

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 24th January 2012

Present:

Councillors:

David Tindale – Chairman
Ian Hill – Vice-Chairman
Robert Barber
Di Tolan
Ted Backhouse
Barry Adby
Harvey Batten
Nick Hancock
Tim Horton
Tony Williamson
Rhian Woods

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

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01/12 Apologies for absence

Charles Rowton-Lee, Roger Beattie, Nick Greaves

02/12 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

03/12 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 22nd November 2011 received by Council 13/12/2011 to be signed as a correct record.

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

04/12 Declaration of Interests

To receive any declarations on interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Councils Local Code of Conduct.

There were none.

05/12 Matters Arising

Bandstand at Paddock (Minute 102/11 refers)

Ian Hill stated that the Diamond Jubilee Committee met last night and they would like to take forward this proposal as one of a number of possible legacy projects. The band would need to put forward a costed proposal. It is hoped that we receive this proposal soon. The Jubilee Committee are looking at four ideas for a legacy project.

06/12 Short Discussion Items

Howe Hill Speed Issue - response from OCC was attached to the Agenda

The letter stated that they have added it to a list of requested speed limit changes they are compiling to be investigated in more detail when resources permit. There was a review of this location in 2009/10 but as the accident rate is below the recommended threshold it was not judged to meet the criteria for a change.

This was discussed and it was noted that it did not refer to traffic calming measures which we had asked to be investigated.

Resolved: That a further letter be sent to OCC asking them to respond about Traffic Calming issue.

The Clerk to write to the resident who co-ordinated the petition to keep them updated as to what is happening.

It was noted that in due course we will have a new County Councillor and we will bring up this issue when he/she is in position.

Watlington Parish Council – Archiving of Information

Tim Horton reported that the 1815 original Enclosure Act and Map was held by WPC. However in the 1990's it was passed onto the County Archives for safekeeping. A letter has been sent to the County Archivist and he will not release it back to the Council. It was thought that all papers that were archived were 'on loan' to the Archives. It is thought it is right that they are held in the OCC Archives but it was noted that at some time in the future we may want to display them in an exhibition.

Resolved: That the Clerk look in the files for the original letter from the 1990's to check the terms and that a letter be sent to the OCC Archives.

GoRide Buses – Update

Tim Horton reported that GoRide will continue with the weekend buses to Oxford as a trial until at least the end of February. An item including the slightly revised timetable was put into latest Watlington Times. Over the Christmas holiday period this service was well used with about 70-80 people using the Sunday Service to Oxford. However the Saturday night was less used. Their bid for a longer term after March 2012 still needs to be processed by OCC. It was noted that there has been no change in the Thames Travel weekday service to Oxford, their passenger numbers have been sustained.

Watlington Speaks – A draft booklet was attached to the agenda.

Ian Hill reported that this project needs to have an end point produced. The summary booklet was discussed and the back page looks at where things can go next. It will need to be looked at in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan, whether we do this or not. Costs are being looked at as regards printing of this glossy booklet. Discussion took place on whether it should be delivered to everyone or it is just available in certain locations. Some changes to the document were agreed. Ian Hill was thanked for all his work on this very attractive document and he will circulate a final copy to Councillors prior to printing.

Prospect Place – Signage

Resolved: That this be passed to the Operations Committee to deal with.

SODC Election Costs – Paper from TH was attached to the Agenda.

This matter was discussed and it was:

Resolved: To send a letter to OALC asking the following question as to whether the split of fees between parish councils and district councils, in South Oxfordshire and Vale in particular, is consistent with others in the county or nationally. The level of this split was, we understand, decided unilaterally by the district councils and WPC would like to know whether OALC regards the scale of charges decided by South Oxfordshire and Vale as reasonable.

OCCA – Asking for a grant towards cost of printing a recycling leaflet published for Watlington – letter was attached to the Agenda.

This issue was discussed and David Tindale stated that although it is a laudable aim it is not something that we should be involved with. Di Tolan stated that there is a lot of useful information in it but would perhaps be better on a website. It was noted that we do not have any grant money available within our Budget.

Resolved: That we write to OCCA stating that although this is a very useful document Council are unable to give a grant towards the printing costs.

07/12 Main Topics for Discussion

Committee Structure and Membership Review

There was much discussion on this item.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That a draft paper on committee structure be put together for the next Full Council Meeting by the Chairman and the Clerk which will include the issues discussed at this meeting.

This structure to be put in place after the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Standing Orders Review for 2012

These were discussed and the following changes were agreed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Attached Standing Orders be agreed for 2012 and signed by the Chairman.

Planning Reform and Localism Bill – An ACRE Paper was attached to the Agenda.

Nick Hancock said that this paper had several interesting points. There is funding available to help with Neighbourhood Plans eg DGLG, Princes Trust and CPRE have some funding.

If we were to consider doing one we would need to:

- Define the scope of the Plan and what issues would need to be addressed
- We would have to set up a group to look into issues eg Housing Developments, Possible Relief Road, retention of Watlington as a Market Town etc. It is not just a Development Plan it would be a Vision for the Future.
- There would need to be a public consultation in the middle of the exercise and a Referendum.
- Only Neighbourhood Plans get Local Authority support and have statutory status.

It was noted that Thame and Woodcote are working on a Neighbourhood Plan at the moment and it will be useful to monitor them

Resolved: That an initial meeting of interested councilors, David Tindale, Nick Hancock, Robert Barber, Di Tolan, Ted Backhouse, Harvey Batten, Ian Hill, Rhian Woods and Tony

Williamson be arranged as an information sharing meeting and to look into forming a Working Group and how this should be done. The Timetable would be very important. The Clerk will send out some possible dates and will then arrange a meeting date.

08/12 Correspondence

1. Fields in Trust – 2012 County Grant awarded (attached to Agenda)- This was noted.

09/12 Items for Future Meetings

Refer to Forward Plan

10/12 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Sports Field Issue

Resolved: That the four Sports Club members of the Pavilion Committee are advised of this confidential issue.

It was noted that they operate under our Code of Conduct and have signed the Register of Interest form.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.35PM