



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Matt Reid – Chairman (MR)  
Roger Beattie – Vice-Chairman (RB)  
Ian Hill (IH)  
Tom Bindoff (TB)  
Tony Williamson (TW)  
Stephanie Van de Pette (SvP)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)

**In Attendance:**

Rob Smith (RS), Fergus Lapage (FL)

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan (KT)

15/17 Apologies for absence

There were none.

16/17 Chairman's Remarks

MR welcomed FL and RS to the meeting.

17/17. Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 which were received by Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 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.

18/17 Declaration of Interests

There were none notified.

19/17 Matters Arising

**Fire Safety Consultation (Minute 05/17 refers)** – MR stated that this consultation is now closed and WPC did not submit any comments on this. The role of the Fire Service is now evolving and they will now be taking people to hospitals etc. However there is nothing that will affect Watlington at present.

20/17 Update on on-going issues

1. **33 High Street** – TW said that IH and he have met with Kay Thomas (OCC) on site to be absolutely clear on what the terms mean. OCC have sold the rights over the Charlotte Coxe land for 125 years to the owner of the flat above the library and for 50 years to the owners of the garages. This means that the only income CCT would receive would be for the maintenance of the library and 33 High Street buildings. OCC have been asked to provide an estimate of annual costs. This would be the only way for external maintenance costs to be paid for. We are in the process of instructing our Solicitor to

contact OCC regarding carrying out the conveyance etc. TW said that the hot issue is whether 33 could be let commercially on a short term lease. TW gave a precis of the issues to date for the benefit of RS and FL.

Regarding access from the library to the Paddock, this was given a 25 year lease from OCC. This was MR said that due diligence must be carried out so that there is no extensive burden on the WPC.

TW said that Mike Young, a member of the Charlotte Coxe Shadow Body has expressed concern about the wall on 33 High Street which is now crumbling and OCC should be sending us the report and quotes for repair shortly.

**2. Buses and New Bus Stops** – Awaiting information from OCC on the public consultation. IH will chase this up with OCC.

**3. Illegal Parking on High Street** – Our PCSO does issue parking tickets when he is in Watlington. It was noted that the Chiltern Business Centre's Car Park is quite often empty as they charge their tenants for parking spaces and it was thought that these people park in the Hill Road car park all day to avoid paying a charge and making it more difficult for people to find spaces in the main car park and this may also lead to people parking on the yellow lines to go to the shops.

As has been previously agreed, that we raise awareness of the problems that illegal parking on the yellow lines can cause eg the buses being unable to turn into the High Street when we have some suitable photos of the problems.

**4. Give Way Signs at Town Hall** – Following the site meeting with OCC, Give Way signs will be put in. We have not been informed of the date this will happen but will let our residents know about this at the appropriate time.

**5 Air Quality** – MR said he has been looking at the air quality figures that IH puts on our website and noted that the figures are highest at the Town Hall. The Town Hall box monitors hourly figures. The tubes at other parts of the town are less accurate and these are only given annually after ratification. The air quality figures have improved over the years and IH said that this is for a number of reasons; vehicles are producing less pollution; the weather seems to have an effect, when raining levels are less. TW said that he spoke recently with the man who services the air quality monitor and he thinks that the figures are sent to Ricardo and they then pass the figures onto SODC. TB said that he thinks that the figures are ratified by Kings College in London but they are not approved by DEFRA. IH said that he has been trying to arrange a meeting with Claire Spendley (SODC) and has now got Anna Badcock to chase this up. CS has said that a meeting can only take place with Ricardo if we pay them. IH has sent them the modelling he has done but no response has been received on this. IH thinks that the modelling done by Ricardo is not reasonable but the SODC Cabinet has signed off their report and TB said that we should demand SODC to investigate this as it is disgraceful that SODC are not taking responsibility for a public report which we have queried.

**6. Link with Icknield Community College School Council** – MR said that Gill Bindoff and he had a meeting with ICC with the idea of having more input with WPC and they have suggested that this starts in September 2017, with the new school year. FP is interested in being the link with the School Council. TW said that a link with the Governing Body is very different to the link with the School Council. The Governing body link should be with the Chairman, Headteacher and Chair of the Governing Body. We will need to differentiate the links. MR said that ICC have had meetings with OCC and the HCA and also SODC and the HCA.

It was noted that we do not seem to receive the weekly letters from ICC and KT will contact them regarding this.

## 21/17 Discussion Items

### Main Discussion Items

1. **WPC Strategic Plan** - Draft Paper from SvP had been circulated.

***It was agreed to defer to the next meeting.***

2. **Unitary Council** – Does WPC support the proposal for Better Oxfordshire- this was attached to the agenda.

