

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 26th July 2011

Present:

Councillors:

David Tindale – Chairman
Ian Hill
Ted Backhouse
Barry Adby
Harvey Batten
Rhian Woods
Nick Hancock
Tim Horton
Tony Williamson

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

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65/11 Apologies for absence

Robert Barber, Di Tolan, Nick Greaves, Roger Beattie, Charles Rowton-Lee

66/11 Election of Vice-Chairman

Ted Backhouse proposed Ian Hill and this was seconded by Rhian Woods. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Ian Hill be elected as Vice-Chairman.

67/11 Chairman's Remarks

David Tindale asked that in order to have relevant, meaningful and succinct discussions, comments be kept pertinent to the issues being debated.

68/11 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 28th June 2011 received by Council 12/7/2011 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.

69/11 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.

70/11 Matters Arising

Olympic Torch and Diamond Jubilee 2012 – Meeting to be held on 16th September 2011. It was noted that there will be a pre-meeting in August with Councillors interested in taking this issue forward. This meeting will be called by the Chairman of the Council.

Car Park Financial Issues – Tony Williamson reported that no communication had been received from the Co-op following our letter. It was agreed that the Clerk send another letter regarding this. If there is no response to this then it was agreed we use other means to contact them.

Car Park Survey – This is hoped to take place on August 1st if enough help is available. If this is not possible another date will be arranged. It was thought it would be useful to survey in the holidays and then again in September when the schools have gone back.

71/11 Short Discussion Items

Agreement between the Parish Council and Sports Club

Tony Williamson reported on a Pavilion Committee meeting last night. It was noted that the Sports Club have financial issues and they think that external repairs to the pavilion should be the responsibility of the Parish Council and not the Pavilion Committee. The Sports Club are meeting Oxford Football Association today to forward the Charter Standard and Football Development plan. There was very strong feeling about this paper and it is hoped that a special meeting can be arranged in August to discuss this issue only. The Pavilion Committee will then bring back recommendations to the Parish Council.

Ian Hill stated that the Business Plan he prepared earlier in the year was only a draft to try to see how the pavilion could generate more income.

Barry Aaby stated that the Sports Club members should deal with issues such as the Football Foundation and Charter Standard status and the Parish Council members should not get involved with these things.

Harvey Batten stated that we need to make the partnership work. Tony Williamson said we will need to have the Sports Club views to move forward on this.

Barry Aaby said that the Sports Club have got extra teams this year which is very positive.

Watlington Library

Ian Hill had prepared the following report on behalf of WPC and FOWL following the public meeting which over 300 people attended. Paper attached to these minutes – Appendix 1.

It was noted that both Ian Hill and Philip Pinney spoke very effectively at the public meeting. Judith Heathcote and John Jackson both spoke on behalf of OCC on why cuts are necessary.

Their attention was brought to the fact that the OCC data stated that only 66 people a day shop in Watlington which is clearly not correct and thereby puts the rest of the data into question. There were lots of questions from the floor and some very valid points. The fact that Watlington is a hub for a number of other villages was also stated.

It was noted that this Council must have a strong opinion on our local library
Resolved: That this be a Full Council agenda item for the September meeting and that WPC respond formally to the OCC Consultation. Ian Hill to draft a motion for this meeting.

Resolved : That Ian Hill put a report in the Watlington Times on behalf of WPC and FOWL

72/11 Main Topics for Discussion

Website – Note from Watlington Business Association (WBA) was attached to the agenda (Referred from June Full Council Minute 94/11 refers)

This issue was discussed at length:

Recommendation to Council:

1. That we maintain a separate Business Directory on the WPC website directory.
2. The Business Directory to be a directory of all businesses providing services within the Parish showing only a one-line entry.
3. That we include a link to the Watlington Business Association website

Buses (referred from July Full Council Meeting)

The various issues were discussed and it was agreed that the following issues be discussed with Go Ride/Thames Travel

1. Watlington PC supports a return to two 101 buses between the hours of 7.00 and 8.00 a.m. Accordingly it urges Thames Travel and OCC to engage in productive talks towards this end using some subsidy as may be necessary.

2. Watlington PC to urge upon OCC alterations to current arrangements with Arriva that will lead to a faster service to Thame on market day (Tuesday)

3. Watlington PC to welcome the involvement of Goride in seeking to find solutions for cost-effective and low carbon solutions to many of the issues of movement around the Watlington area. The issues below were thought to be worth discussing with Go-Ride/Thames Travel:

a) Shopping service for hilltop communities (e.g. Christmas Common/Russells Water/Seymour Green/Pishill) and vale communities (e.g. Clare/Pyrtton/Shirburn) on taxi-bus principles. Going to Watlington centre.

b) Joint working with hospital/surgery services

c) Evening running of Junction 6 shuttle up to midnight using call facilities.

d) Enhancements for Thame Market day

e) Work on the Wallingford – Benson – Watlington - Stokenchurch- Wycombe 'corridor'

f) Sunday Travel – especially leisure and shopping services to Cowley and Oxford centre.

