

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

David Tindale – Chairman  
Harvey Batten – Vice-Chairman  
Ian Hill  
Rhian Woods  
Ted Backhouse  
Barry Adby  
Nick Greaves  
Tim Horton  
Roger Beattie

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

52/12 Apologies for absence

Robert Barber, Tony Williamson, Charles Rowton-Lee, Neil Boddington, Nick Hancock.

53/12 Draft Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 to be received by Council 13/11/2012

This was noted.

54/12 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.

Tim Horton declared a prejudicial interest in item 3 of the Financial Issues - Letter (No 8) from Watlington in Bloom - View of WPC for a possible exceptional Budget item for 2013 only, as he is the Chairman of this Committee. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

55/12 Matters Arising

**Car Park Order with Charges** – IH has been tasked with doing this and as he was not at the last meeting is unsure of what changes need to be made. IH and HB to get together to discuss this and this will be discussed at the next Strategy meeting.

56/12 Discussion Items

**Note from the Oxfordshire Association of Young People meeting** (TH and HB attended) from Tim Horton - this was attached to the agenda.

TH stated there could be a connection to the way in which we treat with the Watlington Youth Club Management Committee (WYCMC) who we are paying £3000 towards the Youth Club this year.

OAYP now recognizes that youth clubs are much larger than they have been previously which raises the issue to what extent there can be a guarantee of quality. There is a sensitivity involved which can include drugs, criminality etc and how young people can be kept on the straight and narrow.

Watlington Youth Club is part of a hub (which is based in Didcot) which also includes Chinnor and Chalgrove. OAYP are looking into an accreditation scheme for youth clubs to include the quality of activities that are given. He said that it is incumbent on us to require certain expectations of the youth club. We have given them a significant part of our budget which is public money and there are basic expectations we would want to have. If OAYP were to have an accreditation scheme we would want the youth club to be part of this. Safeguarding would be a main part of this as would quality of the youth club programme. This would be for the next financial year, not this one.

HB said that OAYP are only at the discussion stage of accreditation at the moment and he does not know how long it would take to put into practice.

BA asked if the youth club does a risk assessment of its activities? It was noted that there is a risk assessment of the pavilion building which we need to protect the Council.

HB suggested that we have a meeting with a few key members of the WYCMC to discuss how a guarantee of quality could be measured and how improvements could be shown for future years. IH said we could ask for some supporting evidence from them. We would need to decide what evidence was needed.

**Resolved:** That HB draft a letter, which will be circulated to all members, asking for a meeting before April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 to discuss our expectations and how the WYCMC could address these and show some supporting evidence which would relate to conditions of a grant being given.

## 2. Financial Issues

a) **View on re-instatement of small grants** – This was discussed at length and with WPC having many financial unknowns which include the Neighbourhood Plan, it was:

**Resolved:** That we do not re-instate grants for the financial year 2013/2014

b) **View on possible new skatepark finance** – It was noted that at this stage the independent group looking at this are not looking for any WPC funding.

c) **View of possible exceptional Budget item for 2013 only-** (see WIB letter No 8)

Much discussion took place on this. IH stated that they are not specifically asking for a grant they are asking that money be available in the Council's budget and that WPC would be in control of it. It was noted that the judges comments noted that there is a lack of support from the Businesses in the town and it was thought that WIB should be looking for support from them. RW said that WPC do put money into making the town look good already.

A vote was then taken on whether to put in a sum of money for this: 0 in favour, 6 against and 2 abstentions.

**Resolved:** That WPC do not put any money into the budget for an additional budget item for 2013.

d) **Strategic Review of the Budget Process** – At present it is in Standing Orders that Strategy propose the budget and then Finance seeks to do what they wish within a guided figure. TH stated that the Finance Committee should be doing this, after the other committees proposals are given. It was thought that the process should be that Strategy and the other committee should give areas of priority as regards budget items to Finance and then should go back to the Strategy Committee.

**Resolved:** That Ian Hill drafts up a procedure on this for the January Strategy Meeting.

d) **View for the Budget for 2013/20143 and precept proposal** – This was discussed and a working draft budget was agreed at a total amount of £90331.00. This will now be further looked at and discussed at the next Finance meeting

It was noted that the majority of spending year on year only needs a modest increase.

