



Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office At 8pm on Tuesday 22nd May 2018

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid
Tom Bindoff
Fergus Lapage
Ian Hill
Rob Smith
Terry Jackson
Stephanie Van de Pette
Andrew McAuley

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

In Attendance:

Gill Bindoff, Peter Richardson, Keith Jackson -NP Co-ordination Group for Agenda Item 9.

Matt Reid presided over the meeting until the Election of Chairman.

29/18 Election of Chairman

Matt Reid proposed Stephanie Van de Pette and IH seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Stephanie Van de Pette be elected as Chairman.

30/18 Apologies for absence

Tony Williamson

31/18 Election of Vice-Chairman

Rob Smith proposed Andrew McAuley and Tom Bindoff seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Andrew McAuley be elected as Vice-Chairman.

32/18 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 27th March 2018 which were received by Council on the 10/4/2018 to be signed as a correct record

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

33/18 Declaration of Interests

There were none notified.

34/18 Public Questions

There were none notified.

35/18 Matters Arising
Pyrtan Lane – The meeting with WPC, OCC and residents will now be scheduled for July.

36/18 Consultations
There were no Consultations that needed discussion.

37/18 Discussion Items

Main Discussion Items

1. Discussion on Proposed Changes to Existing Council Structures – Briefing paper from MR was attached to the agenda. The notes from the Brainstorming Meeting 16/4/2018 were also sent to all Councillors.

MR said that we are lucky to have both practical and analytical Councillors. The Strategy Committee requires a lot of detail at the moment, to look at legal and financial ramifications. One of the biggest things in the next few years will be the implementation of the NP after Referendum if there is a yes vote. This will have lots of implications and a lot of work will be needed to do this which is why he is proposing that an Oversight Committee is formed.

Gill Bindoff (GB) said that the work needed will be very different to what has been needed to get to this stage and the most efficient way of handling this needs to be agreed. She said one way would be that the NP Forum to be underpinned by Committees of the Parish Council and that one proposal would be for that 2 or 3 Councillors join the NP Co-ordination Group who have identified key projects in the Plan. She said that she could not see how an Oversight Committee could efficiently do this with regards to organising the meetings needed with developers etc, whereas the NP Co-ordination Group have all this already in place.

Keith Jackson (KJ) said the main thing needed is streamlining, the NP Steering Committee needs to be dissolved and as so much work is needed over the next few years WPC needs to be very focused on delivery of the plan. As there is already a committee in place with the NP Co-ordination Group, this would be the best group to take this work forward. GB stated that the NP Forum already have the working groups needed set up ie Traffic, Environmental Groups etc and that there would have to be processes in place. She also suggested that it would be very helpful to have some of the NP Co-ordination Group co-opted onto the Planning and Strategy Committees.

Peter Richardson (PR) said that there needs to be extra resources, which the PC do not have because there are already lots of Parish Council committees, but the NP Forum do. There needs to be a big Think Tank which comes up with ideas and creative proposals and can adapt to the changing goal posts. We will be judged in the future on the implementation and delivery of the NP. With SODC in the position they are, with probably reviewing their Local Plan which will take about a year and any changes may have an impact on our NP. All an Oversight Committee would do would be to fact check etc.

SvP said that we need to now decide on the best way forward.

After much discussion the three Recommendations from Matt Reid were voted on.

Recommendation 1

That the existing NP Steering Committee be dissolved.

Resolved: Unanimous in favour

Recommendation 2

That the Neighbourhood Plan Forum continues unchanged as an existing working group that coordinates the efforts of its own sub groups. The NPF per se should now make representations to council through a re-purposed and community focused Strategy Committee (see below). The authority to represent the Neighbourhood Plan in any formal capacity to third parties to now be

undertaken by a new Executive Oversight Committee (see below), which itself will have co-opted members of the NPF amongst its members.

