

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 22nd November 2011

Present:

Councillors:

David Tindale – Chairman
Robert Barber
Tim Horton
Ted Backhouse
Barry Adby
Tony Williamson
Charles Rowton-Lee
Nick Greaves

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public:

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In Attendance:

Jacky Nabb - Chalgrove

96/11 Apologies for absence

Ian Hill, Nick Hancock, Roger Beattie, Rhian Woods

97/11 Chairman's Remarks

There were no Chairman's remarks

98/11 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 25th October 2011 received by Council 12/11/2011 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.

99/11 Declaration of Interests

David Tindale declared a non-prejudicial interest in the 'Bandstand for the Band' item as two band members are clients of his. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item. It was agreed that Ted Backhouse chair this item.

Tim Horton declared a non-prejudicial interest in the 'Diamond Jubilee' item as he is Chairman of the Committee.

100/11 Matters Arising

Planning Reform and Localism Bill – To be an Agenda item for the January meeting.

101/11 **Short Presentation by Jacky Nabb – Dog Issues**

David Tindale welcomed Jacky Nabb to the meeting.

Jacky Nabb stated that following a Village Plan consultation and questionnaire which had a response rate of 66%, litter and dog fouling were high on the agenda for 90% of respondents. This had led to a 'Cleaner Chalgrove' being set up. Prior to this being set up the Parish Council had carried out a poster campaign, however this was not a success as it alienated dog owners who do pick up and it did not include litter.

'Cleaner Chalgrove' addressed this problem by looking into the following areas; educating owners, more dog waste bins, more signage, bags made available at the waste bins and more frequently emptied dog bins. The first and second worst areas in Chalgrove for dog fouling and litter are Chapel Lane and the Recreation Ground.

Jacky Nabb said that it was very difficult to find any information on how to address the problem and they have learnt as they have gone on. One of the first things they did was to change the approach of the posters campaign and have involved the schools as children will challenge adults over dog fouling. The changed poster campaign was much more positive and had a much better response from dog owners. 'Cleaner Chalgrove' also approached a company who provided three dispensers and 1,000 dog bags. Prior to these dispensers being put in the three worst affected areas, these areas were monitored for two weeks. After dispensers were put in these areas were reviewed for a further two weeks. Chapel Lane (the worst affected area) fouling was reduced by 78%. The Parish Council was then approached for funding for permanent dispensers.

Other things that have been done; held a free fun dog day which aims to promote responsible dog ownership: School competition for new logo and posters which have different posters for specific problems.

A few months on the feedback is that there is a lot less litter and dog mess in the village, although it has not totally gone away. There is still a lot of litter where youngsters congregate but many dog walkers pick up litter when they are walking their dogs. There are fewer occasions when dog mess is not cleared up. People challenge and offer free bags to those who do not pick up and are encouraged to report incidents to the police. 'Cleaner Chalgrove' are now thinking in terms of individuals rather than a village wide problem. The majority of dog owners do pick up. As a test, one bag dispenser was removed and the problem immediately returned. This proves that the dispensers and free bags do work!

Jacky Nabb and her colleague were thanked for their presentation which Councillors found very interesting and informative.

A copy of the information given is held in the office.

Resolved: That the Operations Committee will discuss this issue further. The responses to Watlington Speaks to be checked to see if dog fouling/litter was brought up as an issue.

102/11 Short Discussion Items

Diamond Jubilee 2012 - the Draft Constitution for this Committee was attached to the agenda for information . It was noted that this is an independent committee and not linked to the Parish Council. However they will report their objectives and ideas to the Parish Council. They have had two meetings to date. Information will be put in the Watlington Times. Events will take part over the 4 day holiday 2nd -5th June 2012 and also on dates either side of this holiday weekend. They are also looking into having some lasting commemoration of this event possibly on parish owned land and are hoping to have some firm proposals to give to us in January. Tim Horton said that there will be no financial obligations to this Council.

Watlington Speaks – Agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.

Co-op formal agreement for Car Park – Letter to the Co-op and their response in the form of a draft letter was attached to the agenda.

Resolved: That the letter now be sent to the Co-op regarding a three year agreement for the financial contribution to the Hill Road Car Park.

Risk Assessment Review

Resolved: That the Risk Assessment for 2012/13 be agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk

Insurance Review – new schedule was attached to the Agenda.

It was noted that some changes have been made to our insurance schedule this is mainly a percentage increase for cover on WPC owned buildings, £80,000 value put on the Public Conveniences and also increased cover on our storage units. The cost of these changes to our cover which will run until 31 March 2012 is £169.19.

