

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 22nd March 2011

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill – Vice-Chairman
Angie Paterson
Tony Williamson
Barry Adby
Ted Backhouse
David Shannon

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

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Ian Hill chaired the meeting.

21/11 Apologies for absence

Nick Greaves, David Tindale, Roger Beattie

22/11 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

23/11 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 22nd February 2011 received by Council 8/2/2011 to be signed as a correct record.

Resolved: That these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by Ian Hill, Vice-Chairman.

24/11 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

25/11 Matters Arising

Insurance Review – Awaiting response regarding subsidence premium from Insurance Company. Still awaiting two alternative quotes for Parish Council Insurance which has a renewal date of 1/6/2011.

26/11 Short Discussion Items

1. **Watlington Distinctiveness/Website** – Update by Tony Williamson

It was noted that www. watlington.org has now been launched. It will be an enormous

challenge to keep it up to date. There will be training session for one or two Councillors to learn how to update some sections. TW stated that the design looks good and up to date. He stated that the Business Association are upset over the article in the Henley Standard (18/3/2011) and Caroline Lye has this afternoon sent an email regarding the article.

Resolved: That the email be sent to all Councillors who can then give any comments to the Clerk who will send a reply. It was noted that the article did contain some inaccuracies.

Watlington in Bloom – A request has been received from T Jackson re works they would like to carry out. The committee discussed these and the following was agreed

1. *We propose that the old oak barrels in the High Street be replaced with Cast Iron Planters which we hope to get Sponsorship for from Local Businesses and the Oak Barrels can be moved to the Car Park area as part of a badly needed a face lift.* **Council agreed that they would like to have oak barrels/planters in the Town NOT cast-iron. They would be happy for you to get sponsorship for wood. WPC have no funds to replace them at present.**

2. *If our proposal Number 1 is not successful we would like to propose that we be able to decide upon and plant the oak barrels in the High Street with an agreed budget from the Parish .* **Council Agreed the following: The Clerk to liase with WIB regarding the budget – The following questions will need to be asked. Are WIB proposing just planting the tubs and not the War Memorial? It was noted that the Cannas from last year were stored to put in the tubs again this year but these could be planted elsewhere. Are WIB proposing to maintain the tubs eg weeding and watering? Also do they wish to plant the 4 hanging baskets for the Town Hall?**

3. *We propose that the area of amenity planted originally with Dogwood should be dug out and replanted with grass underplanted with bulbs. As it is at the moment this area is a magnet for litter.* **Council agreed that this area is left as it is at present but WPC will tidy it up.**

4. *We propose that at least one sign should be erected either at one of the entrances to the town or in the centre of town announcing that we were RHS Regional Britain in Bloom Award Winners 2010.* **Council has no funding available for this and WPC are very anxious that any new signs in the Town are very carefully considered.**

5. *We would like formal permission to carry out Work Parties in Mansle Gardens to Cut dead wood from stump, remove dying crab apple tree, remove ivy from plum trees in the hedge and from the cherry trees and to cut out the Fleur de Lys Shape as per the plans submitted and agreed in principal (except for the extra entrances).* **Council agreed the following: The ivy can be removed but this needs to be done either by end of March or not until August. It should be cut at the base and left in place to die in situ before removal. It was suggested that if this was done before the Mansle visit it could be looking very bad at that time. The Parish Council will deal with the stump as it is urgent. Martin Gammie will need to be contacted and permission sought for the removal of any trees. The cutting of the Fleur de Lys shape must not be done until a detailed plan and costed scheme has been provided to and discussed by WPC.**

27/11 Main Topics for Discussion **Speed Surveys in the Town**

The paper circulated with the agenda which was produced by Ian Hill was noted as well as the graphs he had produced. IH stated that the pattern of speed was very much the same for each of the 5 areas surveyed. It was noted that no areas had excessive speeds and that Cuxham Road speed was slightly higher than the other areas with an average of 25.9mph. The High Street and Love Lane speeds are very low with 99% less than 30mph and an average speed in the High Street of 18.2mph. It was noted that with the level of speeds recorded OCC will not lower the speed limit in the Town to 20mph. The Council should still

try to identify ways in which concerns about speeding can be reduced.
Ian Hill's report on this survey has been put in the Watlington Times.

Resolved: That we display this information on boards at the Annual Parish Meeting so that we share the facts and the data with our residents.

Shirburn Street and Other Traffic Issues – Notes on the Meeting with Malcolm Bowler-OCC (9/3/2011) was attached to the agenda. The recommendation from this meeting was discussed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the following items below, of which comments sent by residents have been taken into account, be asked for OCC to implement as an Experimental Order. That a letter be sent to residents most affected by this and that it be published on the website, Henley Standard and Watlington Times.

1. To remove all parking outside 20-26 Shirburn Street (opposite the Fox and Hounds)
2. To shorten the parking bay outside 46 Shirburn Street by one car parking space on the Shirburn side. (These measures will remove the chicane and mean that there is only 1 switch in the side of the road used for parking)
3. Extend the double yellow lines down Love Lane by 15metres.

David Tindale had marked up a plan which was available at the meeting.
It was also agreed that the plan be available at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 14/4/2011.

It was noted that Experimental Traffic Orders last between 6 and 18 months. If they do not work they can be allowed to expire and be removed or if wanted to be kept they can be incorporated into a Permanent Order without OCC Consultation.

Other changes that were discussed apart from the above would need a Permanent Traffic Order.

Freedom of Information – Review – paper was attached to agenda.

Resolved: That the information on this paper remains the same.

Review of Committee Structures

There was discussion on the responsibilities that each committee has.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Finance Committee should be allocated responsibility for Staff Management.

28/11 Correspondence

SODC – Report of Town and Parish Council Forum - copy held in office - **Noted**

Mr and Mrs Evans – re Cuxham Road and previous request for a crossing – **TW reported that he had spoken with Mrs Evans who feels there is a real danger coming out of the footpath onto Cuxham Road. It was noted that the hedge in this location is a real problem as pedestrians cannot be seen by cars. It was suggested that some signage and a mirror in this location could be very helpful.**

Resolved: That the Clerk speak to OCC regarding a mirror and signage and this issue be sent to the Operations Committee.

29/11 Items for Future Meetings

Refer to Forward Plan

Items for April 2011

Strategy - Standing orders/co-option

Strategy - Rearrangement of Pavilion Committee

Strategy - Insurance Review and alternative quotes

30/11 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.
Fire Service – Ian Hill reported that he had received a letter from them letting us know that they would be happy to help with things in the town. **This information was noted.**

OCC Consultation on Bus Services – deadline 24/3/2011

Resolved: That IH send a response to OCC again. It was noted that the bus service in Watlington is very important especially the 101 which is used both for work and social purposes.

Watlington CIC Bus- It was noted that it has not been yet determined if there is any funding for this bus. Without it the service is unlikely to continue after May 2011.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40PM