There was much discussion on this issue and then a vote was taken on whether to support this proposal: **3 in favour, 4 against**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That Watlington Parish Council do not support the proposal for Better Oxfordshire.

3. **Review of Committee Structures** – It was agreed that IH/MR be delegated to have a look at the structures and report back to the next meeting.

4. **Reducing the HGV limit in Watlington** – TW stated that any lorry can come into Watlington as long as they are delivering to Watlington or surrounding areas and said that he expects to see the re-aligning of the B4009 in Benson and Watlington in the new Preferred Options Consultation. If this is the case it provides an opportunity to remove practically all HGV's from Watlington excluding the Industrial Estate. He said that this issue needs to be looked at seriously with the issues of the re-alignment. TW stated that he would like the WPC to take the line that we ask OCC that when they review the re-alignment they also review the weight limit restriction.

SvP said that WPC should not make a decision on this without consulting our residents. TB stated that he thinks to make this decision is premature and need to wait until we have more information and this should be discussed at a later stage and when we have the results from the NP Traffic Survey which is about to be commissioned for £10,000.

It was agreed that this issue be discussed at a later stage and after the results from the Traffic Survey are known.

## 22/17 Short Discussion items

1. **Welcome Pack for new residents in Watlington** – SvP and TJ have worked on this a while ago.

***It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.***

2. **Youth Club** – There is a meeting set up to discuss this.

3. **Comet Bus Service – Setting up a Community Group** – We need to have a community group to deal with this. IH is leading on this. A piece will be put in the Watlington Times and our Facebook page.

4. **Councillor details on lists and website** – Should we add all Councillors addresses, emails and phone numbers to these – TJ said that she thought that our website should include all of the above. The lists of the noticeboards currently do not contain Councillors email addresses. After discussion the following was agreed:

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That the information to be held on the website for Councillors should be the same as on the noticeboards, Name, Address and Telephone numbers.

## 23/17 Discussion Items requested from Councillors/Referred from Committees

### **Tom Bindoff - Chalgrove Solar Park**

As you will know, Debbie Davies has drawn our attention to the purchase of the Chalgrove Solar Park by a major investment company. Therefore I think that Ian should update the Full Council, most of whose members were elected after the installation of the Solar Park,

to the background of the offer of compensation to Watlington to mitigate the effects of the disruption that is still unpaid. The Council should decide whether to pursue the claim for compensation with the new owners in the hope of getting an ex gratia payment. –

A note from IH on this issue was given out at the meeting. TB said that Keith Stenning (OCC) had said he will follow up the issue of the road sinking. This is not what KS had previously stated when WPC had asked him to look at it. After much discussion it was:

**Resolved:** That a letter be sent to the new owners of the company regarding this. It was noted that they will have to maintain the cables under the road. IH will draft this.

#### 24/17 Consultations

**Civic Voice - Housing White Paper** – seeking Town and Parish views – this was attached to the agenda. Deadline 12/4/2017.

**Resolved:** That WPC do not send in a response to this consultation.

**Oxfordshire Clinical Commission Group** – Consultation was attached to the agenda – Deadline 9/4/2017.

**Resolved:** That WPC do not send in a response to this consultation.

#### 25/17 Correspondence

1. **Chilterns AONB – Beacons of the Past** – asking for WPC support.

The ‘Beacons of the Past’ project is a four-year programme of research, education and conservation activities on hillforts and prehistoric heritage across the Chilterns. It will use latest technology to undertake the first full aerial survey of Chilterns and hopes to reveal new archaeological features hidden under woodland. The Chilterns has one of the largest density of hillforts in the country, but little is known about them, or the people who lived here 2000 years ago. They have asked for our support in:

- **Engaging with your community:** we think this is an innovative project which would interest and excite many local people. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we might work together to engage your community;
- **Supporting our project financially:** we would like to invite your Parish to make a financial contribution to the match-funding element of our project. Cheques may be made payable to the Chilterns Conservation Board.

**Vote:** 4 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That WPC allocate £150 to this very worthwhile project subject to WPC having an underpayment of budget in 2016/2017.

2. **High Sheriff of Oxfordshire** – suggesting they come and meet the WPC to tell you more about carers which is her theme for her year in office. It was noted that TW is a Carers Champion in Watlington and so it was felt unnecessary for them to come and explain about Carers. KT will write back to her.

#### 26/17 Items for Future Meetings

Car Park – May Meeting

#### 27/17 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

**Appointment of Members onto the Strategy Committee**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That Fergus Lapage and Rob Smith be appointed to the Strategy Committee.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM**

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