



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 22nd October 2014 At 11.00 am in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Bob West –Chairman
Robert Barber – Vice-Chairman
Tim Horton
Ian Hill
Linda Nicholson –Co-opted Member

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

In Attendance:

Keith Lovelace – WPC Councillor
Keith Stenning – OCC Area Engineer
Stephen Harrod – County Councillor

Members of the Public:

1

96/14 Apologies for Absence
Tony Williamson, Elizabeth Winton, Neil Boddington

97/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September 2014 which were accepted by Council on the 14/10/2014 to be agreed as a correct record

Resolved: That the minutes above were a correct record of these meetings and that they be signed by the Chairman.

98/14 **Keith Stenning OCC Area Steward and Stephen Harrod – County Councillor in Attendance to discuss various Watlington Issues.**

1. **Pavement on Britwell Road beyond the Goggs** – Discussion of options including a pedestrian crossing about 20m west of The Goggs.

RB stated that 106 money was given from the development at Windmill Piece for the speed humps and also the centre line of the road was taken away as a traffic calming measure. KS said that he thinks that tables are more effective than humps. He said that he is open to suggestions for this area but that OCC would not be able to fund any works. After a site visit KS said that he had identified a good spot for a drop crossing and he will investigate this.

ACTION: KS to investigate a drop crossing.

2. **Old Bull, Cuxham Road – hedge obstructing footpath.**

The hedge of this property is right up to the roadway and impairs vision for the many pedestrians using the footpath next to the property when crossing the road. KS stated that there is no accident history for this location. TH said that it could be possible to negotiate with the new owner to accept a footpath but realises that it would have to be a certain width and up to a certain standard before OCC would adopt it. The width would have to be 1.2m. OCC would not put any money into this. KS was

asked what an approximate cost for doing a footpath of this width and a length of about 20m would be. KS said it would cost in the region of £6-8,000.

3. Speed Surveys –cables across the road – KS said the cost of these are £250 per location, 24 hours for 7 days. These would need to be ordered about 4 weeks in advance.

4. Howe Road – KL stated that the 30mph sign (towards Nettlebed) on the verge is hidden in the overgrowth, there are no other signs and the road markings are badly worn. A SID was done and this showed speeds were very high within the 30mph zone. KS said that the Ridgeway crosses Howe Road just outside the 30mph which is used by a lot of people who have to then cross Howe Road to continue along it. KS showed photos of the markings at Cuxham. It was noted that Christmas Common and Hill Road have the same problem with high speeds within the 30mph. KL asked KS if anything can be done. KS said that there are prescribed distances for signs and markings. There could possibly be roundels put down. The OCC Traffic team would have to investigate and look at the legality of any changes.

ACTION: KT to ask Mark Francis to look at this area and give his advice.

5. HAMP assessments of roads in Watlington including Love Lane.

KS stated that Love Lane has been HAMP assessed but it is a very low rating (500). TH suggested that all roads in Watlington should be HAMP assessed. KS said that a number of roads in Watlington have been assessed. KS stated that there are a number of ways roads are HAMP assessed. There are regular statutory inspections monthly, three monthly, six monthly and annually and defects and conditions are monitored. The Parish Council can request a HAMP assessment and an Inspector will go out and do a 'Condition' survey which looks at all aspects of the road, use, amount of traffic. Other things looked at are, if there is a school in the vicinity, if used by coaches etc and an environmental picture is all put together. Works which will be programmed in for future years need to have at least a 1000 HAMP rating and these will then be put into a budget. OCC are now looking 2 years ahead with works programmed in for the next two years. Under this line roads will be at least annually checked and 10% rating added yearly if not physically re-rated. TH said that one part of Love Lane is much worse than the rest and would this have had a different HAMP rating if just that one piece was rated.

ACTION: KT to request OCC for a list of the HAMP assessed roads and their ratings for Watlington.

