



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office At 8pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Matt Reid (MR)  
Ian Hill (IH)  
Tom Bindoff (TB)  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Tony Williamson (TW)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

25/16 Election of Chairman

Tom Bindoff nominated Matt Reid and this was seconded by Terry Jackson. There were no other nominations.

**Resolved:** That Matt Reid be elected unanimously as Chairman.

26/16 Election of Vice-Chairman

Tom Bindoff proposed Roger Beattie and this was seconded by Matt Reid. There were no other nominations.

**Resolved:** That Roger Beattie be elected unanimously as Vice-Chairman.

27/16 Apologies for absence

Jo Read, Robin Wilson

28/16 Chairman's Remarks

Matt Reid stated that Rachel Huckvale has resigned from this committee and thanked her for the work she has done on behalf of this committee as Vice-Chairman.

29/16 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 which were received by Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016 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.

30/16 Declaration of Interests

There were none notified.

31/16 Matters Arising

There were none.

32/16 Update on on-going issues

1. **Subsidised Travel Review/Buses** – IH reported that the new bus timetable has started as of this week. Watlington to Thame via Chinnor so far this has only been tested on Monday and Tuesday but on Tuesday the bus was so late leaving Chinnor, that even with the 20min wait at Chinnor, passengers missed the connection. IH will write to Thames Travel and Carousel regarding this.

As regards WPC putting on one bus a week to Thame which would be a direct service to Thame on a Tuesday only. This would need to run at a least three quarters capacity which would mean at least 12 people would need to use it.

IH said that the consultation we have done with the bus users has identified 20 showing an interest in using this service and are willing to pay a cost for doing so as bus passes could not be used. The cost would be about £2.50 for a return fare.

After discussion it was:

**Resolved:** That IH continue to pursue this and to speak to Mr Savage regarding this.

2. **33 High Street** – TW stated that there has been a lot of movement on this recently. We have now received a draft lease for the Library. This has been looked at by the Charlotte Coxe Shadow Body and also Nick Greaves. No problems were noted but this will need to be sent to our Solicitor to check the legal terms. TW is chasing the original plan of the transfer of the Charlotte Coxe land to see the actual boundaries.

If the WPC and OCC can informally agree the terms of the lease then OCC can contact the Charity Commission to give Custodian Status to the WPC and then OCC can deal directly with us.

OCC have appointed one of the Senior Estates Surveyors (Kay Thomas) to see the whole project through. She met with TW and IH who then asked that she meet with the rest of the Shadow Body. This meeting took place last night and a lot of issues were discussed. Questions were asked and she answered about half of them and will get answers to the ones she could not answer. TW said that it is much easier only having one person to deal with. TW is hoping that a recommendation to Full Council can be given either in September or October. The Shadow Body have asked for quotes to see what it would cost to put 33 High Street in good order. Legal costs were mentioned and it was thought that these would come out of the 33 High Street account. TW was thanked for all his work on this issue.

3. **Christmas Common Community Asset** – MR said that this land has now been sold to a Developer after the appeal being allowed. There is however a lot of planning restrictions and covenants on this site.

The Developer has started work and is already in breach of some planning restrictions. A case has been opened up and a SODC Enforcement Officer will be visiting the site. A tree which was about to be felled was stopped being cut down by a local resident. The Enforcement Officer will also be checking which covenants still stand and if there was a payment to the Secretary of State to withdraw any covenants.

4. **Children Centres**- IH reported that the centres will now be funded until March 2017. The problem has not gone away it has just been postponed. People are working on this and their aim is to provide a smaller service.

33/16 Discussion Items

Main Discussion Items

1. **Communications Policy and Method of reviewing the Parish Council's performance during the last year and how to prepare a plan for the next year including a set of criteria by which to judge our performance.**

**Action from last meeting**

a) A system of sharing work amongst Councillors depending of their interests and talents – **MR to update**

1. How we communicate with ourselves
2. How we communicate with others
3. How the outside world communicates with the Parish Council

**Resolved:** That this issue be discussed at the September meeting. Matt Reid will complete this document which will be circulated with the September Agenda.

34/16. Consultations

1. **SODC Design Guide Review** – deadline 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016. IH/TJ and TW have been delegated to draft our response which needs to be agreed.

IH, TW and TJ met last night to discuss this. The Design Guide is much shorter than the previous Version so much easier for people to look at, for example for Parish Council Planning Committees or groups preparing a NP, but for Developers for example it would be too elementary but these are the people who will be doing the design work and the guide should be aimed at them. IH said that he thought the previous version was much better.

