



Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 28th January 2014

Present:

Councillors:

David Tindale – Chairman
Harvey Batten – Vice- Chairman
Ian Hill
Robert Barber
Barry Adby
Tim Horton
Nick Greaves
Roddy Orr
Tony Williamson

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

3 + John Curtis – Chairman of Pyrton Parish Council.

01/14 Apologies for absence

Bob West, Rhian Woods, Neil Boddington, Robin Wilson.

02/14 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 26th November 2013 were received by Council on the 10th December 2013 to be signed as a correct record

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

03/14 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest notified.

04/14 Matters Arising

There were none other than agenda items.

05/15 Discussion Items

Main Discussion Items

1. Community Governance Review – Paper from SODC and Minutes from the Pyrton Parish Council meeting held on this issue were attached to the agenda.

Boundary Changes Proposals from SODC

The meeting was agreed to be adjourned whilst the Chairman of Pyrton Parish Council, John Curtis gave comments from Pyrton Council.

There was much discussion on the 3 proposals of boundary changes from SODC and it was:

Resolved: To send the following comments to SODC on the 3 proposals;

1: Transfer of parts of Swyncombe and Watlington parishes into Pishill with Stonor – It was agreed that these changes are appropriate and have no further comment to make on them. *(Vote 7 in favour, 2 abstentions)*

2: Transfer of parts of Pishill with Stonor and Pyrton parishes into Watlington – this is far more extensive than the change we originally suggested and appears to be opposed by a majority of the residents affected as well as by Pyrton Parish Council. In particular the transfer of Charity Lands from Pyrton into Watlington will lead to all sorts of complexities that are better avoided. Accordingly it was agreed not to support this change. *(Vote Unanimous Against)*

3: Transfer of the Watlington Sports Field from Pyrton parish into Watlington - Watlington PC has a long lease on the field and has significant investment of effort and money related to the field remaining available as a sports field for a long period. We believe this would be best achieved by the proposed transfer, which would allow the field to be included within the Watlington Neighbourhood Plan as a recreational space that should be retained for the community. It was therefore agreed to support this change. *(Vote 4 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions)*

Council Size

RB stated that as part of the Governance Review Parish Councils are able to propose changes to Council size and asked if we wished to consider this. TH stated that this can be done at any time not just at the 15 year Community Governance Review and said also that membership of Watlington Parish Council has been 14 since 1894.

Resolved: That this issue is not discussed at this meeting.

2. Watlington Footpath 4 – The correspondence on this was attached to the agenda.

RB stated that the Council have 4 options on this issue:

1. Do nothing and accept what Beechwood have done.
2. Attempt to have further dialogue with Beechwood Estates.
3. Apply to OCC for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO)
4. Encourage or assist another body to put in for a DMMO.

It was noted that people have walked the footpath (which is now fenced off) for so many years that it would be possible to establish this footpath as a right of way. TH stated that he thought this Council should have the courage of their convictions and put in for a DMMO. The footpath can be accessed by the 'old' route but it has drawbacks in that there is not much to see and therefore does not encourage walkers and ramblers etc and also with a lot of use it would become impassable. RO stated that there is too much fencing and as it is a used right of way over many years we should defend it. It was noted that Beechwood could install kissing gates which would then not impair the footpath. It was noted that a DMMO would not cost the Parish anything the costs would be borne by OCC. After discussion it was:

Resolved: To write to Beechwood Estates giving our views on Footpath 4 and stating that if no agreement can be reached then the Parish Council will apply to OCC for a Definitive Map Modification Order.

(Vote: 7 in favour, 2 abstentions)

This item will be an agenda item at the March Strategy meeting.

3. HGV's and Trading Standards – Note from Trading Standards to TH was attached to the agenda.

It was noted that only 1 HGV driver was prosecuted last year (11/0/12 2012 to 31/9/13) and 5 warnings were given. TH stated that he thinks a meeting should be arranged with

Anthony Stansfeld the Police Commissioner for Thames Valley and that we should ask the Thame Area police to also attend. He said that WATNEXT are making representations and hoped that they would like to see the Parish Council taking action on this.

Resolved: That we write to the Police Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld on this issue requesting a meeting with him. The Thame Area police to also be invited. 2/3 Councillors should represent WPC and that we invite WATNEXT to send up to 2 people to attend the meeting.

DT/TH to draft this letter.

4. Outstanding Issues from Outreach Meeting in Christmas Common

a) **Informal meeting with Howe / Howe Hill residents** – RB reported that Bob West and himself met with Richard Taylor and Peter Richardson. They talked for about 2 hours and covered many issues. RB has been through all the information given including the questionnaires. He stated that there is mostly broad support for issues.

b) **Identity / signage for Howe / Howe Hill** – RB stated that there are effectively 3 areas here, the top which is now Seymour Green (in Swyncombe Parish), Howe Hill and the Howe (at the bottom). RB has been and spoken to all the residents (More than 25 have been there for 18 years or more. He said that none of the residents have a problem with being included as a unit called Howe Hill. RO stated that he has concerns about more signage in this area that is not necessary. RB proposed that the Parish Council indicate our support for this to OCC and request that signage is put up for Howe Hill, however we need to agree the Howe Hill area. We had agreed to ask the Chiltern Conservation Board for their comments at the last Strategy meeting and Colin White has sent through the following response;

'We wouldn't have a problem with signage to denote a settlement, provided it was done in accordance with the 'Environmental Guidelines for the Management of Highways in the Chilterns' document. However, having had a look at the current paper version of OS maps at both 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scale I have noticed that Howe Hill is not annotated as a settlement on the maps. That is not to say that it does not exist, clearly it does, but it is not recorded as such by the OS at these scales. The Howe is annotated on all maps I looked at, suggesting to me that it is a separate place and separated from Howe Hill by Howe Wood (also on the maps). My thoughts are that any signage for Howe Hill would be better placed at each end of the identifiable settlement. This would mean being located at the Cookley Green (southern) end of the settlement and then at the northern end of the settlement before reaching Howe Wood when travelling north'

There was much discussion on this and DT proposed that we agree the area of Howe Hill to be as the Chiltern Conservation Board advises above:

Vote: 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council agree that the area of Howe Hill be located at the Cookley Green (southern) end of the settlement and then at the northern end of the settlement before reaching Howe Wood when travelling north as shown in the map above.