6. Pound Close/Pyrton Lane issue

TH stated that the stream bed was filled in at 32 Cuxham Road about 20 years ago and is now full of tree roots etc which leads to water coming out in Pound Close and Pyrton Lane. The cottage at 34 Pyrton Lane has permanent sandbags in their garden as their property has been flooded recently due to this problem. KS stated that if a resident piped it they have a duty to maintain it. However there was rumour that the pipe was filled in by OCC. KS said that the OCC Drainage Team can go and check this out and they can then enforce action to clear the pipes.

ACTION: KS will take this issue forward at OCC and let WPC know the outcome.

7. Section 106 Payments

KS said that getting section 106 money can be tricky as Developers can refuse to pay 106 as SODC have to give a decision to an application within 8 weeks and therefore 106 is often not included due to the short time scale. 106 payments only relate to a certain number of houses being built and it is very hard to get 106 money for highway issues.

8. Signs left after highway repairs/works have taken place

TH brought up this issue in relation to signs having been left by the roundabout at the industrial estate for months. He has reported this numerous times on FixmyStreet and has also written in a personal capacity to a number of Councillors and Officers at OCC and to date he has only had a reply from David Nimmo-Smith. KS said that OCC is cash limited, human resources limited and OCC Teams are told to deal with issues in priority order with safety issues being one of the main priorities and signs left by sub-contractors would not be a priority. KS said he would pick them up on his way out of

Watlington to stop this issue being constantly written about to senior officers who do not have time for these sorts of issues. KT stated that if given the location she could arrange for signs to be collected and left in a central area for OCC to pick up at a suitable time. TH said he has also written in a personal capacity to Mark Kemp at OCC on their bad communications with the public which are getting worse as he sees it.

ACTION: If signs are left after works, if notified, the Parish Office will arrange collection and storage until OCC or the subcontractors can collect.

99/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

100/14 Matters arising

Sign saying 'Ridgeway' and not 'Icknield Way' Howe and Hill Road – TH said that he has spoken to the OCC Countryside team who also have concern about the wording and they will be reviewing it.

101/14 Outstanding Issues

i) **Parish Controlled Trees** –RB/BW to prepare a paper on this for the Finance Committee. However 4 specific trees have been flagged up by residents and councillors as needing urgent attention prior to the report on all trees in Watlington being commissioned. The Clerk and RB had requested a quote for works to all 4 trees from Martin Gammie MIC For. Dip.Arb (RFS) F.Arbor.A Tech.Cert.Arbor.A. of Consulting with Trees (CwT), prior to this meeting. The 4 trees and works needed are detailed below:

1. Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna): Located adjacent to the war memorial in the High Street.

Reduce height and lateral spread of canopy by approximately 1.0 - 1.5m to reshape and improve crown form. Crown thin by approximately 20% reducing density of canopy and removing any dead, damaged, weak or crossing branches to improve form and condition.

2. Cherry (Prunus avium): Located in the pavement on the northern side of Brook St to the west of the junction with Couching St.

Reduce height and lateral spread of canopy by 2.5 - 3.0m on the southerly aspect over the road to reshape and create a two dimensional canopy form. Tidy stubs on northerly aspect resulting from previous poor pruning works. Thin remaining crown by 15% to allow light to adjacent properties. Lift canopy to 5.0m AGL. Remove deadwood and old pruning stubs.

3. Cherry (Prunus avium): Located at the south eastern area of the Paddock adjacent to the rear of Old School Place.

Crown thin by approximately 15% to reduce canopy density and increase light to adjacent property. Lift canopy to 2.5m above ground level (AGL).

4. Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus): Located in the north western corner of the Paddock.

Crown thin by approximately 20% to reduce canopy density and increase light to adjacent properties. Lift canopy to 3.0m AGL. Head back lateral growth to suitable secondary growth to ensure 1.0m clearance of the adjacent dwellings.

After much discussion it was:

Resolved: To do the works needed to Trees 1 and 2 as detailed above for a cost of £425 but to

request that a 'Notice of Intent' and application for work to all 4 trees be made to SODC for a cost of £35.00

The works needed to trees 3 and 4 be considered at the next meeting.