He also said the new Guide looks like it has been put together very quickly as some sentences do not make sense and there are a lot of errors. It could be useful if done properly and if there is much more attention to detail.

After discussion it was:

**Resolved:** That IH, TW and TJ to prepare the WPC response to be sent to SODC which will include references to all the errors in the document.

35/16 Short Discussion items

1. **South Oxfordshire Low Emission Strategy Consultation** – draft letter for publication in The Watlington Times September issue in response to a letter on this in the July issue to be agreed.

TW said that he has just come from the SOC Town and Parish Forum at which he raised the question that there was no consultation at all with the Parish Council on this issue. SODC said that they had discussed this issue this morning and they recognise that there had been inadequate consultation and they will now consult more with PC's. TW said that we need to follow this up with Anna Badcock and ask that we have a meeting on this at SODC. The Clerk will contact AB on this.

Regarding our letter on air quality issues to the Watlington Times, it was:

**Resolved:** That with a slight re-wording this letter be sent to the Watlington Times. Copies to be sent to Anna Badcock and Stephen Harrod.

TB stated that there is the issue of OCC supposedly modelling other options and it was agreed that we ask Steve Harrod about what exactly OCC are doing.

IH reported that he put on the WPC website every month the air pollution figures.

It was also agreed that a letter on this issue be sent to John Cotton, Leader of SODC. It was agreed that IH and KT deal with this.

2. **Watlington NP Shadow Group Article** – WPC actions needed.

IH stated that he would like to make it clear that he does not see anything that goes into the Watlington Times, other than the WPC page and any article that he personally writes prior to publication. He is certainly not the editor of the WT.

IH said that last night he resigned from the NPSC as he feels that his perceived close connection with the Watlington Times is unworkable, untenable and that it could be counterproductive for him to be on the Committee.

It was agreed that a note be put in the WT stating that Ian Hill is not the Editor of the Watlington Times.

Discussion then took place on the Watlington NP Shadow Article in the July edition of the WT. TW said that this needs to be addressed in a factual way.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk writes a factual response/statement to this article, which will be sent to Members prior to it being sent to the Watlington Times.

3. **Defibrillator at Town Hall** – TW had given a paper on this in advance of this meeting.

**Resolved:** that this issue be deferred to the September Meeting.

4. **Sports Club; insurances, running costs and long term strategy** – MR will prepare a paper for discussion

**Resolved:** that this issue be deferred to the September Meeting.

5. **Watlington Public Conveniences** – Should we be asking SODC to possibly sell this property. RB

**Resolved:** that this issue be deferred to the September Meeting

6. **Red Kites** – RB stated that these are being a real problem. It was suggested that we could look at having a by-law which prevents people from feeding them. Further investigations will need to be made.

7. **Icknield Community College Link** – Jane Bryant was the link person – we need to appoint a new link person.

**Resolved:** That Matt Reid be appointed as the link person.

*Due to Standing Order 3(w) and with the time being nearly 10pm it was:*

**Resolved:** That the meeting be allowed to continue until 10.10pm at the latest.

#### 36/16. Correspondence

1. **OCC** – Local Government re-organisation for Oxfordshire – attached to agenda.

This letter states that the interim study of option for local government re-organisation in Oxfordshire by Grant Thornton which was due to be considered by the OCC Cabinet will not now be discussed following advice from Government. They will now consider a joint proposal with City and District Council.

It was noted that the money has been spent on this study.

2. **OCC Household Waste Recycling Centres Consultation** – deadline 11/8/2016- Asking for residents views on measures that could be implemented at sites to make savings and create income. The consultation documents are available online at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste) – Can Councillors please put in their comments as residents please. – This was attached to the Agenda.

3. **SODC – Preferred Options** – This has been delegated to the NP Steering Group to respond.

It was noted that Stephen Harrod has issued a strong response to the Chalgrove Airfield proposal. It was agreed that the Clerk ask Anna Badcock, our District Councillor for her position on this proposal.

#### 37/16 Items for Future Meetings

**Sports Club; insurances, running costs and long term strategy**– September meeting.

**Defibrillator at Town Hall** – September meeting.

**Watlington Public Conveniences - September** meeting.

#### 38/16 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

**Post Office** – It was noted that the Royal Mail have now sent a contract to a company. Once this has been signed there will be a public consultation. The Royal Mail's request for the company to be kept confidential until the contract has been signed should be adhered to.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.10PM**