- c) **Broadband in outlying areas** – RB is hoping that Robin Wilson will lead on this issue and he will contact him to discuss this with him.
- d) **Speed Awareness Week** – It was noted that the piece in the Watlington Times resulted in 2 residents offering to help with this. After discussion it was agreed that we need to give this issue more publicity. A flyer to be made and to ask the Howe Hill residents if they wish to be involved with this.
- e) **HGV's in the Stonor Valley** – It was noted that this area is outside the Weight Limit so it was unsure what we could do regarding this. It was agreed that WPC would take no further action.
- f) **Future Outreach Meetings** – After discussion it was:
Resolved: That we hold these meetings annually.

- 5 Chalgrove Channel Survey – letter from Liane Persaud at the Environment Agency to TH was attached to the agenda.
TH reported that this study is to be completed in April 2014. There was concern shown at a previous meeting that the flood map was too intensive. This Council needs to keep abreast with any issues that are dealing with water. It was agreed that in the letter referred to above Liane Persaud states she is often in Watlington.
Resolved: That 2/3 Councillors meet with Liane Persaud from the Environment Agency and TH to co-ordinate this meeting and a report to be given at the March Strategy meeting.
Along with TH, HB and RB said they would be interested in meeting with her. It was noted that she has asked if anyone has photos or videos of flooding in Watlington she would be pleased to be sent this information.

06/14 Short Discussion items

- 1. **Risk Assessment for 2013/2014** – a copy with possible revisions was attached to the agenda. After discussion it was agreed to :
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the attached Risk Assessment for 2013/2014 be agreed.
- 2. **Standing Orders review for 2013/2014** – Please refer to your copy of the SO 2012/2013
It was agreed that the only things that need to be changed is the internal cross-references and this will be done by IH/KT.
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Standing Orders for 2013/2014 be agreed with the internal cross-references to be consistent.
- 3. **WPC Reception – To hold in Late Spring/Early Summer to coincide with the 350th Anniversary of the Town Hall** – paper attached from TH.
DT thanked TH for his paper.
Resolved: That agreement be given in principle to TH carry on working with proposals of a Council reception; Art/Writing Exhibition; Talk on the Town Hall and a Picnic in the Paddock as detailed in his paper. The dates were agreed to be the weekend of the 11th July 2014.

It was noted that he will update us at the next meeting.

4 **Fire cover in Watlington**

BA reported that we are very short of fire cover in Watlington which has led to the Fire

Engine not being able to turn out on some occasions. After discussion it was:
Resolved: That a letter be sent to the Chief Fire Officer, Dave Etheridge on this issue and that a letter be sent to all the businesses in Watlington encouraging their employees to become retained fire fighters and that they would release them for fire calls.
BA/KT to draft these letters and IH to approve before being sent.

c) **Code for cyclists and safety for cyclists and walkers** – (*This was deferred from the last meeting*). It was agreed that his item be removed from the agenda.

07/14 Update on on-going issues that are not agenda items for this meeting

1. Watlington and the LTP for Oxfordshire — **DT/TH will prepare the letter and send to OCC.**

2. Northend Gritting – **A response to our letter has been received in which it states that this would not be possible. It was agreed that we put this information into the Watlington Times. KT to send email of 21/1/14 to RB.**

3. Rubbish Litter in hedgerows and verges – **RB will send a letter to the National Trust on this issue.**

4. Buses – update TH/IH – **It was reported that the T1 service has been handled badly and they have put an apology into the Watlington Times about the poor timings, too small vehicles etc. There are 5 parishes working together on buses and they have given comments to the company. It was noted that there is lots of demand for this service. There will however be some changes in April. This service on a Saturday is run by GoRide. There is hope for an integrated bus timetable of all the Watlington buses to be done.**

5. Place names signs for Howe Hill – Awaiting comments from Colin White- **Discussed above**

6. Future road closures in Watlington and suggestions on how best to deal with them - **TH said he had nothing to report at this moment. TH/KT to write to OCC.**

7. Swimming Pool at the Icknield Community College. - **The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Icknield College and there was nothing to report on this issue.**

08/14 Correspondence

1. A and G Pitman – would be happy to help with a speed awareness week but suggest that it needs more publicity and consultation with residents – **Noted.**

2. Department of Transport/Transport Direct Car Park Data - Asking us to confirm that we approve of Dft's and Landmark Solutions – attached for discussion .The website is given on the letter.- **It was agreed that we are happy to give them information. IH will deal with this issue.**

09/14 Items for Future Meetings

Watlington Sewerage Outfall and the Environment Agency – March Meeting Agenda item
Review of Solicitor
Icknield Community College Link

10/14 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

KT reported a note on the on-line Watlington Notice about dog fouling and that she will speak to the action group about this.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.02 PM