

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8.35pm on Tuesday 23rd July 2013

Present:

Councillors:

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

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public: 2

31/13 Apologies for absence
Rhian Woods, Nick Hancock

32/13 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 28th May 2013 were received by Council on the 11/6/2013 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.

33/13 Declaration of Interests
There were none.

34/13 Matters Arising
1. **Outreach Meeting in Christmas Common on September 30th** – Date reminder only
2. **Car Park Order** – This will be published in the press in September IH/KT

35/13 Discussion Items
Main Discussion Items
1. **Hill Road Car Park**– DT had given out a paper prior to this meeting on the meeting held with Mark Francis from OCC. It was noted that WPC would need to agree a course of action prior to submitting a request to him

to evaluate the scheme. NB has agreed to draw up a specification for the car park scheme. It was noted that Mark Francis had no objection to the scheme. It was agreed that we need to know the OCC boundary from the Highway. It was noted that Caroline Newton attended the meeting and we need to keep her apprised of any progress. It was noted that the drainage issue would need to be part of the scheme. It was also noted that there may be some money available for the County Councillor's fund.

Resolved: That we ask the Operations Committee to further progress this issue. KT to ask Caren O'Sullivan at Highways Enquiries to confirm the highway boundary line at the entrance from Hill Road.

Shirburn Street/Love Lane Parking – It was noted that an extensive discussion was had with Mark Francis on this issue and he has asked that WPC send him a proper proposal. He did say that OCC would have no funding to make any alterations to the current parking scheme. DT said that there are 3 distinct proposals which could be made. TH suggested that we alert OCC to suggestions from the Air Quality Pressure Group in the town. It was noted that parking, HGV's and air pollution are all part of the same issue. The Clerk to see if she has the maps of this area before any changes were made to Shirburn Street. BA suggested that we also look into a length limit for vehicles turning left into Hill Road and also speak to the Co-op about them re-routing their lorries. HB asked if there had been any discussion on putting some herringbone parking on some of the grassed areas in Love Lane.

Resolved: That DT put together some proposals which can then be discussed at the Strategy Meeting in September. BA to give school bus information to DT.

2. **Public Convenience** – change to just having one disabled toilet. See attached response from SODC which was attached to the agenda.

The response was discussed and TH said that while WIB were painting these facilities it gave the opportunity to see the usage of them. He stated that the use is significant for both but the Men's are used more. They did not see anyone using the disabled toilet which at the moment needs a radar key to access. TH also said that he does not think that Watlington is ready to just have one unisex toilet. The Operations Committee have been looking at replacing the urinal and toilets in the Mens which is in much worse condition than the Ladies. It was noted that the disabled toilet is in good condition. TH stated that we do not have a good enough case for any change at this moment in time. RB thinks we should look further into the issues of having a unisex toilet and see if we can get information from any towns/villages that have one. HB stated that we should upgrade the Mens and keep the status quo.

Resolved: That we thank John Backley for looking into this issue but that Watlington will stay with the current arrangement and keep the Men's, Ladies and the disabled toilet. That the Mens be upgraded and that a change of windows also be looked at. This issue to be dealt with by the Operations Committee and they should seek quotes so that this issue can be progressed in the September meeting.

3. SODC – Inviting us to give our views on the current polling station arrangements and if there are any alternative venues that would be more suitable

This was discussed and it was:

Resolved: That we write back to SODC stating that Watlington is happy with the current arrangement as regards polling stations.

Short Discussion items

1. **SODC – Consultation of the Local Plan – Sites and General Policies**- views on what should be included within the 2nd part of the Plan. More detail can be found on www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan deadline for comments 5th August 2013 – **paper was attached to the agenda.**

After discussion it was noted that IH had already responded in June on this issue.