Vote: 2 in favour, 5 against

NOT CARRIED

Recommendation 3

That a new Executive Oversight Committee be formed that forms a strong back line whose purpose is as follows:

1. To discuss in detail the legal, financial and risk implications of any non-trivial motions passed up to full council.
2. To monitor, defend the objectives of and to progress the 'made' neighbourhood plan into a tangible project whose books can be shown to balance without irreparable damage to the existing town and community. In addition, it should take a lead in meetings with officers of local authorities and participate in any discussion with developers/relevant third parties in a formally minuted environment.
3. When necessary to draw upon the domain expertise of any co-opted advisors. In the case of formal Neighbourhood Plan related meetings with third parties, the councillors and co-opted parties in attendance should be interchangeable in order to make sure that we always field our best team in the context of any given scenario, but a councillor must always be present and take responsibility for the accuracy of the minutes.

Vote: 2 in favour, 5 against

NOT CARRIED

After further discussion it was:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

1. To restructure the Strategy Committee to make it more focused and to set up some Action Groups. SvP, AM and MR to draft this and also review its Terms of Reference
2. That the Neighbourhood Plan Forum continues unchanged as an existing working group that coordinates the efforts of its own sub groups. The NPF per se should now make representations and recommendations to the new purposed and community focused Strategy Committee.
3. That 2/3 Parish Council representatives join the NP Co-Forum.
4. That the Strategy Committee co-opt 2 people from the NP Co-ordination Group.
5. That the Planning Committee be asked to co-opt two people from the NP Forum onto the Committee.
6. That the Strategy Committee meet monthly (apart from August).
7. That the NP Co-ordination Group Terms of Reference are reviewed.

2. **Car Park** – Paper from the Car Park Group was attached to the agenda.

There was discussion on this and how actions can be taken forward in terms of legality, costs, priority and timescale.

Resolved: That SvP, RS, TJ and IH meet up and discuss this paper and come back to the next meeting with a paper for discussion.

3. **NP Referendum** – How the WPC should promote and publicise this.

Resolved: That an advert is put in the Watlington Times, posters around the town and also a banner to promote it.

38/18 Short Discussion items

1. **National Air Quality Day** – How to promote this.

IH said he has checked with Steve Corrigan at SODC, with regard to the NP Referendum and we are

allowed to promote this and at the Annual Parish Meeting people seemed interested in this happening. IH said that he would appreciate some help with setting something up. The date will be the 21st June. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That IH, TB, TJ and AM organise this event.

2. Parking on the High Street Issue – OCC have asked for WPC's view. See attached paper. After discussion it was agreed that this issue lies with OCC and they should propose what would be best to do in the circumstances. TJ said that the whole of the High Street parking should be re-considered and perhaps re-designed.

39/18 Update on on-going issues

1. **33 High Street and the Charlotte Coxe Charity** – No update

2. **Outreach Group** – Report on Meeting held on 21/5/2017 – This went well and there are a number of actions being investigated.

3. **Welcome Pack for new residents in Watlington** – Nothing to report.

4. **Comet Bus Service** – Setting up a Community Group – Nothing to report.

5. **Link with Icknield Community College School Council**- Nothing to report.

6. **Chalgrove Solar Park** – IH stated that we are waiting for OCC to do an assessment. He will chase this up.

7. **General Data Protection Regulations** (to be implemented May 2018) - RG/KT are working on this and Councillors will be given a privacy notice to sign.

40/18 Correspondence

1. OALC – Asking for nominations for vacancies on their Executive Committee

Resolved; That we nominate Roger Beattie for this.

2. **Co-op** – Asking for information on the Car Park as they are under pressure to explain the on-going cost for the Car Park and stating that £8K per annum seems excessive – this was attached to the agenda. KT will put the information together and will draft a response for the Chairman to look at.

41/18 To note items for Future Meetings -

Communications Policy Review – September

42/18 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 10PM

1 Old School Place, Gorwell, Watlington, Oxon. OX49 5QH. Tel: 01491 613867.

Email: wpc@watlington-oxon-pc.gov.uk Website: www.watlington.org

