



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

Present:

Councillors:

Bob West (BW)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Ian Hill (IH)
Tony Williamson (TW)

In Attendance:

Stephanie Van de Pette (SvP)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

Members of the Public:

3

76/16 Apologies for Absence

Jon Lorimer.

77/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2016 which were accepted by Council on the 13/9/2016 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.

78/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

79/16 Matters arising

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

80/16 Outstanding Issues

1. **Unofficial path to Watcome Road in the corner of the Hill Road Car Park-** This will be done in the next few weeks by BW and TB.

81/16 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. **20mph speed limits in Watlington** – TB has looked more into 20mph zones or 20mph on specific roads but it would cost a lot of money as it would entail putting in humps or some sort of speed measures every 50m. The NP Traffic Group will be looking at this issue.

2. **Trees**

a) **Paddock** – A quote for these works has been received from Martin Gammie. After discussion it

was:

Resolved: That Martin Gammie be commissioned to do the works to the Cherry and Hornbeam trees (Numbered T1 and T2 on Tree Survey Map) in the Paddock at a total cost of £470.00. It was noted that as the trees need specialist/skilled care that Martin Gammie is the best person to do these works.

b) **Six Trees in Gorwell/Brook Street** (numbered T3-T8) – TB and RB are meeting up with Martin Gammie and will discuss these.

c) **Three Trees in Cuxham Road/Willow Close** – TB and RB to discuss these also with Martin Gammie.

3. Sleepers at Christmas Common - Richard Glover and Sylvia Mountford (Christmas Common) were in attendance to speak on this issue.

SM stated that Christmas Common is a very small hamlet with no pavements and a very narrow unclassified straight road which is totally unsuitable for the number of vehicles now using it. There has been an increasing amount of traffic using this road as cut through to Aylesbury and Thame. There are now many articulated vehicles using this road which was never previously the case. There has been a marked increase in weight, size, volume and speed of vehicles using his road especially at peak times. The 30mph limit is just ignored.

There is a further issue also arising from the parked car which is mostly there which is leading to vehicles mounting the verges and ruining them. Cars have to overtake this car at most times and logs have been put on the verges on both sides. The hedges are now so overgrown that this is an added danger to people accessing the road from Forestry Cottages as vision is a problem by both the hedge and the parked car which inhibits vision. The Beech hedges are being destroyed and the line of the road is now mis-aligned.

It is not safe on either side of the road for pedestrians or the school children walking to get the bus. The footpath which is a right of way has been closed by Mr Tipper. There are also a lot of walkers and cyclists that use this road.

SM said that it has been suggested that a double layer of sleepers with soil behind may be a good idea to stop the verges from being encroached.

It was noted that TJ, TB and IH met with Keith Stenning on site and posts etc were discussed as well as the issue of changing the priority of the road at the top of Hill Road.

KT to discuss the issue of the parked car with our PCSO and to look at the cost of a Stop Sign.

TW suggested the use of chicanes to slow traffic down could be looked at.

TB said that Speedwatch do regular checks in this location.

After discussion it was:

Resolved: That this be the main item at the Outreach Meeting. KT will organise a date for this to be held in the Fox and Hounds, Christmas Common.

4. Updates on any other issues – No other issues were discussed.

82/16 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

1. **Skatebowl** – It was noted that some of the new paint is starting to wear.

2. **I-Play** – This is still not working properly. BW and RH to look at this issue.

3. **Plant Beds by the Pavilion** – Thanks were given to TB and TJ for trimming and sorting out this area.

4. **NG Allen Quote for fixing of the fence/gateposts at the Pavilion/Sports Field Area** – After discussion it was:

Resolved: That this quote for £440 be accepted. RB will oversee these works.

5. **Hedge between Allotments and Recreation Ground** – A quote has been received for cutting the top and sides of this hedge – After discussion it was agreed to look further into this issue. **BW/TB**

b) Paddock

i) **New Play Equipment Project** - Discussion about Fencing

RH reported that she has just filled in the form to claim the second half of the grant from SODC.

There was then much discussion about fencing.

A proposal of having a metal bow topped fence with a small hedge on the outside of the fence.

A vote was taken: 3 in favour 3 against. BW then used his Chairman's Casting vote and voted in favour.

Resolved: That a bow topped fence (black powder coated) with a small hedge (Recommended to be Golden Shrubby Honeysuckle) on the outside be erected around the small children's play area.

It was agreed that the fence be put in ASAP as funds have been sourced for this and the hedge then to follow. **TB/BW/RH/KT**

ii) **Launch of New Play Equipment** – RH will be organising this hopefully for some time in October.

ii) **Puddle by gate at Library end** – BW to report. 1 quote received.

After discussion it was:

Resolved: To accept the quote from N G Allen at a cost of £550.

83/16 Property

a. Car Park

Nothing to report.

b. Public Conveniences

1. **Updating of the facilities** – The quotes received were discussed. RB is in the process of obtaining another quote.

The refurbishment needed was agreed to be; powder coated aluminium, solid doors including the door to the disabled toilet and the terrazzo floor to be reginded, polished and repaired and re-sealed. That these works to be allocated a budget of up to £13,000 (from Earmarked Funds) and that the final decision will need to be a recommendation to Council.

c) Community Office

2. **Painting of Office** – Quotes have been requested

84/16 General Issues

1. **Recycling Bins for the Town** – TJ is still investigating these.

2. **Environmental Issues** – following from presentation at Full Council – If the committee wishes to discuss any issues. - TJ and SvP will look into this and bring any suggestions back to this committee.

3. **OCC – Oxfordshire Together – Section 101 Legal Agreement** – this was attached to the July Agenda for discussion. KT is dealing with this and will report on at the appropriate time.

4. **TRELLO** –It was agreed that we do not use this system any more.

85/16 Correspondence

1. OCC – New Liaison Service for Town and Parish Councils – **Noted.**

2. OCC – Grass cutting regime update – **Noted.**

86/16 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. **Cobbles outside Public Conveniences** – BW is looking into this.

2 **Enforcement of 2 Hour Bays** – When recommendations are received from the NP Infrastructure Report.

3. **Tree Report from Martin Gammie** – October 2016

87/16 Any Other Business

New Bus Stop – IH will contact OCC about having a bus stop on Brook Street.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30PM

