

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 17th July 2012

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill
Tony Williamson
Ted Backhouse
Barry Adby
Robert Barber
Tim Horton

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Ian Hill presided over the meeting until the Election of a Chairman.

31/12 Apologies for absence

David Tindale, Roger Beattie, Charles Rowton-Lee, Rhian Woods, Harvey Batten, Di Tolan, Nick Greaves, Nick Hancock.

32/12 Election of Chairman

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

This was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: That Ian Hill be elected as Chairman

33/12 Election of Vice-Chairman

It was agreed to defer this election.

34/12 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 27th March 2012 received by Council 10/4/2012 to be signed as a correct record.

Resolved: That these minutes be agreed as a true record of the meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

35/12 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.

36/12 Matters Arising

Hedges on Hill Road – The dangerous overhanging hedges have been reported to OCC, who have asked that we furnish them with the landowners who they belong to. RBr/TH to put together a list. It was noted that 2 landowners are the National Trust and the Deans.

37/12 Discussion Items

1. Howe Hill Speed 40mph speed proposal

This was discussed and it was thought that the area suggested by OCC was too long and should be shortened. The map was marked up with the limits that seem more logical and the proposal was then voted on.

Vote: 5 in favour, 1 against

Resolved: That we agree a 40mph limit on the area marked up by us and that we give OCC our marked up map showing what was agreed.

2. Watlington and the Local Transport Plan for Oxfordshire – (letter No 130)

A letter has been received from OCC following our letter on this issue sent to them on the 21st May 2012. They stated that they acknowledge that Watlington has been declared an Air Quality Management Area where the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide exceed the objective levels and OCC will continue to work with SODC to tackle this problem. They state that a relief road has been suggested in the past but this is unlikely to be progressed during the life of the LTP 2030 without significant development coming forward in the Parish. OCC would be unable to fund a relief road for Watlington without developer funding.

TH stated that with the LTP for 2016-2020 the relief road was in to be looked at in the medium term. When a Referendum was held in Watlington in September 1986 on this issue the population was split evenly on this. It was noted that it has always been the case that unless there is a housing development this would not be able to be done, this has always been the case. However what was sought from OCC was guidance on issues such as routing options and relative costs.

If we want a relief of traffic through the centre of Watlington we should use housing to get a relief road. This issue should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan

TH stated that we should take careful judgment on this issue. The Town Centre is very highly polluted. This is a fact and we have data to prove this. When the Relief Road issue was looked at in 1997 there was no commitment from SODC that there would be large scale development in the locality so it was not possible for Council to look at strategically. We now have an opportunity to use housing growth to look into a relief road with the introduction of the Core Strategy. There would be a number of issues that would need to be looked at including drainage and costs.

Resolved: That we organise a meeting with County Officers and Cabinet Members in respect of this matter. That we speak to Caroline Newton regarding this.

3. Car Park Order for Hill Road Car Park – Draft was attached to agenda.

IH stated that he had gone through this. It was thought that this should be drafted by a small group. It was thought we need to two papers: one with the Full Order and a shorter one showing the Order without charges.

IH/TH to do this for the September meeting.

4. Copas Farm – Management Strategy – All councillors have received this directly from Copas Farms

It was noted that the intentions of this are sound. It states what is happening with the entrance on Britwell Road and shows which gates have been locked. The strategy for the Willow Ponds is the most controversial. It was suggested that perhaps a meeting with them would be useful.

Resolved: That a letter be sent to Copas Farm and this will be drafted by Robert Barber.

5. District Role in stimulating good commerce in other villages and towns not just in the four main towns.

Ian Hill reported that when SODC were doing their large market town distinctiveness Projects and commissioned a company to do this for the major towns, we were lucky to get some work done by the company at no cost to this Council. We opted to take no further action on this as funds were not available. We need to get in touch with SODC and see if they will be treating Watlington as a development centre that needs to keep the shops etc.

Watlington is a market town, one of 19 market towns in Oxfordshire. There are lots of little villages that use Watlington's shops and services. The nature of development in Watlington is very different to Wallingford, Didcot, Thame and Henley. There is more to it than just looking at population size.

Resolved: That Ian Hill drafts a letter to SODC on this issue, which will be circulated to one or two members prior to it being sent.

It was also agreed that we ask that this be a topic at the next Town and Parish Council forum meeting in November.

6. Junction 6 – Report from meeting held 16/5/2012 was attached to agenda
The points from this report were noted and we will be invited to any future meetings on this issue.

It was also noted that some works may also be done to the opposite side of the road.

7. Website – Possible Picture Gallery- note was attached to the agenda from Ian Hill.

This was discussed and it was:

Resolved: That we have a picture galley added to our website at a cost of £75 (excl VAT) for the first year and £25(excl VAT) for further years.

8. Parish Controlled Storage – note was attached to the agenda from Tim Horton
Tim Horton said that he thinks there is a shortage of storage for hardware assets and also that more chairs should be purchased by the WPC for community events.

This was discussed and it was agreed that we need to establish the requirement for these asset items. It was agreed that we compile a list of things we do have in the Town and where things are stored.

Vote: 3 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

Resolved: That we write to all the local organisations asking if they have any storage requirements and ask them what items they have and what items they would like to have access to. This would be an information seeking exercise.

9. Icknield Community College and Community links – following meeting with Ian Hill and Mat Hunter – notes on this were given out at July Full Council meeting.

IH reported that we have written to Mat Hunter and Louisa Hudson following this meeting inviting them to a meeting to explore what we can do to keep things moving along.

This item to be an agenda item for the October meeting.

10. Cycle/Walking Access to Junction 6 – an explanatory note from Tim Horton was attached to the agenda.

Motion from Tim Horton -

That the Council recommence discussions with Oxfordshire County Council and Sustrans concerning the possible establishment of a cycle/walking route to Junction 6 of the M40 from Watlington (using the old railway bed) whilst also seeking to involve residents of other parishes in every practical way

Discussion took place on this and a vote was then taken.

Vote: 5 in favour, 1 against

Resolved: That we write to Beechwood Estates with regard to this and to ask if they would be prepared to discuss this issue. The reply to be reported back to Full Council.

This letter to be drafted by Tim Horton and Ian Hill

A copy of the letter to Beechwood Estates to be sent to neighbouring parishes.

11. Standards Committee – Briefing on the Localism Act and new Standards Framework – This was noted.

12. OCC – Consultation on Oxfordshire’ Right of Ways -Do we wish to fill in an online questionnaire on this? – IH to do this.

38/12 Correspondence

1. ORCC - Community Transport - New funds available – **Agreed to let Jane Beard, Volunteer Driver Group know about this.**

2, OCC – Service 125– new timetable from 7/6/2012 - **Noted**

3. Wycombe District Council – Proposed submission version of the Delivery and Site Allocations Plan – Comment need to be made by Friday 20th July –**Noted.**

4. SODC – Electoral Review of South Oxfordshire – Noted.

5. Ed Donald – regarding to proposal of 40mph on Howe Road from HS article – **The Clerk has sent a reply to this.**

39/12 Items for Future Meetings

Water Resource

Risk Assessment -September

Annual Precept Review

Consideration of Small Grant reinstatement

Strategic Review of the budget process

Outreach within the Parish – Robert Barber to prepare a note

40/12 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Go Ride – It was noted that they need to have twice as many passenger for this to be a viable service. Timetables are on our website and around the Town. We are giving them funding towards this. A meeting to be set up with David Turner on this issue.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.02PM