



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 8pm In the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Bob West (BW)
Ian Hill (IH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Fiona Paterson (FP)
Fergus Lapage (FL)

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

In Attendance:

Barry Adby (for the Fire Station item)

53/17 Election of Chairman

IH proposed Bob West and this was seconded by TW.

Resolved: That Bob West be unanimously appointed as Chairman.

54/17 Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved: That this be deferred to the next meeting.

55/17 Apologies for Absence

Tom Bindoff, Rachel Huckvale

56/17 **Marcus Reay – Station Manager, Watlington Fire Station in Attendance**

MR said that they need to recruit and train new firefighters. There are no cuts being made to Watlington Fire Station, some stations are having cuts of 40%. Watlington supports the Community Safety Team, Trading Standards as the station is OCC Funded. MR said that back in the seventies and eighties when Dave King, Andy Coveney and Barry Adby were Station Managers the fire station had a social club with dominoes, darts, Christmas events and lots of family events. The Social Club and bar was removed 10 years ago and the family involvement stopped. Until 2002 Watlington had 14 years of having 100% turn out to calls but after losing crew in 2002 the percentage turn out dropped significantly.

Watlington recently recruited 4 firefighters but have lost 6 of which some of these were young people.

MR is still involved in trying to recruit at the Industrial Estate, has leafleted the town, knocked on peoples doors. He has also been to Shirburn, Lewknor and Pyrton and has visited the Chalgrove Estate. 7 people have come forward since the fire at DG Homecare. It takes between 3-5 months to train to become a fire fighter and courses take place in Didcot. There has been many comments on the Watlington Town Noticeboard about

firefighters.

Regarding the fire at DG Homecare this was attended to by crews from Wallingford, Thame and High Wycombe and they were all here within 21 minutes. It was noted that one of the fire hydrants on yellow lines had a car on it which had to be moved by the crew and one was silted up. Discussion took place as to whether the fire hydrants should have painted lids. MR said that there are computers on the fire engines which show where the fire hydrants are. MR said that the Parish Council could look at the parking on the High Street, there could be yellow lines outside the Antique Shop and BA said that the car park spaces could be moved to the opposite side of the road.

MR said that for Businesses having a trained firefighter working for them means that they can have a Fire Marshall and a First-Aider on their site. Our local businesses need to be encouraged to allow those working for them to be firefighters but some businesses will not allow them to be on call whilst at work. MR said that he regularly goes into the Co-op to encourage staff to join up. The minimum age to sign up is 18. He also attends the Careers Fair. It was suggested that he organises an Open Day, possibly in the Paddock and that this be a family friendly event. RH said that she would be happy to organise this with him. BA stated that if the fire station carries on like it is at the moment we could lose it.

BW thanked MR for attending the meeting.

57/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th April 2017 which were accepted by Council on the 9/5/2017 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 Chair of this meeting.

58/17 Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

59/17 Matters arising

Neilsen's Global Awareness Day 11th May – TJ reported that this was relatively successful with 12 people attending from Neilson's. They gave the ½ pipe woodwork 2 coats of paint (this may require a third), they marked out the recreation ground car park as much as was possible and did work on Watlington Hill. KT reported that the Football Club are very happy with the car park marking and have asked if some marks could be made on the Shirburn Road side. Thanks were given to TJ and all Councillors involved for organising this day.

60/17 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

1. Unofficial path to Watcome Road in the corner of the Hill Road Car Park – **BW and TB will do this as soon as they can.**
2. Car Park Cleaning of this area – **on the list for the Community Payback Team.**
3. Message in a Bottle – Promotion of this – **These have now been delivered and will be promoted.**
4. Painting of Community Office – We have asked the Community Payback Team to do this.
5. Car Park hatching opposite disabled bays – Bob Thomas will do this in dry weather.
7. Dog Waste Bags – These are now available – **RB will give these out to dog walkers.**
8. Noticeboard on Charity Shop – **KT will speak to them once the shop is open.**
9. Red Kites Leaflets – **These have been copied and are being distributed. TJ has drafted some posters and KT and RH will have a look at these and put them up around the Town.**

61/17 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. **Trees in Watlington**

a) Eighties Trees – see attached note from Tim Horton

This was looked at and it was agreed to ask our Tree Wardens for comments on this for our next meeting.