Tree bases at bottom of Couching Street – It was noted that WiB are considering grinding out the stumps in the small beds and are seeking quotes for this work

ii) **Outdoor locked donation box** – TH/BW to look into costings of various types. - **Deferred to the next meeting.**

iii) **SODC list of amenities, facilities etc in Watlington** – IH/KT have sent the relevant information to SODC.

102/14 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

ii) **Dog Fouling Issues** - Stoop and Scoop/ Green Dog Walker Scheme – EL– **Deferred to next meeting.**

ii) **Safety Inspection Report for Recreation Ground** – Copies are in the office for members to read prior to the meeting. KT and BT will go through the list. It was noted that Playdale have quoted for the works needed.

iii) **Skateboard 1/2 pipe** - TH has written to HAGS SMP regarding the issues raised and subsequent problems. We are awaiting a reply from them. To note that the invoice for works has not been paid.

b) Paddock

i) **Fence or suitable hedging options to replace the willow hedge** – Much discussion took place on this issue and it was:

Resolved: That the Clerk and Robert Barber seek quotes for both metal railings and also for picket fencing for the next meeting.

ii) **Play equipment** – awaiting Safety Report for this area. KT will chase up.

Repairs to Playhouse in Play Area

Resolved: To accept the quote by Colin King for repair to the Playhouse at a cost of £200

iii) **Plants for Paddock** – Tracey, our Gardener has given us a wish list of replacement plants for this area and this committee had agreed £150 to spend on them. The Clerk speak to Tracey and ask her to spend money on new plants as previously agreed.

103/14 Property

a. Car Park

i) **Car Park Entrance/Watcombe Road** – TH stated that he has spoken to the concerned resident about this issue.

ii) **Signs in Car Park** – TH reported that some signs have been bent back. BW will see if he can sort these out.

iii) **Numbering of Bays** – It was agreed that this be discussed at the next meeting.

iii) **Time to get hedge cut**

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – That we cut the hedge alongside Johnson's Alley and the hedge alongside Watcombe Road to a height of 6 foot.

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** –BW/TH to update regarding draft tender of works. – No update as

yet.

ii) **Water Bills** – The Clerk reported that these seem to be on the high side. It was agreed that BW and BT monitor the meter readings.

c) Pavilion outside issues

i) **Roof Tiles** – quotation from Colin King received.

Resolved: That we accept the quotation from Colin King to replace approximately 16 broken eve covers and tiles where needed at a cost of £250.00

104/14 General Issues

1. **Infrastructure Funding Application-** TH said he had been in discussion with Trudy Godfrey at SODC on what items can be funded. She accepted that bins could be applied for. Other items which could be applied for are broadband, leaflets for example.

2. **Tree by War Memorial** – Discussed above.

3. **Summer Sports Programme** –Deferred

4. **Triangle on Cuxham Road** – RB and KT met with the interested local resident to discuss this and she will come back to us with some ideas for this area.

5. **Chalgrove/Cuxham Brook** - *email from Chalgrove Parish Council was attached to the agenda.* RB said that some trout as long as 47cm have been seen in the brook.

6. **Footpath 4** – A letter has been sent to Beechwood Estates on this asking if they will meet with some representatives to discuss this and 3 possible dates were given.

105/14 Action List – To note any outstanding actions if needed and to note completed actions on the caretaker list.

106/14 Correspondence

1. OCC – Road Closure at Cut Mill will now take place for one day on 31st October – **Noted.**

2. Plan of Planting at entrances to the Town paid for by a resident – **Noted.**

3. SODC – Information on 'Little Free Library' – **Noted.**

4. Sara Mackmin- Asking for permission to make a small raised bed by the tree base nearest to Chapel Street – She would arrange and pay for works. **This letter was discussed and it was agreed that all members have a look on site and that it be discussed at the next meeting.**

107/14 Future Issues for Discussion

Paddock – various issues– WIB will give us a wish list at some point.

108/14 Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.15PM