



Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office At 8pm on Tuesday 25th July 2017

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR)
Ian Hill (IH)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Fergus Lapage (FL)
Rob Smith (RS)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public: 1

43/17 Apologies for absence
Stephanie Van de Pette

44/17 Chairman's Remarks
There were no remarks

45/17 Election of Vice- Chairman
Resolved: To defer this to the next meeting.

46/17 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 23rd May 2017 which were received by Council on the 13th June 2017, 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.

47/17 Declaration of Interests
There were none declared.

48/17. Matters Arising
There were none other than agenda items.

49/17 Consultations

We have not had any consultations notified to us. TJ reported that there is a current public consultation by Oxford City Council and stated that given that the Chalgrove issue is as a result of SODC having to 'share' the City's overflow. As we opposed Chalgrove perhaps we should as a Parish be responding also to this. KT stated that we have not been asked to formally as a Parish Council to give our comments on this as we are not a statutory consultee. It was noted that the deadline is the 25th August. Individual Councillors can respond personally to this consultation.

50/17 Update on on-going issues

1. **33 High Street** – TW reported that the Shadow Body met yesterday. The Solicitors are discussing the legal transfer but will still take a lot more time. When the transfer has been agreed it will need to be sent to the Charity Commission. MR asked that we keep a running total of the legal costs we are paying.

TW said that regarding the wall, OCC have produced a specification of the work that needs to be done and the money for repair will be paid by the Trust. The Shadow Body want to get a move on with 33 and they are getting an architect to do a full specification of works for the building. There will also have to be a structural survey and specification. The Shadow Body want to be able to move quickly on this as soon as it has been transferred to the WPC.

2 **Air Quality** – Regarding the data from the machine, IH said that the air quality levels have been consistently low for the last few years. There is the odd spike in levels occasionally. MR said he has noted 1 electric car coming through Watlington. It was agreed that we formally request Anna Badcock to come here with some SODC officers to discuss this and the Freightway which is still in their proposal. TW said that we wish this to be removed as IH has prepared a model that appear to disprove their theory. SODC is required to do the monitoring of the air quality and to produce an Action Plan which OCC then have to do the work. KT to contact Anna Badcock asking her to set this up.

3. **Chalgrove Solar Park**- IH reported that we have written to the new owner, Black Rock, and have had a positive initial response from Customer Services who said that the company are concerned about their image locally and will see what they could do with regard to repairs to the roads etc. They are happy to come and meet with us and IH will follow this up.

51/17 Discussion Items

Main Discussion Items

1. **WPC Draft Strategic Plan** – This was emailed to Councillor prior to the meeting. IH had re-drafted the original notes from SvP after the brainstorming session. TW said that this is a timely moment as we need to decide what we do as a Parish Council. What is the WPC's role in the future of our community, what do we need to run in Watlington. Our residents expect a good standard and what do we need to do to influence things or take over things for our community. It is important that we have good relations with our adjoining parishes. Our Hill Road car park is fundamental to the town.

TB said that the NP have done a 'Vision and Objective' paper and we may as well use this. The priority must be for the next 18th months when this Council's term ends. It is important that we have a means to do this and how to spend time and effort on specific issues/projects.

IH stated that over the last 2 years the NP has been the main drain on time and resources but now this is nearly due for Referendum we need to look at what projects/issues we deal with now. We will soon have the report from MODE for managing the traffic in the Town and this should be our number one priority and we should look at how we progress this.

MR said that WPC should help with enabling any local organisations to be successful and should communicate with them. Communication with our residents is also key. IH had attended the Business Association Breakfast Meeting which is a networking event. It was noted that Watlington

does have the Midsomer Murder walk. St George's Day used to be a very popular event in Watlington. Tourism is very important and the Watlington Hoard is having a number of events on the 23rd September in the Town Hall and Paddock.

TB said that the signage is very weak in Watlington and we should have a look at this. We need to agree what actions we take forward that are achievable.

After more discussion the following points were agreed.

- That we produce an 18 month plan
- That we use the NP's 'Vision and Objectives' paper
- Improvements to Hill Road Car Park to help with car park turnover
- Improved Communications - TB said we need to have face to face contact with our residents
- Have plans for traffic management and what the PC can do to improve this.

Resolved: That a few people have a meeting and come up with a draft deliverable plan for the next 18th Months. IH, TB and TJ will meet up and do this.

2. Parish Council Allowances – the Independent Remuneration Panel's report is attached to the agenda.

Discussion took place on this and the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL: That WPC in principle, do not agree to Parish Councillors being paid an allowance. That this be reviewed every 4 years with the new term of Council.

52/17 Short Discussion items

1. Welcome Pack for new residents in Watlington - TJ and SvP have done some work on this and will bring to this committee at an appropriate time.

2. Comet Bus Service – Setting up a Community Group – IH reported that he has had discussions with FOWL and the Volunteer Drivers but neither group wished to take this on. There was a Parish Transport Representative meeting held a few weeks ago but Comet did not attend. The only solution is to set up an entirely independent group.

3. Car Park –notes from the meeting Peter Richardson and Tom Bindoff had with the Co-op on this. It was noted that there is a meeting on the Car Park issue set up for the 24th August. A report will be sent to the next Strategy Meeting

4. Mason's Wood

IH reported that we have asked to have a meeting with the Masons. They have a trustee meeting soon and we hope to hear from them following this. TW said it is important that we meet with them and find out their position. The NP Forum did a survey of all green spaces in Watlington that should be allocated as community green space.

IH and KT are in the process of checking our buildings and land and will ensure that all are registered with Land Registry.

TJ said that the Church Hall land is on the other side of this stream and it was noted that in the past Council did discuss the issue of acquiring the Mason's land but in the end did not pursue this issue and no resolution was made on this. This land is also in the flood zone. TB, two years ago put in a DMMO on the footpath going through this land but it takes 10 years to process unless something occurs which makes it more urgent.

It was noted that we should ask the Mason's about what public liability they have for this land.

Tim Horton has a photographic record of this land throughout the years. We could ask OCC to bring this forward as an urgent issue however this would need to be done after the Church Hall land appeal.

5. South Oxfordshire Town and Parish Forum 5th July – IH and TW attended this. TW has submitted a question a week before this meeting on the subject of SODC saying that we needed to pay for a lease to do the work on this facility that we manage on behalf of SODC. The question was

not responded to at the meeting as the Chair had only received it that day. However she has now emailed TW back. There is pack of the slides shown at this meeting held in the Parish Office.

53/17 Discussion Items requested from Councillors/Referred from Committees
There were none requested.

54/17 Correspondence
1. **Barry Aaby (letter No 103)** – copy letter sent to the Fire Service – this was noted.

55/17 Items for Future Meetings
Link with Icknield Community College School Council – MR and FP will attend a meeting with ICC in September.

56/17 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 9.59PM