

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 18th January 2012 at 10.00am in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Barry Adby – Chairman
Ted Backhouse – Vice-Chairman
Tony Williamson
Tim Horton

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

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01/12 Apologies for Absence

Linda Nicholson, Roger Beattie

02/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2011 which were accepted by Council on the 11/12/2011 to be agreed and signed by the Chairman

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

03/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/12 Matters arising

Rubbish in Garden behind Public Conveniences – BA has investigated this and it is the householders responsibility. BA to have a quiet word with the residents regarding this issue.

05/12 Outstanding Issues

BT Phone Box in Hill Road Car Park – Awaiting response from BT re their schedule of re-painting.

Triathlon – Meeting to be held in Henley Town Hall on 22/2/2012. It was noted that this has been organised by OCC and the organisers will be present. Only Parish Councils have been invited it is not a public meeting. Robert Barber will be attending on behalf of Christmas Common and it was agreed that we ask him to speak to residents prior to the meeting to get any further views/comments etc. Barry Adby will be attending for Watlington.

Drains in Car Park/Public Conveniences

It was noted that the drains in both these locations need rodding and it was:

Resolved: That we progress these issues and that we put a ceiling on the cost of £500 in total for both areas.

Lights in the Car Park – One light is permanently on. BA will investigate this.

06/12 Property

Car Park

Hedge on Johnsons Alley

Tim Horton stated that he would like to see a much lower hedge that could be laid or cut. It was noted that we have asked Nigel Adams for a quote for laying this hedge which has not yet been received. Ted Backhouse stated that residents in this area would not like to see the hedge too low. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That we lay or cut this hedge up to 10ft on the Johnson's Alley side only. It was also agreed to contact British Telecom about a contribution to this cost. The Clerk to seek quotes for both laying and cutting of this hedge. It was agreed that we speak to our Tree Wardens regarding this hedge and take his advice on whether to lay or cut, and that the Chairman and Clerk to then commission this work.

Hedge in Mansle Gardens

Discussion took place on this. Tim Horton stated that the hedge is very poor in quality and suggested that perhaps a length where the entrance is could be removed or replanted which would make this area more visually attractive. It was agreed that this be looked at in a future meeting with a plan showing this idea.

Resolved: That we ask our Contractors, Berinsfield Community Business, to trim the hedge as soon as possible, as this is part of their contract.

Public Conveniences

Roof

Barry Aaby reported that we have received two quotes for this and these were discussed.

Resolved: That we commission Colin King at a cost of £1000 (excl VAT) to do works needed to the roof.

Future improvements

Barry Aaby stated that we have been given approval by Full Council to improve this property up to £6,000 of which the roof is part of it. It was agreed to continue with the improvement in a logical fashion. The drains need also attending to before any further improvements.

07/12 Open Spaces

Recreation Ground

Trees in Sports Field – 3 quotes have been requested for these works based on the report by our Tree Warden. This to be an item for the next meeting.

08/12 Financial Issues

There were none.

09/12 General Issues

Cleaner Watlington

Discussion took place on this partly based on the Chalgrove Scheme, which we had presented to us by Jacky Nabb at the December Full Council. It was noted that the worst area is the Sports Field which people with dogs use a lot and do not always pick up after them. It is a Sports Field and the users should not have to clear the pitches of dog mess prior to being able to play a game and that this is a health hazard for users which include children.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we have a positive campaign for the Sports Field and Recreation Area that dogs are only allowed on leads and that all dog mess is picked up.

Signs on Gates

The Clerk has contacted OCC who have said that apart from the gate on Shirburn Road the other gates are too small to put the signs on. The Shirburn Road gate has had the signs put on it. Mark Francis has suggested some new signs which include the twinning sign be made which would be the correct size for the gates. He has implied that OCC would pay for these but will send a design through to the Clerk for us to make the decision about this. This to be an item on the agenda when the design has been received. Tim Horton also suggested a sign to say 'Watlington, Regional Britain in Bloom Gold Award' should be put up at some/all entrances to the town.

Trees in the Town – Tim Horton to give our Tree Wardens a list of trees that need to be looked at.

10/12 Correspondence

1. SEB – Contract Renewal letter – Decision needed by 30/1/2011

Resolved: That this contract be renewed.

11/12 Future Issues for Discussion

Sports Field Trees

Signs on Gates

12/12 Any Other Business

Porta-Loo at the Recreation Ground over the Easter Holidays – It was agreed that we put in a porta loo for this two week period. Ted Backhouse will organise this. It was noted that it will need to be opened and locked each day and Ted Backhouse said he would be happy to do this. It was noted that we need to pin it down.

Diamond Jubilee Committee – Tim Horton reported that this committee have been looking at various idea for a legacy project, one of which is a fountain in the paddock. It was noted that once the final ideas have been agreed it will come to the Parish Council for discussion.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.25AM