

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 24th September 2013

Present:

Councillors:

David Tindale – Chairman
Harvey Batten – Vice-Chairman
Ian Hill
Tony Williamson
Barry Adby
Bob West
Tim Horton

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

Members of the Public: 1

39/13. Apologies for absence

Roddy Orr, Robert Barber, Neil Boddington, Nick Hancock, Nick Greaves, Rhian Woods

40/13 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 23rd July 2013 were received by Council on the 10/9/2013 to be signed as a correct record

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

41/13 Declaration of Interests

33 High Street – Bob West declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he owns the flat above the library. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

42/13 Matters Arising

1. Outreach Meeting in Christmas Common on September 30th – Date reminder only

2. Ingham Lane/Brook Street road repairs – We have been notified by OCC that these works will be done on the weekends of Oct 26th/27th and November 2nd/3rd. It was noted that there are some drainage works that need to be done also and they are hoping to do this before the road works. DT noted that these weekends are over the half term school holiday.

Resolved: That this information goes into the October Watlington Times.

3. Enclosure Act Map - TH has checked on the copyright issue with the Oxford History Centre who have stated that there is no copyright on a map of this vintage. Now we have a

clean digitised copy of this map they are happy for us to sell copies of the map. TH said that there may be some charitable bodies who would like to take up an offer of selling this map to make money for their organisation. The WPC would hold it but if any appropriate charity would wish to take up the offer to sell copies they can come to the WPC to discuss it. It was noted that the Watlington Environment Group have been interested in looking at the water courses at that time. It was also noted that the Town Hall have paid for the digitisation of this map as they are putting a large copy of the wall of the main room. It was agreed to put some information on this into the Watlington Times.

43/13 Discussion Items

Main Discussion Items

1. **Shirburn Street/Love Lane Parking plus other Highways issues** – Full paper was attached to the agenda.

There was much discussion on the 3 options put forward. After debate it was agreed to go with option 4 below:

Resolved: Remove the bay outside East End House, and extend the double yellow lines on the south-west (town) side of Love Lane near its junction with Shirburn Street by two car lengths. Agreed to write to Mark Francis OCC suggesting he look into this option.

It was noted that the grass area outside Orchard Walk was looked at as a possibility for providing additional for car parking but this would not be viable.

There were 3 other highway issues looked at and the following was:

RESOLVED:

1. Town Hall Pinch Point

To request a review of signage at the Town Hall pinch point – many motorists heading northbound from Couching Street either don't see, don't understand or ignore the red/black arrow sign giving the order to give priority to traffic heading south along Shirburn Street.



Give priority to vehicles from opposite direction

2. Old School Place/Gorwell

To request to change the road marking at the Old School Place/Gorwell junction to make it clear that Old School Place is the minor road and traffic leaving or entering it should give way to that on Gorwell.

3. Hill Road

That there should be a sign on Shirburn Street which prohibits vehicles over 22ft in length turning left into Hill Road and that we ask OCC to put one up.

The letter to be sent to OCC on the above issues will be copied to Caroline Newton. DT to draft this letter.

It was noted that BA has 6 potential illegal lorries being investigated by Trading Standards

2. Watlington and the Local Transport Plan for Oxfordshire – Update from Meeting TH stated that the meeting was very useful. Derek Nimmo-Smith the Cabinet Member for Transport knows Watlington extremely well and the Service Manager, Tom Flanagan was very helpful. RW, IH and TH attended the meeting on WPC's behalf. DNS and TF had seen the confidential Air Quality document. However they had not considered the traffic implications the additional housing to be developed in Watlington, and the housing locations possible from the SHLAA report. They know the processes that we will need to engage in when we do our NP. OCC have a major issue with money and lots of communities in the process of doing a NP are paying for their own Highways research however there could be a possibility that OCC may do one as they are not entirely without resources for this type of research. OCC have said they will come back to us with what gradings could be done and with costings for these which could perhaps be done by OCC and with WPC putting in a contribution.

The relief road has been removed from the Local Transport Plan but they did not seem to know why. The deficiencies in the 2010 plan had been revised in the 2012 revision of the plan and they are in the process of reviewing again. TH asked if we could get OCC and SODC involved in our NP.

The letter from OCC will be sent to the office and it was agreed that the Clerk chase this up if not received by mid October.

3. Watlington Sewerage Outfall and the Environmental Agency – paper from Tim Horton was attached to the agenda.

This issue was discussed and it was suggested that the best way forward may be to meet with Thames Water and the Environment Agency and go through all the issues raised. TH stated that he has spoken with Mr Bennett from Cuxham who has put all his issues to Cuxham Parish Meeting. TH also said that there has been a lot of work on the death of invertebrates and possibly a prosecution can be made. We could ask the Environment Agency to look into this.

DT asked TH if he would progress this in future only through and on behalf of WPC, but TH stated that he wished to progress this in his own name.

Resolved: That we invite Thames Water and the Environment Agency to a special daytime meeting.

3. Department for Communities and Local Government- Greater flexibilities for change of use – Consultation was attached to the agenda.

It was agreed at the last Full Council that IH, TH and RO put together a response on this. IH stated that the Conservation Area part was useful. However it was noted that some of the wording was ambiguous.

4. Charlotte Cox Trust and Library in Watlington and 33 High Street – To be discussed in Confidential Session at the end of the meeting.

44/13 Short Discussion items

1. **Triathlon** – IH and RB are meeting with other parish councils prior to the Wash Up meeting with John Howell, The feedback he has received to date is mixed. In some areas the marshalls just let people go on the road and some marshalls were found to be officious and unhelpful. He stated that Nettlebed came out worse as there was a complicated system in place which did not work. It was thought that there was not a professional enough approach to this event.

2. **Buses** – TH will be attending a meeting in County Hall on the 7th October. TH to prepare a report for the November Strategy meeting.

45/13 Correspondence

1. BEC Office – Proposed works on Watlington Hill – **RB will meet with Beechwood Estates to discuss this**

3. P Richardson – re CLP – **This will be an Agenda item at the Outreach Meeting on the 30th September.**

3. Supporting Community Transport Newsletter – **Noted**

46/13 Items for Future Meetings

Review of Solicitor

Icknield Community College Link

47/13 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING THEN WENT IN TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION TO DISCUSS 33 HIGH STREET AND THE CHARLOTTE COX TRUST

According to:

Confidential Items EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: THAT under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items of business of the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act