

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 26th March 2014

Present:

Councillors:

David Tindale – Chairman
Ian Hill
Tony Williamson
Barry Adby
Nick Greaves
Robert Barber

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Member of the Public: 4

11/14 Apologies for absence

Tim Horton, Roddy Orr and Rhian Woods.

12/14 Election of Vice-Chairman

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

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

13/14 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 28th January 2014 were received by Council on the 11th February 2014 to be signed as a correct record

There were a number of amendments noted at the February Full Council meeting which were:

Minute number 05/15 – Item 4 b – paragraph 1 - line 3 – ‘*all*’ should be replaced with ‘*some*’. Line 4- ‘25’ should be replaced with ‘3’. Paragraph 4 – 1nd line of Recommendation – ‘*area*’ should be replaced with ‘*sign for*’.

Resolved: That with the amendments above these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

14/14 Declaration of Interests

There were none notified.

15/14 Matters Arising

There were none other than agenda items.

Main Discussion Items

1. Community Governance Review Consultation – letters from SODC for CGR 26, CGR27 and CGR18 which sets out the recommendations and justifications with maps showing proposed boundary changes were attached to the Agenda. *Consultation deadline 31st May 2014*
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL : That the following response be sent to SODC:
CGR 26 – Changes to Pyrton, Pishill and Christmas Common – **Unanimous Against** – RB and TH to draft the response on this to SODC
CGR 27 – Sports Field from Pyrton Parish to Watlington Parish – Vote: 4 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention. **Agreed**. KT to draft the response on this to SODC
CGR18 - One house in Watlington to Pishill with Stonor Parish and Swyncombe houses to Pishill with Stonor Parish. **WPC support the move for the 1 house in Watlington to be moved to Pishill but would support what the Swyncombe residents would want to do. They should be together in either Swyncombe or Pishill with Stonor Parish.**- IH to draft the response to SODC.
2. HGV's/ Speeding and Mobile Phone checks – data sent from PC Ian Kent on Operations carried out on 3/2/14 and 11/2/2014 was attached to the agenda. This information was noted and the fact that there were very few illegal HGV's picked up. The email from Inspector Mark Harling which states that HGV's are not Thames Valley Police's priority. It was agreed to thank PC Ian Kent for this valuable report. IH/TH had drafted a letter which has been sent on this issue. Trading Standards are still doing HGV checks in this area but they have lost some personnel. DT said a good way of reporting any illegal HGV is through the Trading Standards website.
Resolved: That a letter be sent to WATNEXT on the information sent by PC Ian Kent on the two operations carried out on HGV's. TW to draft this letter.
3. Outstanding Issues from Outreach Meeting in Christmas Common
 - a) **Name and extent for Howe Hill Community** – referred from Full Council.
DT proposed that as we have 4 residents from this area in the public gallery and that they had asked to speak on this issue, that the meeting be adjourned to allow them to speak to the committee.
Resolved: That the meeting be adjourned to allow the residents to speak.

The meeting was then reconvened.

It was noted that the residents and the ones who had filled in a questionnaire were in favour of the area of 'Howe Hill' to be determined by the 40mph signs. As regards the name of this area it was noted that in all their communications they have referred to this area as 'Howe Hill'.

RB said that he has received an email from Roddy Orr which he read out to the committee , *" I am very sorry to be missing this evening's Strategy Meeting, as I desperately would have liked to caution those dwelling on Howe Hill on the potential unintended consequences of defining a settlement through the use of road signs. My concern for Howe Hill is precisely the one that is exposing Hill Road residents to potential infill development (e.g. the 2 new houses recently discussed), due to the perception that it is a built up area.*

Once Howe Hill is marked as a settlement it will lose its status as "open countryside" and it will begin its slippery slope into similar potential ribbon development and all that goes with it. I have spoken to Colin White (Planning Officer, Chiltern Conservation Board) who acknowledges "that when settlements are defined by signs this may bring about pressure for development or changes of use of land within the newly perceived boundaries".

