SODC car park. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of moving the public conveniences to the car park if British Telecom were to replace the exchange with a smaller facility.

c. Community Office

i) **Interior Decorating** –This is on Bob Thomas’s list for doing in bad weather.

53/14 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

i) **Parish Controlled Trees** – Martin Gammie will be attending the next committee meeting.

ii) **Dog Fouling Issues** – KT is still investigating funding for the Green Dog Walker Scheme. KT and

EW will meet with the Vets to see if they would be willing to help with sponsorship. TH suggested that we should look at having a complete dog ban in the Sports Area and this would be in our power to do so. RB said that he would be opposed to this as the Parish Council pay the rent on this area and therefore the community should be able to use this area as well as the sports people. EW said that she believed the Football Club would like to ban dogs but perhaps we could look at having dogs on leads in this area first.

Resolved: That we discuss this issue further next month and ask KT to give an update on funding for the Green Dog Walker scheme.

iii) **Skateboard 1/2 pipe** - TH reported that he has been in touch with Anthony Ramsey who is based in Burnley. He would be happy to give us an estimate if TH provides additional photographs. In 1999 a steel surface was put on top of the wood. Anthony Ramsey has recommended concrete. However it could have wood on top of the steel and then the wood could be easily replaced. We could re-use the existing steel and put wood on top including safety boarding. He could also give us an estimate of this. BW and TH will check that the sub-frame is in good condition. He will send an estimate this week and this can then be looked at in the next meeting. There is some corrosion which will need painting with Hammerite.

b. Mansle Gardens –Update on any issues.

i) **Hedge** –RB and KT are meeting with Berinsfield this afternoon to look at the height

issue.

ii) **Trees** – RB stated that Owain Devey (Devey Tree Care) has put in for permission from SODC but has had no further update. Tree works can take up to six weeks to obtain permission. TH asked that Terry Jackson, Nigel Mogg and himself be copied on any information on this and Nigel Mogg will update local residents. It was also noted that June/July are the worst months to carry out tree works and the work may possibly need to be postponed until September.

54/14 General Issues

1. **Road Issues** – TH is recording all issues and has left a proforma in the office. He has given each issue a priority number:

- a) Urgent/Immediate safety problem
- b) Serious/Critical
- c) Watching carefully.

TH stated that we should lobby for works on Love Lane as the whole road needs attention. The County Council has received extra money for road repairs from Central Government. Some of the problems are due to the building of new homes in Love Lane.
Resolved: To ask the County Council to spend that some of the 106 money from the new scheme be spent on repairing this road.

It was noted that major works are also needed in the Goggs and we should ask the County Council to repair this road also. There is a meeting scheduled to discuss the clearance of the pipe at the entrance to West Meadows this Friday with David Baldwin (Monson), Tony Williamson, Tim Horton and an OCC Officer on Friday. SP will also be attending on behalf of the Public Charities. A separate meeting is to be arranged with the Goggs residents to discuss longer term issues.

2. **4 new bins for Town and Infrastructure Funding** –TH reported that 3 new bins are needed in the High Street which includes the one by the Town Hall. The 4th bin is not so critical. It was suggested that all could be latticed wood, the same as the Town Hall bin which was agreed at the last meeting. RB suggested that a round bin with a leg is used by the War Memorial so that it can be cleaned under and would match better the tubs in this location.

Resolved: That we apply for Infrastructure Funding for these bins and that TH, BW and RB do an on-site inspection prior to the applications being sent.

3. **Mats for entrances to office** – KT had got quotes for mats.

Resolved: That we order a 1200mm x 1600mm mat with the wording 'Mind the Step' To be sisal matting with black writing. The cost will be no more that £200.

3. **First Aid Course** – SP reported that KT has been looking into organising a course in Watlington and has been seeking costings. It was noted that Bob Thomas and 3 volunteers from the Youth Club have expressed an interest in this. It was agreed that this be organised and that the Business Association, Watlington Environment Group and Sally Gardner be asked if they wish to participate in this. It was noted that the more people the less it will cost per person.

55/14 Action List – sent to Councillors by email on 29/4/2014

It was noted that the works to the Sports Field Hedge will be completed on 14th May by Owain Devey. It had been scheduled to finish on the 1st May but bad weather prevented the works being done.

It was also noted that the Howe Hill Phone Box letter has been sent as well as the I-Play action.

56/14 Correspondence

1. **SODC** – re tree works for Mansle Gardens – Noted above in Minute 53/14

2. **OALC** – re Twitter or Facebook Account. SP has been speaking to the OALC about FB and Twitter and has almost completed a document which can be used to set up social media. There are no legal topic notes published from OALC at this time. SP is happy to assist WPC with setting this up.

57/14 Future Issues for Discussion

Paddock – various issues– TH reported that Sue Goss has sent some notes on the Paddock and Terry Jackson is leading on this and will submit a proposal to the committee.

58/14 Any Other Business

Neilsons – TH reported that last year this company sent over 40 people to Watlington for Global Awareness Day. Last year they cleared paths in the Paddock, painted fencing and cleared weeds. TH has asked them to come back this year and they will be coming to Watlington on June 12th 2014. TH has contacted KT on behalf of WIB. TH said that this year they will be generous to other organisations in the Town such as Friends of Watlington Hill and they will also do some work in the Churchyard of St Leonards. Last year they also worked with Rainbow Nursery. TH stated that they will do work on the Paddock paths again this year. TH is organising equipment to make sure they have enough and will work on a priority list for them. EL suggested that the Pre-School are approached about help in their garden. It was noted that more volunteers were needed to organise the work projects before the work day.

Pavilion Planting/Front Bed – It was noted that there has been no work done on this. It was down to the Sports Club but last year WIB took responsibility for clearing the beds (Jane Beard). It was thought that there should be a minimal scheme in place.

Walkabout - It was thought that the Committee should have one soon. It was suggested that that Wed 28th May would be a good day and it was agreed to ask KT to organise this.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.20PM