



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

David Tindale  
Ian Hill  
Tim Horton  
Elizabeth Winton  
Nick Greaves  
Robert Barber  
Bob West  
Tony Williamson

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

**Members of the Public:**

34/14 Apologies for absence

Rhian Woods, Nick Hancock, Roddy Orr, Neil Boddington, Robin Wilson, Keith Lovelace

35/14 Election of Vice- Chairman

Robert Barber proposed Tony Williamson and this was seconded by Tim Horton. There were no other nominations.

**Resolved:** That Tony Williamson be unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

36/14 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were received by Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 to be signed as a correct record

**Resolved:** That these minutes be agreed as a correct record of the meetings and that they be signed by the Chairman

37/14 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest notified.

38/14 Matters Arising

**Central Policies and Procedure Action Board** (Minute 28/14 refers)– TW noted that there will be

policies that will need to be looked at during the year and the Clerk will forward the relevant policies for review by the Action Board in good time for them to review prior to the appropriate meeting.

**CPRE – Proposed Housing Figures for South Oxfordshire** (Minute 29/14 refers) – It was noted that the letter was not sent on this and agreed that we do not need to contact SODC regarding this issue.

**Charlotte Coxe Charity 33 High Street** – Memorandum of Understanding (Minute 28/14 refers) – IH reported that this has been done and we are just waiting for the date to sign it. TW asked if it would then be possible to use the money for cover for extra hours in the Library. IH said that it would depend on whether the money could be used for running costs or just capital expenditure. TH stated that it is a complex issue and this Council could influence what should be done with the money and which bank it should be lodged with would also be for this Council to decide and Council will be in a position to say where the money is spent. It was agreed that in November we have an agenda item to discuss what guidance to give the Advisory Board for this Charity and TH/IH/NG to prepare a paper in advance of this meeting on the specific issues.

#### 39/14 Discussion Items

##### Main Discussion Items

**Watlington and the LTP for Oxfordshire** –First Stage public consultation on LTP4. To note response sent (Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> August) from the Group set up to deal with this issue – TH (lead) and KL.

TH, IH and KL had a meeting last night to discuss this and issued a draft response to this consultation which was then gone through in detail. TH stated that things that affect us in this consultation are slight and the team have picked out themes that have been dominant in this Council and they have focused on high level thinking which the consultation invites us to do. Air Quality is one issue that has been picked up on. It was agreed that WPC are concerned that Oxfordshire should remain as a distinctive County. Safety does appear as an issue but is not strongly represented. It was thought that this should be a key issue and not just in principle of what OCC are recommending. TH reported that he went to the OCC consultation briefing meeting in Didcot and IH and KL went to the meeting in Henley on this issue. It was agreed that it is fine for us to be consulted in principle but that WPC want to be actively involved in more detailed discussions regarding the LTP. KL feels that the document almost ignores places like Watlington and has stated that WATNEXT and the 5 Parishes Group who have a lot of activity happening are not being asked for opinions and that they should also be actively involved.

TH stated that OCC would rather see the Neighbourhood Plan process used as input to the Districts to say where housing should go, and we have made the point that the transport issue is much wider than this.

There must also be a strong case for HGV overnight storage close to motorways and DT stated that he has looked at the HGV preferred routes on OCC website and that Watlington does not feature on the main routes and neither should it.. There is clear indication that it is only a local delivery route and not a through route.

TW said that regardless of what OCC say it is an opportunity to negotiate on things and if we wish to say anything we should do so even if it is out of the scope of what they are asking for. Junction 6 needs to be addressed and all junctions on the motorway should be examined in the light of their potential for growth.

NG stated that we need to address all our local issues in our response eg Lys Mill.

**Resolved:** That the draft response was agreed and that the WPC response to the SODC Air Quality Action Plan consultation should be included as an attachment. It was noted that some typing corrections will need to be made. IH to agree the final corrected document with TH, KL and KT prior it being sent to OCC by the deadline 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014. That we send copies also to MP,

DEFRA, OCC Cabinet Member for Transport (David Nimmo-Smith), Heads of all major Political Parties, Our County Councillor and our District Councillors. It was also agreed that we also send a copy of our response to the Air Quality Consultation as an annexe to our response on the LTP4.

DT thanked IH, TH and KL for preparing the draft response and for all their work on this issue.

*WPC final response is attached to the end of these minutes for information*

TH reported that a meeting has been set up for the 6<sup>th</sup> August to meet with the OCC Traffic Engineer and our County Councillor to discuss the Local Transport Plan and to have a discussion about Watlington specifically in respect of the Local Transport Plan.

**Local Plan 2031** – To agree response on this to send to SODC – deadline 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Draft will be circulated by email before the meeting - IH

IH, RW and BW had met up to discuss this issue and prepare a draft response to this consultation which was given out with the agenda papers.

IH reported that, as with the LTP4 Consultation, it is not specific, it is on basic principles and relates mostly to housing. There is a choice of 8 options for housing which IH explained in detail. The team agreed that none of the options specifically were thought to be good but a mixture of options were seen as the best thing to do. A mix of three of their options, essentially distributing the extra houses across the District but with better criteria used to decide which communities were best able to absorb more houses was agreed. The options for all the extra houses to be located in the Science Vale area around Didcot, in a new town near the M40, or on the outskirts of Oxford and Reading was agreed not to be a good idea. It was agreed that we concur with their policy of allowing a local community to have an increased level of housing in return for specific infrastructure improvements.

The draft response was gone through question by question and it was:

**Resolved:** That with the typing corrections needed the response to be sent by IH and KT tomorrow morning.

TH congratulated the team on the excellent draft response.