My sense is that PR's well intended mission has garnered support from his community without it having really understood that it may come with some very unappealing side effects.

Could the WPC, on the back of PR's survey, conduct a formal questionnaire, that explains what defining a settlement means, both good and bad, and poses the question of signage in a neutral (not leading) fashion?

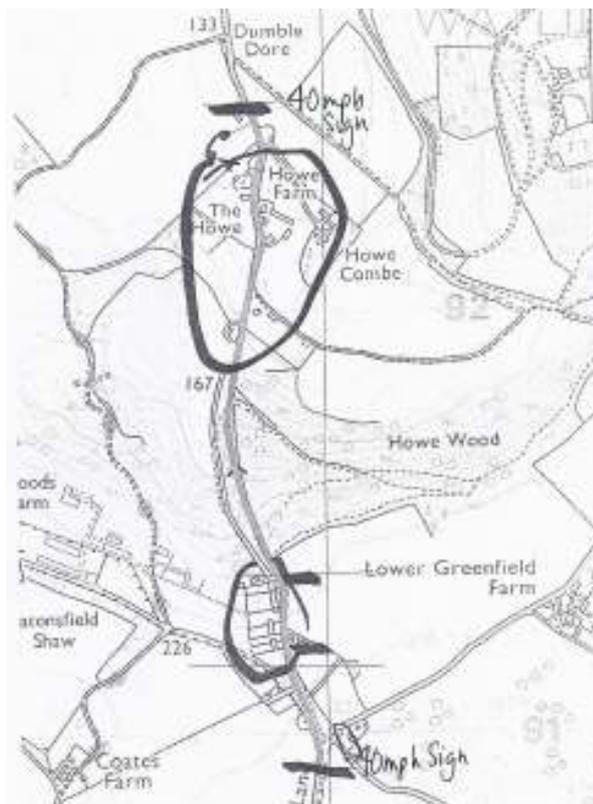
Finally, if the residents make a properly informed decision and still want the signage (and fine if they really do), shouldn't the settlement be called "Howe", which seems to be the obvious name for it, since as I am sure you know the word is derived from the Norse for hill and the Old English for hollow. In my absence, and as someone like me not wanting to see a cluster of houses turning into a defined community without the proper thought and consideration that it deserves, rather than a ploy to improve the chances of obtaining faster broadband, would you be willing to articulate the above at this evenings meeting on my behalf?."

It was noted that the residents present had been informed of RO's comments but that they still want to go ahead with the identity and signage for this area.

It was also noted that any recommendation of this issue would then have to be agreed by OCC.

The committee discussed this issue and the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That this area be called Howe Hill and that the area that it covers be determined by the 40mph signs.



b) **CLP proposal from Howe Hill Residents** – this was attached to the agenda.

DT reported that this CLP has not gone through due process and therefore we are not in a position to discuss this tonight. It has not been through a post issue consultation. It was noted that the paper submitted has a lot of irrelevant information. IH said that the document should have objectives, ideas and a plan on how they are going to be achieved. The document should be about 1/5th of the current size. It was noted that both Ann Richardson (SODC Corporate Project Officer) and Anton Nath (ORCC) have both

said it is not ready yet. One of their main objectives is the identity and signage for Howe Hill which has now been recommended to Council (above). After discussion it was:
Resolved: That we write to Mr Richardson that this needs to be presented as a CLP and not as a progress report as submitted to this committee. To point him again at the guidance for a CLP. IH/KT to draft the reply to Mr Richardson.

c) **Date for next outreach Meeting**

Resolved: That this to be on Monday 20th October 2014.

RB and KT to see if it is possible to have it in the Fox and Hounds, Christmas Common as there is a new landlord taking over in April.

4 OCC Consultation of Draft Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy

Can be viewed at: <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/minerals-and-waste-policy>. Deadline is the 7th April 2014 – letter was attached to the agenda.

Resolved: That we note this consultation and do not send in a response.

5. SODC Street Trading Policy Review – Can be viewed at

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Street%20Trading%20Policy%20Consultation%20Copy.pdf> Deadline 19th April – attached FAQ's

Resolved: That we note this consultation and do not send in a response.