The Clerk was asked to check the insurance regarding the Phone Box, which now belongs to WPC in Christmas Common.

It was noted that the Town Hall has its own insurance policy.

Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme – The aim of this is to financially support projects at a local level – information was attached to the agenda.

This was discussed and it was agreed to bear this grant scheme in mind when any new projects are looked at.

SITA Trust QE11 Fields Fund – Funding for projects – information was attached to the agenda.

It was noted that if land is dedicated to this it could stop the land from being used for other purposes in the future. It was agreed that the Operations Committee discuss this in more detail at their January meeting.

103/11 Main Topics for Discussion

6 month Budget Review, Budget for 2012/13 and Precept Discussion. – 6 month Budget Update was attached to the agenda – views needed for Finance Committee on 29/11/2011.

The budget was carefully looked at and it was noted that this committee put in any broad policy/strategy issues and then the Finance Committee will look into the budget in detail. David Tindale asked that the committee discuss the Go-Ride proposal for a bus service within the discussion on the budget.

Precept/Budget

The parameters for setting the precept was discussed, previously we have used the average 12 month RPI to increase the precept. Various options were suggested eg based on average earnings. We need to have the SODC tax base leaflet which we should receive soon.

Recommendation to Finance Committee: That the committee look at putting the average RPI on the non-salary part of the budget only if the OALC advice is that salaries are not to be increased.

Budget items were discussed and it was agreed that the Pavilion Committee should be allocated £6,000, £5,000 for the Sports Field Rent and £1,000 for Insurance. Regarding Salaries, the Clerk to ask OALC if there is any advice regarding salaries for the next financial year.

David Tindale asked that the committee discuss the Go-Ride proposal for a bus service for 101 route for Saturday and Sundays as part of their bid to the OCC 'Big Society Fund'.

GoRide have asked for parish funding of £2000 from five parishes which are along the 101 route, Watlington being one of them. Therefore Watlington Parish Council is being asked to contribute £643.40 (which covers a 16 months time period). The amounts the parishes are being asked to contribute has been based on population figures.

Resolved: That we pay Go-Ride £643.40 (for a 16 month period March 2012 to June 2013) which is Watlington's part of the £2000 from the 5 parishes for the GoRide bid to OCC. This would be subject to Go Ride providing us with passenger number information and copies of their Accounts when available. It was noted that this payment does not obligate WPC to pay further amounts in the future. The Finance Committee to agree the payment method of this money.

Parking Issues at Lewknor – referred from Full Council

An email had been received from a resident regarding the issue of parking at this location. It was noted that this area is not in our parish. This is a very controversial issue. A lot of Watlington residents use the Oxford Tube and therefore it is a concern for the parish council. It was agreed that we need to take part in a proper meeting and that we check if we can be invited to the meeting which is due to be arranged by Lewknor Parish Council and will include the Police and OCC. The Clerk to check into this and also contact Roger Belson regarding this issue. It was noted that there are no plans for any park and ride arrangements for Wycombe and that there is no interest from the Oxford Tube to change the existing arrangements.

Howe Hill Speed Issue - A petition has been received from 59 residents in this area asking Council to consider asking for a speed limit in this area. This issue was discussed and it was noted that Greenfield has a 30mph and not as many houses and visibility is not as good.

Resolved: That we ask OCC for an investigation and monitoring into traffic calming in this location and ask that the speed limit be considered. A copy of the petition by the residents to also be sent to OCC. A copy of the correspondence to be sent to our County Councillor.

Bandstand for Paddock – This item was chaired by Ted Backhouse. The letter from Watlington Concert Band was attached to the agenda.

The letter was discussed and it was agreed that a number of issues need to be considered:

1. How will it be used.
2. Where would it be sited.
3. What uses would it displace.
4. Maintenance issues.
5. How would it be constructed.

Tim Horton stated that this idea has been registered as an issue for the Diamond Jubilee Committee to consider.

Resolved: That we set up a meeting with the Watlington Concert Band to discuss all issues.

104/11 Correspondence

1. SODC – Consultation on it's corporate plan – Comment by 3/1/12. View document at www.southoxon.gov.uk/haveyoursay
2. A Squire – re parking at Lewknor – attached – **Discussed above.**

105/11 Items for Future Meetings – Also refer to the Forward Plan

1. Planning Reform and Localism Bill – January
2. Watlington Speaks - January
3. Bandstand – after meeting with Watlington Concert Band
4. Standing Orders

106/11 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 10.11PM