It was noted that in the Local Council Update mention was given to the Tree Charter.

2. Footpaths

No issues were discussed.

62/17 Open Spaces

1. **Recreation Ground /Sports Field**

a) Dog Fouling –Awaiting comments from the WTFC and WCC – see attached press release on this issue from Gosport Borough Council for information – attached

The informal comments from Football and Cricket were noted. RB/KT will be advertising the free dog bags which will now be available. Permanent notices re picking up after your dogs could be put up. Dogs being on leads was also discussed. Agreed that this be further discussed at the next meeting.

b) MUGA Proposal for Recreation Ground – RB said that he and Nicky Smallbone are continuing to investigate this issue which was suggested by the PSFC.

c) CCTV on Pavilion/Recreation Area – RB reported that he, IH and NS met with the PCSO on Monday morning to look at how security can be improved in this area. CCTV is one thing that would help a lot with the vandalism issue. The PSFC are obtaining quotes for CCTV for their next meeting.

2) Paddock

a) Street Party in memory of murdered MP Jo Cox – This will take place on Saturday 17th June and the daughter of Alex Tait is organising free tea and cake.

b) New Play Equipment Paddock Project – The Fencing has now been installed. It was agreed that the official opening of the Paddock 'Teddy's Play Area' should also take place on the 17th June. RH will lead on the organisation on this. KT to ask if one of Ted Backhouse's so's would officially open it. KT to contact Sarah Pullen about having the band there.

RH said that she thinks there is space for another piece of play equipment and she will have a look at some and report back to the next meeting.

It was noted we also need a noticeboard for this area and RH and KT will look into this.

3) Other Areas

a. Triangle on Cuxham Road

The committee had asked for comments from our Tree Wardens and the photos and notes from Robert Barber, which are on the next page were discussed.

PTO



TJ said that she had asked RB if it would be sensible to remove any of the trees and he has said: 'Yes, in my opinion it would make sense to remove two of the trees. The one on the left has had some branches removed in the past and has a poor form and the one at the back is really too close to the neighbouring house. Removing those two would enable the remaining one to flourish and greatly increase the light levels while retaining sufficient tree cover for landscape purposes'

It was thought that having a shelter/bench in this location would be a good idea and that Members should look at some options and prices. KT will also request a quote for removing the two trees.

63/17 Property

1. Car Park

The Noticeboard at the main car park entrance needs some attention. BW and Bob Thomas to have a look at what is needed to repair this.

2. Public Conveniences

a) Updating of the facilities – Trident have been commissioned. – SODC has responded. This has been emailed to Members. Anna Badcock is dealing with the SODC issue of them having said we need to have a license. IH/KT

64/17 General Issues

a) Hearing Loops in WPC Buildings- TW said that this issue has been passed to the Finance Committee for discussion on cost.

b) Defibrillators – These are now live – promotion and discussion of community training on this – information on the course was attached to the agenda.

It was agreed that we ask if people in our community would be interested in doing some training. KT will post on the Watlington Noticeboard and a note will be put into the next Watlington Times.

65/17 Correspondence

1. Fit – Fields in Trust – Love your local Park – 8th July – **This was noted.**
2. Tim Horton – copy letter sent to SODC re street cleaning outside of WPC area – attached to the agenda. – **This was noted and KT reported that SODC will be doing a deep clean in September and we need to let them know of any specific areas we wish them to clean.**

66/17 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

- 1 **Enforcement of 2 Hour Bays** – When recommendations are received from the NP Infrastructure Report.
2. **Recycling Bins for the Town** – At an appropriate time.
3. **More Parking Spaces down the High Street** – June Meeting.
4. **Deep Clean by SODC** – July Meeting

67/17 Any Other Business

High Street Closure due to Fire at DG Homecare - The businesses were very affected by the 4 week closure of the High Street and have asked if more parking down the High Street could be made available. It was agreed that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Blood Donor Locations – RH said that the nearest place to give blood in Wallingford and asked if we could investigate getting them to come to Watlington. There is no public transport from Wallingford to Watlington so many people, who may give blood, may not be able to get there. KT/RH will investigate this for the next meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.25PM

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