Resolved: That Tim Horton and Ian Hill prepare a paper on the above points that can be discussed with GoRide and Thames Travel.

It was noted that the Reading Service (M1) has had problems with the service and has not been running to schedule.

Watlington Speaks – Progress report was attached to agenda

Ian Hill stated that we need now to produce a summing up document and give it publicity. Most of the information needed is contained within the progress report but in a more glossy format. He asked that if any Councillors note any errors to email the Clerk. A final version will be produced which will provide information for a new parish plan. It was agreed that IH contact the members of the old Watlington Speaks to discuss the final version with them. It was noted that there are still some actions that can be followed through. This issue will be put on the next Strategy agenda and some matters can be put onto the Operations agenda.

Resolved: That we aim to get the Summary document out by the end of the year.

SODC Consultation on a new car park order – Deadline 18th August –Available to view on the www.southoxon.gov.uk/haveyoursay

This was discussed and as there is nothing pertinent to Watlington it was agreed that we do not respond to this consultation.

ORCC – Our views are wanted on what kind of support services are needed to encourage voluntary and community activity and self-help. – document was attached to agenda. The consultation ends on 12 September 2011.

It was thought that it is important that we give our views on this consultation. It is likely that funding to ORCC and OCVA will be reduced and both services are important to have. ORCC have done a lot for Watlington.

Resolved: That this consultation is delegated to Ian Hill and David Tindale to respond to. Any comments to be sent direct to them.

73/11 Correspondence

1. SODC Core Strategy – Timetable – was *attached to agenda*.

Tim Horton stated that he thinks WPC should respond to the changes that have been made and that we regret the increase in numbers to the larger villages.

Rhian Woods stated that the increase will not be spread equally through the 13 larger villages and those who are not within the AONB, green belt. So that it is possible that Watlington might be expected to take a disproportionately large fraction of new housing.. She also said that there has been an increase in numbers of the school so further expansion might not be feasible. Tim Horton said that occupancy per house has decreased. There has been 1/3rd of housing stock built within the last 30 years. IH/DT to clarify the current position with Angie Paterson and this issue to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

2. SODC – Addendum of changes to SODC Core Strategy – **noted see above.**

3. Thames Water Resources Management Plan – next steps – **noted.**

4. Gary Beales – re SID, Radar recorder etc – **noted**.

74/11 Items for Future Meetings
Refer to Forward Plan

75/11 Any Other Business to note

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM

Appendix 1

Oxfordshire Library Consultation – Alternative view of data model

At the consultation meeting in Watlington on 18 July, several people expressed concern at the data model that had been used to allocate libraries into one of five groups, and that this model was biased in favour of larger communities and against the smaller rural communities where more than 80% of South Oxfordshire people live. This note uses the same data as used in the OCC analysis, but takes an alternative approach to applying it that removes the bias towards major conurbations.

The approach in the OCC data model identifies the potential users of a library as those who live, work, shop or go to school within half a mile of the library. If we ignore all the concerns about whether half a mile is a realistic size for the catchment area, the essential flaw in the model is that it adds these four groups of people together. By treating these four groups as independent and adding them together, what it is in effect saying is that nobody who lives in the community shops there, works there or goes to school there. Similarly, nobody who works shops in the community works there, and so on.

This note adopts an approach that probably errs in the opposite direction by assuming that all residents of the area shop, work and go to school there. The only change made to the OCC model is that the number of people who work, shop or go to school in the area, is reduced by the number of residents in the area. This approach removes the bias that is built into the OCC model where it assumes that these four populations are distinct groups, all of whom are potential users of the library. The revised model reported here overcorrects this by assuming the maximum overlap of these groups – the actual situation is likely to be somewhere between these two extremes and to vary from place to place.

By reducing the number of workers, shoppers and school-goers by the total population of the area, we end with large negative numbers because clearly there are more people who live in the area than who work, shop or go to school there. This might look odd, but the results can be scaled in exactly the same way as in the OCC model to produce scores in the range 0 to 100 for each library. The results are attached at the end of this document. They make interesting reading, but I would not claim that they should be used for allocating library funding any more than the OCC results should be. For the purpose of comparison, the table shows the scores from the revised model arranged in descending order, and divided into five groups each with the same number of members as in the OCC analysis. The second column shows the groups to which each library was allocated in the OCC model, and is colour coded as in Table 12 of the OCC report.

First, the group 1 libraries are virtually unchanged between the two models, with only Kidlington and Botley changing places between the first and second groups. This indicates that the Group 1 libraries

are indeed a distinct group and should be treated as such. But after that the arbitrariness of the OCC model becomes apparent. There is very little consistency between groups 2 to 5 for the two models. Note in particular that the lowest scoring library in the revised analysis was assigned to group 2 in the OCC analysis (a suburban library), and that conversely the lowest scoring library in the OCC analysis is assigned to group 3 in the revised analysis. The group 2 libraries in the revised analysis include libraries from each of the five groups that came out of the OCC analysis.

