

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 28th May 2013

Present:

Councillors:

David Tindale
Ian Hill
Robert Barber
Harvey Batten
Tony Williamson
Barry Adby
Roddy Orr
Neil Boddington
Bob West
Tim Horton

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

David Tindale presided over the meeting until the Election of Chairman

19/13 Apologies for absence

Rhian Woods, Nick Greaves, Nick Hancock and Charles Rowton-Lee

20/13 Election of Chairman

Robert Barber proposed David Tindale and this was seconded by Barry Adby. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That David Tindale unanimously be elected as Chairman.

23/13 Election of Vice-Chairman

David Tindale proposed Harvey Batten and this was seconded by Ian Hill. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Harvey Batten be unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

24/13 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 26th March 2013 were received by Council on the 9/4/2013 to be signed as a correct record

Storage Issue (Minute 15/13 item 7) this should have read: '**Resolved:** That this issue is not pursued any further at this time'.

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

25/13 Declaration of Interests

To receive any declarations on interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Councils Local Code of Conduct.

There were no Declaration of Interests received.

26/13 Matters Arising

1. **Triathlon** – RBr reported that the roads will now open at 2pm instead of 6pm which is a bit of an improvement. The route will go ahead as is and the Police have approved the road closure. It was agreed that it will be important that we monitor the junction at Brook Street and Couching Street as this area will be the cause of any havoc on the roads. There will be a wash-up meeting after the event in September.

BA reported that there are numerous cycle events taking place in and around Watlington. We have been notified of 3 recently and on the Cycling Association website Watlington is referred as being a centre for cycling. BA to report further on this at the July Meeting.

Cycling/Triathlon to be an agenda item for the July Meeting.

2. **Council Tax Leaflet 2013/2014** – It was noted that this was not prepared. However this could be done and put on SODC and Watlington websites.

Resolved: That this be done and put on websites.

27/13 Discussion Items

1. **Car Park Order** – IH reported that he has not made any progress on this. He did speak to someone at OCC who said he would send a written description of the steps needed but he has not received this as yet. However the first step is to advertise the Car Park Order and this has to go to public consultation for 6 weeks. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That we advertise this in the Watlington Times and Henley Standard in the week that the next WT is published. IH and KT to organise this.

2. **Grievance Procedure** – the draft produced by HB was discussed and a number of minor changes were made. The Procedure was produced from the OALC guidance given. IH to make the minor changes needed which will then be circulated to the next FC meeting.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Grievance Procedure for 2013/2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Outreach Meeting at Christmas Common** – The Fox and Hounds at Christmas Common has been booked for Monday 30th September 2013. RBr stated that 15% of the parish electorate live outside the town of Watlington and many of them feel unconnected to the parish. For this reason having a meeting for everybody who lives outside the Town is a good idea and will provide a forum for raising issues and feeling part of the parish. It is hoped to drop a leaflet off to most houses to advertise this event as well as posters and on our website. Our District Councillors and County Councillor will be invited to attend. An agenda for the meeting will be produced nearer the time.

4. **Re-establishing an Adult Education Function within Watlington** – TH reported that Ian Hill, Carol Horton and he had met the Commissioning Officer for Adult Education Classes and discussed the possibility of some classes in Winter/Spring 2014 in Watlington. He has spoken to the school re availability and cost. In order to be legitimate a public meeting will need to be held to see if the community would want these classes. This function would work better if independent from the Council and some volunteers including Ian Hill and Tim Horton will be getting together soon to move this issue forward.

5. Parking Spaces –Love Lane and Shirburn Road – BA had prepared a paper which was sent out with the agenda.

DT reported that in 2009 there was a town wide parking review. The changes made in Brook Street and High Street have worked quite well but we have been left with the problem of Shirburn Street.

The main concern is at the top of Love Lane and Shirburn Street where there is not enough room for the school buses to pull out and straighten up and this leads to much congestion. The parking would be better if it was moved further down Love Lane. OCC Highways have agreed that the Shirburn Street/Love Lane parking changes have not worked, but they do not have the money to put it right. It was noted that the parking spaces are used by 12 houses on Shirburn Street who do not have off street parking. It was also noted that there is not much light in this area and the distance between the parking spaces is too short. There were a number of suggestions made. The letter on correspondence from Alan Craddock on this issue was discussed as well as his record of accidents in this location, which the Clerk will ask him to substantiate. After much discussion it was agreed that we need to form a small group to look into all the issues which will be: DT, RBr, BA, HB, NB, BW and IH.

