



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 17th September 2014 At 11.00 am in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Bob West – Chairman
Robert Barber – Vice-Chairman
Tim Horton
Elizabeth Winton
Linda Nicholson – co-opted member

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

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84/14 Apologies for Absence
Ian Hill, Tony Williamson, Neil Boddington.

85/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2014 which were accepted by Council on the 9/9/2014 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.

86/14 Declarations of Interest
There were no 'Declarations of Interest' notified.

87/14 Matters arising
There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

88/14 Outstanding Issues
1. **Plastic Bollard outside chip shop** – This has been ordered and will be installed when it arrives.

89/14 Open Spaces
a. Recreation Ground
i) **Parish Controlled Trees** – Update on quotations -RB stated that he has been through the list of trees given and has tried to write a specification based on the quotation from Martin Gammie, the ex SODC Forestry Officer and found this very difficult. RB said that he felt that this quotation is unique as no-one else would have the same skills and experience to put together such a comprehensive quote.
Resolved: That we ask the Finance Committee to discuss this issue in the light of the relevant clause in Financial Regulations and RB/BW to prepare a paper for the Finance Committee meeting.

ii) **Dog Fouling Issues** - Stoop and Scoop/ Green Dog Walker Scheme – EL said that the dog fouling problem seems to have worsened recently and she is organising another audit of the problem. KT to also check with Biffa where we are with the license of the Green Dog Walker Scheme. There have been suggestions to install dog bins at The Goggs and also by Rainbow Nursery.

iii) **Skateboard ½ pipe** - TH stated that the ½ pipe is now able to be used and he thanked BW for his work on the surround. There is still paintwork to be finished of on the frame and TH will do this. The boarding needs to be treated with an epoxy resin which gives some flexibility and TH has a sample which he will use to test it out prior to it being used for the whole boards. The skateboarders wish to graffiti the back boards after we have put on the green coat of paint. The cost will be in the region of £4000 and the final figure will be available as soon as the bill from HAG SMP is clarified.

b. Mansle Gardens

The hedges are being done next week which will reduce the height and width of them as per the agree quotation from Berinsfield Community Business.

c) Paddock

1. **Willow Hedge** – It was noted that we have a problem with wasps in this area as they are attracted to the leaves and the hedge has therefore not been able to be cut. This hedge grows rapidly in the summer and is difficult to maintain regularly. There was much discussion on this issue and the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the willow hedge is removed and that we replace it with some type of fencing.

2. **Play equipment** – awaiting Safety Report for this area which will hopefully be available for the next meeting.

3. **New Plants for Paddock** – the Clerk to speak to the Gardener regarding this.

90/14 Property

a. Car Park

i) **Car Park Entrance/Watcombe Road** – It was noted that it is fantastic that the Co-op have come back with a positive response to our request for them to pay for the works. However they will be unable to start work on it until about March 2015 at the earliest. There are a number of issues that we will need to clarify such as which contractor will be used, the liaison between British Telecom etc, would it be better for the Co-op or WPC to run the project etc. The local residents will also be contacted. We have received a comment that residents do not want it made easier for the lorries to reverse into Watcome Road and this is why the putting of a cast iron bell bollard in this location would ensure this. A resident has phone TH twice on this issue and therefore it was agreed that we have some discussion with the local residents.

Resolved: That when we have clarification by the Co-op on specific issues BW, TH and RB to meet with the local residents and give them clarification of the proposed scheme.

ii) **Outdoor locked donation box** - TH

After some discussion it was agreed that we look at this issue once the Car Park order is in place. However in the meantime TH/BW to look into costings of various types of boxes including brick.

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** –BW/TH had no update on this.

c. Community Office - No issues for discussion

d) Pavilion Outside issues

i) **Roof Tiles** – KT has met with Colin King and is awaiting a quote.