The revised analysis has left the transport index unchanged. It is debatable whether there is any merit in using of tool designed to assess transport availability at peak times "*for London where a dense integrated public transport network means that nearly all destinations can be reached within a reasonable amount of time*" to quote from the PTAL guide. Its value in discriminating between library locations in a rural county is limited. For example only the Central Library in Oxford falls in the PTAL top category of "excellent accessibility" while **ALL** of the libraries in the OCC groups 2, 3, 4 and 5 fall into the lowest PTAL accessibility category of "very poor accessibility". The OCC analysis is looking for shades of grey in a darkened room.

The conclusion from this must be that the data analysis used to group the libraries is totally unfit for purpose in its present form, and a total rethink is required. This rethink should not only consider potential users of the libraries, but also provide some weighting for actual users of the libraries.

Ian Hill

For Friends of Watlington Library and Watlington Parish Council

		Population	Employment	Education	Shopping	Transport	TOTAL						
Bicester	1	4098	32	-2322	84	-2058	79	25003	100	5.2	43.0	338	100
Banbury	1	7227	69	-3939	63	-6589	29	9318	55	11.3	100.0	316	89
Didcot	1	6955	66	-5170	48	-3664	61	17437	78	5.3	43.9	297	80
Abingdon	1	6113	56	-3401	70	-4669	50	7250	49	7.4	63.6	288	76
Wantage	1	6307	58	-4530	56	-4049	57	12971	65	3.9	30.8	267	65
Witney	1	6635	62	-4317	59	-4770	49	2468	35	6.8	57.9	263	63
Botley	2	3302	23	-2322	84	-2974	69	-1379	24	6.8	57.9	257	61
Woodstock	3	2903	18	-1931	89	-1603	84	-2553	21	2.5	17.8	229	47
Burford	4	1453	1	-1015	100	-199	100	-1330	24	0.6	0.0	225	45
Henley	2	4502	37	-3035	75	-4085	57	-1058	25	3.9	30.8	224	44
Kidlington	1	8588	85	-7420	20	-8110	12	-2519	21	9.6	84.1	221	43
Wheatley	3	3460	25	-3236	72	-3031	68	-3324	18	4.6	37.4	221	43
Wallingford	2	5992	54	-4517	56	-4325	54	-299	27	3.6	28.0	220	42
Eynsham	2	4126	32	-3446	70	-2763	71	-3708	17	3.3	25.2	216	40
North Leigh	5	1515	2	-1260	97	-1368	87	-1515	24	1.3	6.5	216	40
Goring	5	1860	6	-1534	94	-1860	81	-1860	23	1.8	11.2	215	40
Woodcote	4	2249	10	-1901	89	-1516	85	-2033	22	1.3	6.5	213	39
Chipping Norton	2	4536	37	-3643	67	-2963	69	-1472	24	2.3	15.9	213	39
Stonesfield	5	1379	0	-1279	97	-1219	89	-1379	24	0.9	2.8	212	38
Hook Norton	5	1751	4	-1339	96	-1515	85	-1751	23	0.9	2.8	211	38
Adderbury	5	1568	2	-1420	95	-1341	87	-1568	24	0.9	2.8	211	38
Thame	2	5524	49	-4194	60	-4478	52	519	30	2.6	18.7	209	37
Deddington	5	1704	4	-1518	94	-1505	85	-1638	23	0.9	2.8	209	37
Wychwood	5	1613	3	-1477	94	-1613	84	-1101	25	0.9	2.8	209	37
Charlbury	4	2648	15	-2469	82	-2450	75	-1819	23	2.0	13.1	207	36
Wallington	4	2540	14	-2368	83	-1620	84	-2478	21	1.1	4.7	206	36
Benson	4	2580	14	-2446	82	-2358	76	-1878	23	1.8	11.2	206	35
Kennington	4	3087	20	-2959	76	-2784	71	-2972	20	2.5	17.8	204	35
Bampton	5	2321	11	-2165	86	-2184	78	-2138	22	1.3	6.5	203	34
Berinsfield	4	3010	19	-2854	77	-2746	72	-2802	20	2.2	15.0	203	34
Faringdon	3	4396	36	-3872	64	-3908	59	-3644	18	2.4	16.8	193	29
Sonning Common	4	3723	28	-3337	71	-3305	65	-3425	18	1.6	9.3	191	28
Cartton	2	7135	68	-6615	30	-5755	38	-866	26	2.9	21.5	183	24
Chinnor	3	5180	45	-4942	51	-4687	50	-4658	15	0.8	1.9	162	14
Grove	3	6844	64	-6594	30	-6391	31	-5556	12	2.4	16.8	154	10
Neithrop	2	9864	100	-9001	0	-9140	0	-9754	0	4.2	33.6	134	0