- Resolved:** That IH to draft a response which he will send to member by email prior to submitting to SODC.
2. **Cycling/ Triathlon – Document from OCC was attached to the agenda**
It was noted that the closure period has extended substantially to what was originally said. IH said that there is no mention of the need for escorts or marshalls being available which it does for some areas. It also implies the stretch will be one-way. The legal document is available in the Henley Library and IH will go and have a look at it.
Resolved: That IH responds on the Council's behalf on this.
 3. **Watlington and the Local Transport Plan for Oxfordshire** – A letter has been sent to OCC requesting a meeting to discuss this issue.
 4. **Buses – Local Survey for Go-Ride Service** – TH gave out a note for information to Councillors. There will be a meeting held in August on the issue of GoRide seeking support from the County for a bus and discussion will be held by the various parishes in what they could do in terms of support. GoRide have been looking at a service which would include Lewknor during the day and evening. TH said that hopefully there will be a proposition by September. If any Councillors have any comments to give these to TH by the end of the week.
 5. **NALC- Paper 'A New Future: developing the Strategy' which was adopted by National Council on 2/7/2013 for Consultation.** Deadline for Comments 30/8/13.- *this was attached to the agenda.*
It was noted that there was no mention of Autonomy of Parish Councils in regard to setting the precept
Resolved: That we send in a response to this consultation and TH to draft and send to DT and IH prior to it being sent.
 6. **NALC – Local Audit and Accountability Bill** – would like Parish Councils to complete the Survey if they have had a parish poll which will help amend the bill to provide for reform of the rules governing parish polls.
Resolved: That we do not send a response as we have not had a Parish Poll since 1986.
 7. **Public Meeting** - IH reported that he attended this as the representative from the Parish Council and it was well attended with 100+people there. A few Parish Councillors were also there. Neil Foreman gave the introduction that they want to form a pressure group to tackle the issue of air quality in the town. There was an SODC Environment Officer present and he gave a presentation which showed a distinct improvement in air quality levels since 2010. Some attendees gave rational and considered comments and some did not. There was a fair bit on antagonism to SODC and the Parish Council. TW stated that one letter received about Watlington traffic refers to the promised relief road which was noted was never promised. It was noted that it can be dangerous when people write things that are blatantly incorrect. BA said that he had put his name down to join this group and attended a meeting last night which was about the lorries to Lys Mill and it is very difficult for them to separate the issues. IH said the timing is unfortunate as SODC are putting together an action plan. TH said that it is unfortunate that none of the District and County Councillors are on this Parish Council and suggested that it may be useful to have a small meeting with them to discuss the issues of dropped transport plans and air quality.
Resolved: That we set up a meeting with our District and County Councillors and a limited number of Parish Councillors to discuss issues of particular concern. IH/KT will organise this.
 8. **Enclosure Act Map** – TH stated that he has a reproduction of the 1815 Enclosure Act Map which is the copyright of this Council. It used to be lodged with Lloyds Bank and is

now in the County Archives. He said that there could be some commercial interest in taking the town area of the map and making it available for sale in the town. The money raised could come to this Council or a good cause in the town eg Town Hall. It would be an easy exercise now that technology allows it to be digitised. TH said that the map could only be reproduced with the consent of WPC. There is also a 78 page of copperplate text which relates to the Act of Parliament 1815.

Resolved: That TH checks that WPC do own the copyright of the map and that this issue be further discussed in September.

9. **Howe Hill** – *correspondence from Mr Richardson was attached to the agenda.*

It was agreed that we send him a letter thanking him for his comments which we have noted. It was noted that he will be having a meeting with Anton Nath from OCC regarding a Community Led Plan for this area.

10 **British Legion Fete – 26th August** – They have asked if we would like to have a stall at this event at no charge.

Resolved: That we have a stall and ask SODC if we can borrow the Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition for this. IH to speak to SODC.

11. **Ingham Lane/Brook Street road repairs** – BA reported that this job now needs to be re-priced and that it could not happen until Oct/Nov at the earliest.

Resolved: That we send a letter to the Chief Executive of OCC detailing the issues of this scheme which was agreed to be done over a year ago and is now in a dangerous condition. The issues which were discussed in the July Operations committee to form the basis of this letter. CN will be copied on this. TH/KT to do this.

36/13 Correspondence

Letter No 194 -The Guardian – A guide to using Facebook for Local Councils – **Noted**

Letter No 183 -Grant Goodman –pollution and air quality in Watlington – **It was agreed that DT draft a reply to this letter.**

Letter no 169 – Anna Badcock – re Watlington and Cuxham drainage concerns – **Noted**

37/13 Items for Future Meetings

Review of Solicitor

Icknield Community College Link

38/13 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

33 High Street – It was agreed that this issue needs to be chased as no response has been received from our last letter and a letter to be sent to OCC on this. IH/TH to draft.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.02PM