



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office At 8pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Matt Reid (MR) - Chairman  
Rachel Huckvale (RH)-Vice Chairman  
Tom Bindoff (TB)  
Ian Hill (IH)  
Tony Williamson (TW)  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Jo Read (JR)  
Terry Jackson

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

49/15. Apologies for absence

Robin Wilson, Jane Bryant, Jon Lorimer

**To note:** Elizabeth Winton has resigned from this Committee.

50/15 Chairman's Remarks

MR reported that the first NP Forum meeting took place last night which went very well but more volunteers are needed.

51/15 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 were received by Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 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.

52/15 Declaration of Interests

**Agenda Item 9- Churchyard Grant** – TW declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item but will not take part in any discussion and will not vote on this issue.

53/15 Matters Arising

There were none other than agenda items.

54/15 Update on on-going issues

**1 Community Speedwatch Scheme**

TJ said that when they checked speeds on Howe Road 80% of cars were over the 30mph speed limit. Over a two hour period this related to 140 cars. 1 hour each was spent monitoring each direction. On Brook Street there were very few cars driving over the speed limit. The unit has been taken to Christmas Common for them to carry out a Speedwatch.

TB said that it is quite clear that being out in Hi-Vis jackets makes people slow down. The information

collected has been sent to the police. Another week has been booked in December to use the equipment.

**2. Subsidised Travel Review** - The results of the consultation on bus services has now been published. The recommendation to OCC is that subsidies to the 125 bus service to Wallingford and M1 to Reading be discontinued, which probably means these services will end in March. The early morning T1 service to Oxford is subsidised and is at risk of being discontinued if Thames Travel do not think it is now commercially viable. In addition the T1 afternoon services to and from Oxford have a short term subsidy till December 2015, but it is not clear how this will be affected. The 124 service to Thame will continue although this needs to be clarified. In February 2016 the OCC Full Council will be asked to approve the removal of all bus subsidies which would be very bad news for Watlington as this could also result on loss of the Thame service. IH said that there was a 5 Parishes meeting yesterday which unfortunately neither he nor MR could attend. The report is on the OCC website and IH will give KT the link to circulate to all Councillors and we need to keep on top of this issue.

MR stated that we have keyworker housing but may have no buses which is against policy. OCC deny that this is the case. OCC used to be able to say that every significant town had an hourly route to a major town but this is no longer the case.

OCC have ignored the 5 Parishes Groups comments on the method of prioritisation of subsidies used for the consultation, and in particular the assumption that because Watlington has a service to Oxford it does not need a service to other destinations such as Wallingford and Thame. IH said that any changes on the T1 would not be made until October 2016

*[Post Meeting Note: A subsequent correction was issued by OCC that brings this date forward to July 2016]*

It was noted that there are two people in Watlington who use the early service to get into work and this would affect them greatly. Thames Travel has said that they are already struggling and without the subsidy they would not be able to provide the extra services needed.

Regarding the T1 service, a diversion to the current route to include Monument Park in Chalgrove is being looked at. MR said that we need to get some strategy in place for mitigating the changes and it was noted that the 5 Parishes Group will be taking the T1 issue forward. RH suggested that we look into having a car-sharing group. IH said we need to have someone standing by the bus stops or getting on the buses to get views of our residents. RH said that her husband Ben would probably be happy to go on the bus and get comments. The 5 Parishes Group are also looking into having a bus to J6 and then people could go into Oxford on the Oxford Tube. IH/MR will produce a form that can be used to get views.

Council will need to discuss the bus issue again before the OCC Full Council meeting in February 2016.

**3. Ecotec** – MR said he had nothing to update on this issue as yet.

**4. Communication Strategy** – MR/RH/TB/TJ – There has been an email conversation between the group and TJ has produced a draft strategy but this was not sent to all Councillors.

**Resolved:** That we have a special Strategy Meeting in January 2016 for 1 hour only to discuss this issue. KT will issue a date.

**5. 33 High Street** – TW reported that Peter Clark is now the Chief Officer of OCC and therefore will no longer be dealing with this issue. TW has asked for a timetable on the transfer of this property to WPC as we cannot do anything until documentation from OCC has been received. FOWL says that nothing must happen that would affect the Library and would wish to be involved. Volunteers could be appointed to become a shadow Trustee Body and could meet and have some initial discussions. They could then go and have a look at the building and get a realistic idea about it. FOWL would be very useful to have on board. It is hoped that a Trust Body could run in a similar way to the Town Hall Trust Body would be the best way to operate it with having 5/6 WPC members and some non WPC members probably from FOWL. IH will get in touch with Peter Clark's replacement. This issue is still at the 'In principle' stage at OCC.