91/14 General Issues

1. **Walkabout Issues** – Outstanding issues are:

- a) Love Lane outside school -Road needs full resurfacing from No. 29 to Chequers – To check if S106 money for the new houses could be put towards this.
- b) Woodchips need ordering for under zip wire – KT to do this.
- c) Car Park Noticeboard and Library noticeboard needs refreshing – EL/KT
- d) Hedge alongside Johnson's Alley – RB to obtain quote for this to be substantially flailed and also a quote for regular cutting. RB will also speak to the concerned resident.
- e) New bins in the Town – TH has put these into the Infrastructure Grant application to SODC.
- f) Paddock – resurfacing with Breedon by Library end – Quotes needed. KT to check who did the work on the path by the Church Lychgate.
- g) Paddock Play Equipment – possible renewal? –To be an agenda item for another meeting.

It was noted that Keith Stenning and Stephen Harrod (OCC) will be attending the 22nd October Committee meeting. The Clerk to send an email asking if it would be possible to visit some problem sites. Issues to be given to him prior to the meeting include:

1. Pavement on Britwell Road beyond the Goggs – Discussion of options including a pedestrian crossing about 20m west of The Goggs.
2. Old Bull, Cuxham Road – hedge obstructing footpath. TH to draft a letter to the resident of this property.
3. HAMP assessments of roads in Watlington including Love Lane.
4. Pound Close/Pyrton Lane issue

2. **Road Issues** – To discuss at the next meeting with KS and SH.

3. **Infrastructure Funding Application**-Update TH. – Closed 26/9/2014

4. **Safety Inspection for Recreation Ground** – Copy available in the Office to read – Item for next meeting.

5. **Tree by War Memorial** – Hugo Loudon to be asked to quote for this urgent work. RB to draft.

6 Rubbish **Collecting** –Nothing to report. It was noted that it was a shame that the Britain in Bloom judging took place on a Tuesday which is our rubbish collection day.

7. **Summer Sports Programme** – To be discussed at the next meeting.

8. **Triangle on Cuxham Road** – RB and KT are meeting the resident who wrote in on this area on the 3rd October.

10. **Parking in the Town** – regarding *the email for PCSO Michelle Jacques*. – This was referred to the Strategy Committee

11. **Pound Close/Pyrton Lane Brook** –TH stated that this has been an issue for the last 20 years following the filling in of a cress bed. There is also a broken pipe by the trees which leads to water rising out of the stream and then runs along the road/pavement and then occasionally goes into the old cottage. They have permanent sandbags in place.

12. **FixmyStreets reporting** – Post hit in Chapel Street –TH said that some problems are reported by OCC as fixed but have not been.

92/14 Action List – To note any outstanding actions if needed and to note completed actions on the caretaker list. **All in hand.**

93/14 Correspondence

1. Chilterns Conservation Board – Annual Forum -Friday Nov 7th in Amersham. Does anyone wish to attend? **RB will attend**
2. OCC – Confirmed Chalgrove Closure will no longer take place on 1/9/2014. They do not yet have a new date- **Noted.**
3. SODC –Street Cleansing Payment – looking to establish what the payments are used for. *See attached. **KT will do this.***
4. OCC Emergency Operation Centre – filling in form on this and updated document – **LN/KT have dealt with. There are also some Emergency resilience events taking place but as LN has been to two of them it was agreed that we would not attend any this year.**
5. OCC – Tour of Britain route and road closure – **Noted. RB said that this worked very well with having a rolling closure.**
6. SODC – asking for list of amenities, facilities etc in Watlington – **IH is doing this.**
7. S Mackmin –parking and traffic in the town – **Agreed that this be sent to the Strategy Committee for a reply.**
8. Bryan Cranston –Co-op re Watcombe Road – **Noted.**
9. OCC re Salt Bags for winter – **KT has sent of the form for the 1 free salt bag.**
10. J Irons – response to our letter – **Agreed that this be sent to the Strategy Committee for a reply.**

94/14 Future Issues for Discussion

Paddock – various issues– WIB will give us a wish list at some point.
Items as agreed in Minutes above.

95/14 Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.58PM