

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 23rd November 2010

Present:

Councillor:

David Tindale – Chairman
Ian Hill – Vice-Chairman
Ted Backhouse
Roger Beattie
Barry Adby
Nick Greaves
Tony Williamson
Angie Paterson

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

92/10 Apologies for absence

Rhian Woods, Charles Rowton-Lee, Neil Boddington

93/10 Chairmans Remarks

There were no Chairman's remarks.

94/10 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 26th October 2010 received by Council 9/11/2010 to be signed as a correct record.

Resolved: That these minutes are a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

95/10 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

96/10 Matters Arising

Sanctuary Care – Intermediate Care Beds

The Health and Scrutiny Committee which looks at NHS and OCC issues gave a thorough hearing to this issue and it went to joint management committee of OCC and NHS the next day which is the decision making body. There will be a report issued and it will be further considered around the 11/1/2011.

Resolved: That we ask Roger Belson to keep us updated on this issue.

97/10 Short Discussion Items

Watlington Distinctiveness/ Website – Tony Williamson reported there has been a meeting on this with David Walton, Kristina Tynan, Sarah Pullen and himself. It was noted that we act on behalf of the whole community on certain issues eg giving views on planning

applications, presenting the wreath on Remembrance Day etc. It would be good if our website reflected this by putting on more links and also a 'Watlington Events Diary'.

Resolved: That 2 or 3 members of the Council to be appointed to give a lead on the Website and work with Kristina Tynan and Sarah Pullen. It was agreed that we merge both our websites together which will save money.

Five Year Review of Current Arrangements with Sports Club – Nothing further to report.

Insurance Review – The Clerk reported that she has contacted AON, our Insurance Company and it was noted that the Community Office and the Town Hall are not covered for subsidence and that it is an optional extra.

Resolved: That the Clerk fill in the forms and obtain quotations for this cover.

Review of External Audit – attached to the Agenda from BDO

BDO have raised the following issue on Fixed Assets: The issue being the value of fixed assets shown in box 9 of the Annual Return are considerably lower than the previous year as this year assets owned by a related charity to which the Council is the sole trustee has been removed. There is no further action required.

Resolved: That the above is noted.

OCC Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2030) – The consultation is currently underway and will close on 9/1/2011 – Newsletter which details how the draft plan has been developed was attached to Agenda

Resolved: That Ian Hill and the Clerk respond to this consultation after comments by David Tindale. To mention that we agree with the preferred strategies of: increased accessibility through investment in sustainable modes and public transport; and other environmental benefits through promotion of better driving and management of freight movements. We hope that these strategies will be considered when the bus review takes place.

Traffic Issues

Traffic Order Changes

David Tindale reported that a meeting had been held today (23/11/2010) with Malcolm Bowler – OCC Traffic Engineer to review the traffic changes including Shirburn Street issue. Also present were Angie Paterson, Ian Hill and Neil Boddington. Everyone is happy with all the changes apart from the ones in Shirburn Street. Malcolm Bowler will continue to monitor this area and has agreed to make some minor changes, one of which will be to make a bigger space between both rows of parked cars and also to put a dotted line by Kingfisher to reinforce the priority system. It was noted that these minor changes would not need to be subject to a new traffic order. It was also noted that 90% of the time the traffic flows well but at peak times there is congestion in this area. It was noted that we have received complaints about this area but have also received some positive comments. Angie Paterson has spoken to Andy Coveney from the Fire Station and he is happy that his fear of not being able to get the Fire Engine quickly through this part of town has not happened.

Request for 20 mph in Watlington and a Zebra Crossing in Cuxham Road – These were also discussed with Malcolm Bowler and he has agreed to look into doing some extensive speed monitoring for 7 days on the key roads of Watlington. He will come back to let us know if he will be allowed funding to do this.

Air Quality in Watlington – Malcolm Bowler told us that he has been advised that since the traffic order changes air quality has improved. However this is not what we have been told by SODC.

Resolved: That the Clerk contacts Simon Hill, the Air Quality Officer at SODC and obtains clarification on this.

Bus Subsidy Meeting – Ian Hill reported that he attended this meeting. Judy Crockett from Christmas Common also was present. He thought that OCC were slightly dismissive of Watlington and were more interested in the large towns. We need to put a response in. He said that he got a feeling that there would not be any change to the 101 service, which is key to Watlington. Regarding the M1 service to Reading which is heavily subsidised, they have two suggestions, one of which is to cut down the length of time in Reading or increase the time and run another service. It was noted that we have received a lot of letters from our residents on the bus services.

Resolved: That Ian Hill be delegated to send in a response for our community.

98/10 Main Topics for Discussion

Budget Review for the current year and Budget for 2011/2012 – Paper from TW was attached to Agenda.

A few points still need clarification: salaries – whether NALC will be recommending an increase or not; whether the Co-op and Barclay's will be paying a contribution to the car park; election costs. It was suggested that we could make savings by not giving out grants next year.

It was noted that our tax base has marginally gone down this is partly because the number of people eligible for exemption has increased due to financial issues. SODC are awaiting financial information which they will receive on the 2/12/2010. If we were to increase our Precept we would have to have very good justification for doing so and would need to explain why to our residents.

These issues will be discussed at the next Finance meeting, which will also review the budget in the light of any new information and come back to Full Council with a recommendation.

Disciplinary/Grievance Procedure – Existing WPC Procedure and Grievance Model Procedure from OALC were attached to the Agenda.

Cuxham Field – Ian Hill stated that he had received a letter regarding this issue from Tim Horton which was sent direct to his home address in which he states his unease with which this issue has been handled.

Resolved: That Nick Greaves puts together an account of the sequence of events in regard to this issue for the Full Council meeting in December which will be held in public session.

99/10 Correspondence – All Correspondence is attached to the Agenda

1. **Robert Barber** – Report on trees in Mansle Gardens and response from Martin Gammie. Information has been sent to the Watlington in Bloom Committee - **Noted**.

100/10 Items for Future Meetings

Refer to Forward Plan

Items for January 2011

Complaints Procedure Review – IH/KT to prepare the document for this meeting.

Bandstand Proposal – if information received

Watlington Speaks

Future Meetings

NERC Act – Presentation by the Environment Group – For a Future Meeting.

101/10 Any Other Business to note

Oxfordshire Play Association – It was noted that grants are available to run community play events. Closing date is 31.3.2011. It was thought that it would be a good idea to put something on for the last bank holiday weekend in May. Agreed that this be dealt with by the Operations Committee.

Youth Work in Oxfordshire – It looks like the rural youth services may be cut and that they would only concentrate on the larger towns. It was noted that Watlington has around 30-40 people attending the Tuesday Youth Club in Watlington and there was concern as to what may happen to the Watlington Youth Club. Roger Beattie is having a meeting in early December to discuss this with our neighbouring parishes. It was asked that he check the detail on the legal agreement with the County Council and the Ann Brown Centre payments. Angie Paterson stated that this should be looked into as a matter of urgency.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment at the Recreation Ground – It was noted that the Ski Stepper that was wobbly at the base has now been fixed and that we have had to have repairs to 3 out of the 8 pieces of equipment. There is a concern that it was wobbly because the cement base had crumbled. It was noted that we have a 5 year warranty with the supplier who we will contact as it is a worry that this may happen to the other equipment bases.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.43PM