Resolved: That this group have a meeting and discuss ideas to improve the parking and then a meeting to be arranged with the relevant OCC Highway Officer. The Emergency Services also to be contacted for their views.

The Clerk to send a letter to be sent to Mr Craddock.

6. Representation on other bodies – A note on this to be put on our page in the Watlington Times. IH to draft.

7. Infrastructure Funding – It was noted that the larger villages have been allocated £18,750 p.a. for two years. For this funding, there are 13 larger villages identified of which Watlington is one. This is a capital fund for infrastructure projects. Examples of what is likely to be eligible for funding includes: street furniture for town and large village centres; shop front improvement schemes public access Wi Fi zones :floral planters or baskets; Christmas lights, banners, decorations; signs and fingerposts; noticeboards and town maps. Other potential projects would be considered if they demonstrate that they fit the council's strategic objective of 'building the local economy' and corporate priority of 'investing to improve the viability and attractiveness of our towns'.

It was noted that the Operations Committee agreed to contact the Business Association and alert them to the fact that there is funding for shop front improvements.

8. Thames Water Draft Resource Management Plan – paper was attached to the agenda. Deadline for responses 23rd July 2013. The document is on a CD and RBr will have a good look at it.

IH reported that this is a huge document and that he had had a quick look at it. Some of it is relevant to problems we have in Watlington. The document will be held on record at the Parish Office.

Resolved: That IH and RBr form a response to this. HB and NB will also make comments and give to IH and RBr

9. SODC Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Plan: Sites and General Policies. Information can be viewed on www.southoxon.gov.uk/siteallocations Deadline for Comments 1st June.

IH reported that this is tied to the Local Plan, however when he tried to access the link it did not work. He stated that it is probably something we should look at and respond. IH will send something to the Clerk who will circulate to all Councillors.

10. Public Convenience – change to just having one disabled toilet. Awaiting a response from SODC.

11. Hill Road Car Park Long term measure – This issue has been referred to Strategy from the Operation Committee.

A longer term view of the car park is needed and it was agreed to pass this issue onto the Strategy Committee for discussion. It was thought that the entrance onto Watcombe Road could have a complete change and this would help the drainage issue also.

The following will need to be taken into consideration:

1. Trees eg Sycamore and Maple
2. Liaison with BT regarding the phone box.
3. Start talks with OCC on structural improvements
4. Check covenant matters ie hedge o/p Mr Irons.
5. Start talks with Co-op as perhaps they could be a significant funder.

RBr and TH will draw up a simple plan and RBr will take relevant photos.

It was noted that the Watcombe Road entrance is not very attractive at the moment. NB suggested that the first thing to do would be to start with the Highways point of view. It was noted that the Co-op would have much to gain and that we should ask if their engineers could come and advise.

BA suggested that if we are meeting with the Highways Engineer that we ask his advice on this area also.

This item to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

12. Icknield Community College Link – Nothing to report. IH will be arranging another meeting with them.

13. Review of Solicitor – This had been referred to Strategy from the Finance Committee. It was noted that this is not an urgent issue. Most WPC issues which need legal advice relates to property.

Resolved: That KT speaks to NG regarding this issue and it will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

14. Buses – T1, new service - TH reported that the initial timetable was not perfect but this is being attended to. The roadworks in Chalgrove affected the timing of the buses in their first week. OCC would consider a subsidy if there are problems. All 5 parishes will be staying together on this issue.

Resolved: IH will put an update in the Watlington Times on this T1 service.

15. Insurance from 1st June 2013 – Proposal was attached to the agenda.

It was noted that there were a few items needing clarification and changes.

Resolved: That IH/DT and the Clerk go through the document and make any necessary changes and inform our Insurance Company, Zurich of these.

16. Drains in Car Park

BA reported that this is being investigated and quotes are being sought to clear the drains and put gullies down the edges of the car park using kerbstones. This will be an agenda item once quotes are received.

28/13 Correspondence

Letter 101 – Alan Craddock – Parking in Shirburn Street and Vehicular Access to and from Wesley Court – Discussed above under item 27/5.

29/13 Items for Future Meetings

Water Resource - This is being investigated by the Watlington Environment Group and will be taken off this list.

Watlington and the Local Transport Plan for Oxfordshire- A meeting to be set up with OCC on this. The Clerk to contact Caroline Newton.

30/13 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 10.05PM