After discussion the following was agreed:

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That in preparation for the transfer of the Trusteeship of the Charlotte Coxe Trust to Watlington Parish Council, we appoint a 'Shadow Trustee Body' for the CCT with up to 6 Parish Councillors and to smaller number of non-councillor representatives. This shadow body would not be able to make any decision on the future of the Trust and would report to the Council. Its role would include advising Council on any draft documents from OCC or the Charity Commission, as well as using the intervening time to look into issues of 33 High Street. The eventual Trustee Body will not necessarily be drawn from the shadow body. This shadow body would not be able to make any decision on the future of the Trust until the Charity Commission completed the transfer, but would use the intervening time to look into issues of 33 High Street and to have a site visit to inspect the building. The eventual Trustee Body will not necessarily be drawn from the shadow body.

55/15 Discussion Items

Main Discussion Items

**1. Consultation on Children's Centre's – Information was attached to the agenda**

Deadline 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016

IH and RB will be attending a meeting on this next Monday in Didcot. RB has an NHS 'Patient Group' meeting and will take the paper to this meeting as there are some health care issues which could put more pressure on surgeries.

**Resolved:** That this be a Full Council Agenda Item for the December 2015 meeting.

**2. Post Office in Watlington**

TW reported that he had a chat with the Post Mistress who was annoyed that this issue has been discussed by the WPC without inviting her to a meeting. The Clerk stated that she had been in touch with her and the earliest she and a rep from the Royal Mail could attend a meeting with the WPC was January/February 2016. The best thing would be if an existing business could take the Post Office on.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk invite the Post Mistress and a representative from the Royal Mail to attend the February Full Council meeting.

**3. Safeguarding Children – Implementation of Policy**

TW said that he had prepared a paper on this and has sent it to EW for comments but has not yet heard back. RH said that she would be happy to look at this and give comments also.

**Resolved:** That this is an agenda item for the next meeting.

**4. WPC Budget 2016/2017 – if any strategic issues wish to be discussed following the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November which discussed Parish Councils taking on some OCC/SODC responsibilities - Councillors were emailed this information.**

TB/RB attended the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November and IH the one on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. It was noted that we need to get precept information to SODC by the 8/1/2016. As we have a Full Council meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 it was:

**Resolved:** That the Clerk contact SODC to ask for an extension to the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

56/15 Review of WPC Policies/Procedure

**1. Grievance Policy –Review**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That Council agree this policy for 2015/2016.

**2. Complaints Procedure –Review**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That Council agree this procedure for 2015/2016.

**3. Risk Assessment Review –Review-** This will be an agenda item for the January Strategy meeting.

**4. Disciplinary Procedure –Review -** This will be an agenda item for the January Strategy meeting

**5. Facebook and Social Media Policy –** Review existing policies and the need for a specific policy on this should be included in the brief of the Communications Group (see 54/15 point 4 above)

6. **Proposed policy on Councillors emails** – Review existing policies and the need for a specific policy on this should be included in the brief of the Communications Group (see 54/15 point 4 above).

57/15 Short Discussion items

1. **Grant for Churchyard Maintenance** – Application has been received from St Leonard's Church  
**Resolved:** That this issue be discussed by the Finance Committee at their next meeting and to send a Recommendation to Full Council.

2. **HGV Monitoring System** –It was noted that the weight restriction signage for the motorways is in motion and hopefully will be put up soon.

3. **OCC – Consultation on a proposed update to the Local List of Information Requirements for validation of planning and related applications**– *This was attached to the agenda. Consultation ends 7/12/2015.*

**Resolved:** That this consultation is noted but no comments will be sent.

4. **Broadband** – update from Ed Vaizey meeting – MR/RW  
MR said that this was a very interesting meeting. There is no consistency on speed of broadband. The Government cannot intervene to provide actual help for rural communities to increase speed of Broadband. There is a new policy to increase size of radio masts in rural areas. RB said that BT have written to Shirburn Parish Meeting about the issues that they raised at this meeting. It was thought that it would be good for a non PC group to get together and discuss issues and MR will instigate this.

6. **HM The Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** –TJ has requested that we celebrate this in some way- TJ.

58/15 Correspondence

1. **Letter No 279** – Vincenzo – suggested Twinning with Mogliano? – MR will look into this and report back to the next meeting.

59/15 Items for Future Meetings

**Icknield Community College Link** – MR said he would be happy to be the link person if IH would like him to take over this role.

**Buses-** MR/IH

**Risk Assessment** – IH to review for the next meeting

**Disciplinary Procedure** - Review

**Implementation of Safeguarding Children Policy** – TW/RH/EW

**33 High Street** – If any update

**Communications Policy** – MR/TJ/TB/RH to prepare a paper for the next meeting.

60/15 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

**Icknield Community College Newsletter** – TW said that this is sent to Councillors weekly and the last Council had 2 members on it who read it and reported any significant issues to Council. RH and JR said that they would be happy to read and report to Council on any significant issues.

**Icknield Community College**

1. They will be holding their Old Age Pensioners Xmas Tea on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

2. Mock Interviews with Students – In the past Councillors have helped with mock interviews and KT will contact them to see if they need any more interviewers and will let Councillors know.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM**