



Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held in the Community Office At 8pm on Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR)
Rachel Huckvale (RH)
Tom Bindoff (TB)
Tony Williamson (TW)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Jo Read (JR)
Robin Wilson (RB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

23/15 Election of Chairman

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

Resolved: That Matt Reid be unanimously elected as Chairman.

24/15 Apologies for absence

Ian Hill, Elizabeth Winton, Jon Lorimer

25/15 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

26/15 Election of Vice-Chairman

Matt Reid proposed Rachel Huckvale and Jo Read seconded. There were no other nominations

Resolved: That Rachel Huckvale be unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

27/15 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 24th March 2015 were received by Council on the 14th April 2015 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.

28/15 Declaration of Interests

Tony Williamson declared a non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 10.3, Survey of Attitudes of Older People in Watlington as he is Chairman of Age Concern. He remained in the room for discussion on this time but left the room for the vote.

29/15 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

30/15 Update on on-going issues

1 **Community Speedwatch Scheme** – TB reported that a training session will be held on the 29th June at 7pm in the Community Office for all the residents who have volunteered. A Speedwatch survey will then be organised. The object of this exercise is to show that there is speeding in certain areas of Watlington which can then be reported and this will lead to the Police Speed Van being able to use proven speeding locations. Areas to be surveyed have been identified.

2. **Youth Club** – JR reported that the current Youth Club trustees are leaving at the end of the summer and 4 more need to be recruited. Emails have been sent to parents of both the Primary and Secondary Schools asking for parents to come forward and help. There is a meeting scheduled for the 8th July for interested people to attend. It is hoped a new Youth Club Management Committee can be set up in August. Youth Club were in the process of becoming a CIO (Community Interest Organisation) but have stopped the process until a new committee is formed. JR has also been looking into possible funding opportunities as a designated venue for the Youth Club to meet is one of the main objectives.

31/15 Discussion Items

Main Discussion Items

1. **Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule Consultation** - Examination venue, date and time confirmed. *Attached* to the Agenda was the Examiners Briefing Notes Document ED/2 and Matters ,Issues and Questions (MIQ's) Document ED/3. Deadline is Monday 13th July 2015

This issue was discussed and MR stated that if a NP is in place the Parish Council would get 25% of the Levy. It was noted that Council have responded to the first consultation.

Resolved: That IH with JB be delegated to prepare a draft response which will then be circulated to Councillors for approval prior to being sent to SODC by the Clerk.

32/15 Short Discussion items

1. **Cuxham Field** – Response from our Solicitor, Keith Green to our letter – *both were attached to the agenda.*

There was much discussion on this issue which related to the Tenant having moved the boundary fence between his property and the paddock field. Our Solicitors advice was sought and he has stated that the moving of the fence is improper and that a formal letter to him requiring the removal of the fence and its re-instatement to the boundary should be sent.

Resolved: That we take our Solicitors advice and send a formal letter asking him to move the fence and re-instate it to the boundary of the paddock. The Clerk to send this letter.

It was noted that the lease expires on 24/3/2016 and the issue of whether we re-tender will need to be discussed. *To be an agenda item for the September meeting.*

2. **Footpath 4** – RB and TH were leading on this issue. Beechwood Estates have not replied to our last letter asking for a meeting. This issue relates to the fact that people have walked the footpath (which is now fenced off) for at least 20 if not 30 years and that it would be possible to establish this footpath as a right of way. The footpath can be accessed by the 'old' route but it has drawbacks in that there is not much to see and therefore does not encourage walkers and ramblers etc and also with a lot of use it would become impassable. To put in for a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order) we would need to have witness statements. It was noted that no cost would be borne by the Parish Council as this would be down to OCC.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we apply to OCC for a DMMO and if this is agreed that Tom Bindoff and Terry Jackson will lead on this application.

3. Survey of attitudes of older people in Watlington and surrounding area – TW had written a paper on this which was attached to the agenda.

TW stated that he is asking the Parish Council to support a Survey regarding Older People in Watlington, if this is launched by Watlington and District Age Concern. The support that he suggests is to appoint a Parish Councillor to serve on a Steering Group for the Survey, drawing up a questionnaire and supervising the project. He said that he is suggesting that all costs are met by Watlington and District Age Concern. TW explained that the idea for the survey came from Penny Thewlis (Deputy Director of Age UK Oxfordshire), who reported that County Council Adult Social Services would be reviewing all grants, as its budget has been cut by 40%. She thought that the Review will be looking at what interest, activities and support are available for older people in Watlington to assist them to be active in body and mind and to remain in their homes and community. TW said that if this Survey is to be of value to the County Council Review it probably needs to be completed by the end of 2015 and so would need to start in September. TB said that a survey of older people would be needed as part of the NP and could be used to feed information into the NP. TB said that one question that would be useful to ask would be on housing eg if they would wish to downsize. TW said that support from the Parish Council would be significant. After discussion on this the following was agreed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council support the Survey of Attitudes to Older People in Watlington and surrounding areas. If Council agree to this then WPC representation will be needed.

4. Profile of Parish Council and Consulting with Residents – TB had written a paper which was *attached to the agenda*.

TB stated that he has been thinking about the need to raise the profile of the Parish Council within Watlington and he stated that from his experience, many people in Watlington are not aware of who the members of the Parish Council are, what the Parish Council does and, even, where the parish office is. He further stated that he thinks that there is an urgent need to improve this so that we raise the visibility of the Parish Council in the community and improve two-way communication between WPC and local residents. There was much discussion and it was agreed that this issue would need to be looked at as a whole PC Communication Strategy.

Resolved: That MR, RH, TB and TJ meet up to prepare a draft Communication Strategy which can then be discussed in the autumn.

5. Safeguarding Children – Local Parish Council's should have in place a Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure – see attached draft document

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL: That Council accept the Watlington Safeguarding Children's Policy and Procedure.

6. Ecotec Works - This took place in confidential session.

Public Minute: TB updated the Committee on where IH has got to on this issue and it was agreed to ask him to update Council at the next Full Council meeting in confidential session if necessary.

7. SOHA – Tenant Scrutiny Group – Asking us to complete a short on-line survey – Does WPC wish to respond to this?

It was agreed to note this survey.

8. Ernst and Young Report - Strategic Financial Case for a Unitary Council –Does Council wish to comment on this at this stage?

It was agreed to note this report.

9. Skips on High Street in parking spaces – It was noted that there have been a large number of skips which are parked in the spaces in the High Street. Spaces are very limited and with some skips being there for weeks it could affect trade in Watlington. After discussion the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we write to OCC stating our concerns about long term skips in the parking bays in the High Street.

33/15 Update on on-going issues that are not agenda items for this meeting unless agreement to discuss is made.

1. **Buses** – attached to the agenda were a list of changes for Watlington buses.

It was noted that there will be an emergency meeting of the 5 Parishes Bus Group to discuss this. IH and MR to update Council on this issue at the July Full Council meeting.

2. Charlotte Coxe Trust and 33 High Street – A date for a meeting on this issue, in confidential session needs to be arranged.

RH (WPC FOWL representative) is meeting with Philip Pinney to obtain the Trusts view on various options for 33 High Street. The options issue will be an agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 9th July 2015.

34/15 Correspondence

1. 9 Spring Lane – damage made by Harlaxton – 2 copy letters were attached to the agenda. These letters which were copied to the WPC for information were noted.

35/15 Items for Future Meetings

Icknield Community College Link - IH
HGV Monitoring System – IH – September Meeting
Communication Policy

36/15 Any Other Business to note

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55pm