The main things that were included are:

1. £5000 for the Neighbourhood Plan (It was noted that we do not know if there will be any money given by SODC for this and what amount the Government will give to District Councils is an unknown at the moment)
2. Budget for a possible 2.5% increase to salaries (as indicated by OALC)
3. Operations Contingency to increase to £2000 (previously £1000)
4. That under the Assets, any unspent money for this financial year to be put into earmarked funds ,under this heading.
5. That a new item called Election/Legal (RES) of £500 be put in and any unspent monies to be put into earmarked funds to build up a reserve for any elections or legal fees that arise in forthcoming years. It was noted that at this point we do not see this having to be used in the next financial year.

TH stated that WPC is in a good financial state.

DT said that because of the changes to the tax base happening we will not be able to set our precept until at least January when we are given information on the changes from SODC.

### 3. **Watlington and the Local Transport Plan** – (Letter from OCC was attached to the Agenda)

The letter was discussed and the point that they are happy to work with us on our Neighbourhood Plan was noted. TH said that in the letter we asked to meet with them and they have not offered us a meeting. He also said that OCC could do an assessment and a background study in terms of air quality and overall traffic flow in Watlington and the effect on neighbouring parishes prior to the review in 2015. It was noted that we have an air quality monitor in the centre of town and yet there is no commitment from OCC to address this issue for the future.

**Resolved:** That we write again to OCC and ask to have a meeting with Mr O'Neill.

### 4. **Triathlon 2013** – There are 3 proposed routes which have been emailed to Councillors. Comments needed by 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 .

It was noted that Robert Barber has attended all the meetings that have taken place on this Issue ( but was unable to be here tonight) . It was also noted that Route 2 comes to Ingham Lane and then turns back even though at a previous meeting it had been stated that it would not come to Watlington.

**Resolved:** That we discuss this item at the November Full Council meeting.

## 57/12 Correspondence

1. Copas Farm – their outline for a further permitted path at Lys Farm.

**Resolved:** That we write back thanking them for their letter and that WPC have no comments to make.

2. Wycombe District Council – They have submitted the Delivery and Site Allocation Plan to the Inspectorate. This will now be subjected to a public examination process.

**Resolved:** That we write and thank them for letting us know.

3. OCC – Proposal for 40mph on Howe Hill – **Noted.**
  
4. OCC –Cycle/Walking Connection Junction 6 to Watlington – Our letter has been forwarded to the Area Steward who is looking into this issue – **Noted.**
  
5. Thames Valley Police – Local Police Area Update – attached – **Noted.**
  
6. Rob Cockrem – email re last strategy meeting and response sent back by DT.- **This was discussed and noted.**  
**Resolved:** That a meeting be set up with Mat Hunter and Luisa Howden and RW, HB and IH to attend this.
  
7. Copas Farm – Reply to our letter saying that they would be happy to meet with us to discuss the Willow ponds.  
**Resolved:** That we arrange a meeting with them.
  
8. WIB – Resources for 2013 – **Discussed above.**
  
9. Thames Valley Police Newsletter – **Noted.**

58/12 Items for Future Meetings

Water Resource  
 Risk Assessment  
 Insurance Review  
 Complaints Procedure Review  
 Disciplinary Procedure Review  
 Standing Orders Review  
 Committee Structure, Membership and regularity of Meeting review  
 Storage Requirements for the Community

59/12 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

**33 High Street** – This item had been notified to the Clerk by IH in advance of the meeting.

**Resolved:** That the draft letter dated 4/11/2012 prepared by NG be sent to the County Councillor

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That the resolution adopted at Full Council on 12 July 2011 be confirmed with the necessary change of Councillor Belson to Councillor Newton, and that, in the light of recent Council correspondence with OCC led by Nick Greaves, the intended meeting now be arranged as early as possible. No more than three members of the working group should attend to represent the Council. The working group to consist of the following members: Ian Hill, David Tindale, Tim Horton, Charles Rowton-Lee, Nick Greaves, Rhian Woods, Tony Williamson and Ted Backhouse.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.20PM**