*WPC final response is attached to the end of these minutes for information*

#### 40/14 Short Discussion items

**1. OCC Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation** – Response date 19/9/2014

Link. <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/floodriskmgmt/consultationHome>

**Resolved:** that the Environment Action Board meet to discuss this and prepare a draft response for Full Council in September to be agreed.

#### **2. Discussion on installing a raised Zebra Crossing at the Town Hall – IH**

It was noted that we have had a number of comments over the past six months about the safety of the pedestrian crossing at the Town Hall. Many suggestions have been made including:

- A raised zebra crossing essentially as a speed hump to slow drivers down;
- A change in the road surface to make it more distinctive and so more obvious to drivers;
- Adoption of the “Dorset Model” (was attached to the agenda) which aims to remove visual clues with changes in road surface make drivers unsure of the route and so slow down;
- A change in the road surface to make more distinctive and so more obvious to drivers.

The aim would be primarily to improve safety for pedestrians at the Town Hall crossing. BW stated that he did not think a hump would be a good idea as there would be heavy vehicles going over them and kerb heights are very low in this area and water would then sit in this area. RB said that he had read the Dorset document which he found very interesting and some points in Watlington could be natural places to use this scheme such as taking out all signage which potentially leads to much slower speeds but was not sure if this would work with the volume of traffic in Watlington. TW said that a raised platform would be different from a hump but this would have to be looked at in conjunction with the whole of the area. TH said that the timing of this worries him as we want our residents to focus on the NP and this sort of issue could divide people when we want them to concentrate on the NP proposals of Air Quality, Transport and the Core Plan. After discussion it was:

**Resolved:** That we ask the Traffic Board to meet and discuss this issue and then bring back their views to this committee.

**3. 35 High Street – exceptional services for Community Benefit** – TH stated that it may or may not be that Council will want to contribute to Library funds simply in terms of funding additional hours. It was suggested that this would be an annual gift from WPC, but that it should not replace OCC money. TH said that his personal suggestion to the FOWL AGM was that the new set up at 35 High Street might conceive of what exceptional services they might have that would have community benefit directly and indirectly. For example, provision of visitor information such as what to see, where to eat and where to stay. Noticeboard of parish meeting; sale of Watlington Times; full set of bus timetables for distribution; 'Attention' board for emergencies notices on street repairing/weather related hazard etc.

**Resolved:** That we note the paper on this issue sent by TH.

**4. Police Office in 1 Old School Place** – TH stated that we have recently spent approximately £4,000 on a new boiler and outside painting of the Community Office and that we have given the Police an office in the building completely free of any charge which they seem to use less than previously. TH said that he had a brief discussion on this with Inspector Mark Harling and he agreed a £10 weekly contribution in principle to the WPC.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk send a formal letter on this to Inspector Mark Harling.

**5. Watlington Sewerage Outfall and the Environment Agency** - TH reported that he had asked a Freedom of Information question on this and has found out some useful information of what work is going on in Cuxham. He said that Rick Bennet is leading a local group who are looking into the issue of the outfall and the great amount of pollution in the water which going downstream leads to Chalgrove. The Environmental Agency and Thames Water will be increasing the amounts of reed beds around the outfall to bring it up to standard. RB said that Watlington brook now counts as a chalk stream with trout in and there have been a number of meetings on the water issues and there is a huge amount of monitoring going on. WEG are also writing to them. Watlington is also a Head Water Catchment Area and therefore has to reach certain standards.

**Resolved:** That RB report back on this issue to the September Meeting.

**6. Watlington Footpath 4** – TH stated that he has now walked this route and will now draft a letter on this issue to Beechwood Estates.

**7. Empowering Parish Councils to sell Electricity** – see attached email from Steve Shaw (sent to Environment Action Board RB/BW/KL)

This information was noted.

**8. Traffic Issues Meeting organised by John Howell** – Enforcement requests- deadline 22/8/2014.- (Email from Tim Davies 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 following the Traffic Meeting organised by John Howell on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014)

IH reported that the Police and the County Council have said they have now got the resources for monthly enforcement operations at pre-selected sites throughout the County. The enforcement operations will vary according to requirements and suitability of the chosen sites. As well as checking for speed, the police will also be checking for seat belt compliance, mobile phone use and other regulations. They will include checks for overweight vehicles in accordance with the Trading Standards Office and the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency. It was noted that Watlington have had three half day operations this year.

**Resolved:** That IH deal with this issue and reply to the email from Tim Davies.

41/14 Update on on-going issues that are not agenda items for this meeting

1..**Buses** – Nothing to report

2. **Broadband in outlying areas** - RB reported that Watlington town is scheduled to receive super-fast fibre broadband in March 2015 and that both Britwell Salome and Cuxham are due to be upgraded as well. We need to lobby our District Councillors to ensure that the other outlying areas of Watlington are included in the next phase of fibre upgrades. He said that the bottom of Howe Hill and Hill Road will be covered but not Christmas Common, Greenfield or the top of Howe Hill. Cabinet 2 located at Christmas Common serves a large area and it is imperative that fibre is extended there asap. Some further areas have no broadband at all.

**Resolved:** That RB and KT write to Anna Badcock asking that Cabinet 2 is included and ask her to lobby for this on our behalf.

3. **Report on Facebook page** – IH stated that the post we put on about the Tuck Shop at the pavilion had 490 views.

42/14 Correspondence

1. Icknield Community College – Notice that ICC will proceed to the next stage with its proposal to establish a sixth form.

43/14 Items for Future Meetings

Review of Solicitor

Icknield Community College Link

Charlotte Coxe Advisory Board – Agenda item for November meeting.

Sewerage Outfall and Watlington as a Head Water Catchment Area –**RB to update for September meeting.**

44/14 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.08PM**