6. OCC Consultation draft Rights of Way Management Plan – Can be viewed at:

<https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/draftCAMP/consultationHome>
Deadline 18th April 2014

Resolved: That IH and RB look at this and it was agreed that if a response is needed that they be delegated to send in a response on Council's behalf.

7. Annual Parish Meeting – Format for this – Date is WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 2014

This was discussed and it was:

Resolved: That this takes place in the Town Hall with refreshments at 7pm with the meeting starting at 7.30pm. That we keep the same format as last year with Council Chairmen speaking for 2 minutes each. Organisations also to have a 2 minutes limit. There will then be a Question and Answer session. The NP display boards to be put up for this meeting.

17/14 Short Discussion items

1. **Watlington Sewerage Outfall and the Environment Agency** – Nothing further to report on this issue.

2. **Watlington Footpath 4** – TH is drafting the letter to Beechwood Estates on this.

3. **Chalgrove Channel Survey/ The Goggs Flooding Issues**

The Goggs - It was noted that Monson have been engaged by SODC as they are representing OCC regarding water issues and involving also the Environment Agency. There needs to be a coordinated meeting of all parties that have some involvement. TW reported that SODC will be sweeping Britwell Road and then the drains will be cleared. He has sent a note to all residents of The Goggs.

RB stated that the Public Charities own West Meadows where there is a major dam. They are unable to do anything at present. TH has asked to have the brook moved back to where

it previously was as this could be part of the flooding problem. If the brook is rerouted it would remove two of the blockage points.

4. Consideration of a Watlington Parish Council Bullying and Harrassment Policy – Is this something we should have? – *Croydon Policy was attached to agenda for information* IH said that this would give us some defence against people who want to waste Council time . He said that he has read through the Croydon Policy which could be tailored to our needs. After discussion is was:

Resolved: That we note the principles of this document and have it on our shelf to use if felt necessary.

18/14 Update on on-going issues that are not agenda items for this meeting

1. Watlington and the LTP for Oxfordshire – **update DT/TH** – Letter has been sent on this to OCC.

2. Northend Gritting – **OCC response is that they will not do this and suggest that parishes use a self help approach.** The Operation Committee discussed this letter and it was therefore noted only.

3. Rubbish Litter in hedgerows and verges at the Bottom of Watlington Hill – **Agreed that this be reported to SODC.**

4. Buses –TH/IH – **It was noted that the X90 Gatwick Express will start stopping at Lewknor in about 2 weeks. Ian Hill reported that the Watlington to Oxford service is working well at the moment.**

5 Future road closures in Watlington and suggestions on how best to deal with them – **KT to check if TH has drafted the letter on this.**

6. Broadband in outlying areas- **RB still needs to discuss this with RWn.**

7. Fire Cover – **BA reported that there is a new supervising Fire Officer and they are having a push around the town to recruit firemen. He stated that the Co-op poicy is to allow retained firemen to attend call outs.**

8. 350th Anniversary of the Town Hall – **This will take place on the weekend on the 11th July . The WPC will be responsible for the reception on Friday 11th July.**

19/14 Correspondence

1. **Inspector Mark Harling, Thames Valley Police** – Email re inaccuracies in the report from WATNEXT which he has corrected –this was attached to agenda. **Noted above.**

2. **John Howell – Note from the meeting held on the 7th March 2014** – this information was attached to the agenda.. WATNEXT had one task to be done for the next meeting which will take place on the 11th April.

20/14 Items for Future Meetings

Review of Solicitor

Icknield Community College Link

Skateboard ½ Pipe.

21/14 Any Other Business to note

All Weather Pitch for Watlington – TW reported that the Icknield Community College are taking the initiative on this 'community facility'.

Youth Club – IH reported that Roger Beattie had contacted him in regard to the Youth Club seeking Charity status and that when this happens they would like a WPC representative. It was noted that this would have to be a Parish Council appointment and would need to be discussed at a Full Council meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.06PM