



Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held in the Community Office At 8pm on Tuesday 22nd September 2015

Present:

Councillors:

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

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

In attendance:

Gill Bindoff – to update on Speedwatch issue.

Members of the Public:

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37/15 Apologies for absence

Terry Jackson, Robin Wilson, Jeremy Bell, John Lorimer

38/15 Chairman's Remarks

There were none.

39/15 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 23rd June 2015 were received by Council on the 14th July 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.

40/15 Declaration of Interests

Tony Williamson declared a non-prejudicial interest in the Grant for the Churchyard Maintenance Grant Agenda Item. He withdrew from the meeting for this item.

41/15 Matters Arising

CIL – IH reported that SODC have asked for further consultation on this. This will be sent to Planning for their comments/recommendations on a response which will then be on the agenda for Full Council on the 13th October. (Due to time deadline).

1 Community Speedwatch Scheme – Gill Bindoff had circulated the note below and asked that the Committee discuss the Recommendation proposed. Page | 14

Background: Speedwatch is a partnership between parish councils and Thames Valley Police with the purpose of raising awareness of local 30 mph speed limits. The aim is to focus drivers' attention on the residential nature of local roads and to moderate driver behaviour so that highway safety is improved by reducing speeding traffic. The Watlington scheme has been initiated by the parish council and 13 local residents have signed up as volunteers. The scheme is coordinated by WATNEXT on behalf of the parish council. The coordinator is Gill Bindoff

The Good News: 12 of the volunteers have now been trained in the use of the Speed Indication Device (SID) which is loaned to local SpeedWatch groups by TVP. The device is shared between several south Oxfordshire parishes and Watlington will aim to book it for 2 weeks at a time. Hopefully, this can begin in October. James Hopkin (a Police Community Support officer TVP) will attend the first active use of the SID and inspect the locations the group are proposing to use. Four locations are proposed at Christmas Common, Howe Road, Hill Road and Brook Street. TVP will monitor the records from Watlington and will use these as a basis for further action if required.

The Not So Good News: It has taken months to progress from the initial meeting of volunteers to learn about the scheme to the present situation where we may be able to begin the scheme. The first meeting, also attended by Ian Hill and Kristina, was on 14th May, 4 months ago. The volunteers had hoped to be able to use the SID over the summer months. It is a daylight only device and cannot be used in bad weather so the summer is the optimum time with light mornings and evenings at peak traffic times. There has been a series of planned and cancelled meetings to train the volunteers. The cancellations have usually been at short notice, some at very short notice of only a few hours. Several of the volunteers have changed or cancelled their own arrangements only to find out at the last moment that the training will not happen after all. The volunteers have become very frustrated and disillusioned about the support by TVP for the SpeedWatch scheme. The volunteers are all busy people and it is not acceptable to be given the message that their wasted time is of no importance. The volunteers understand that TVP operations do sometimes need to take precedence but it is clear that TVP place SpeedWatch as a very low priority. This aspect of community policing is part of government policy and TVP should be able to do much better in supporting the volunteers who are willing to give up their time to improve safety on local roads.

The volunteers ask the parish council to make representations to TVP and the County Police and Crime Commissioner for better support for local SpeedWatch volunteers and for a higher priority for SpeedWatch within TVP operations.

The committee discussed this issue and it was:

Resolved: That a letter be sent to TVP and the County Police and Crime Commissioner for better support for Speedwatch volunteers and a higher priority for Speedwatch within the Thames Valley Police Operations. It was agreed that GB draft this and the letter to be agreed by MR and IH before being sent by the Clerk.

2. Youth Club – JR had updated Full Council 8/9/15 on this issue. It is hoped that a meeting takes place soon with Jaime (Youth Club Leader) and people interested in forming a committee. Individual letters will be sent out to people who have expressed an interest. JR stated that the Youth Club would really like a dedicated space at some point. RB said that the urgent issue is to form a new Youth Club Management Committee.

Main Discussion Items

1. Buses - IH reported on the Consultation about subsidies on buses which would mean we could lose all services except for the T1 service. IH has sent in a response along with the 5 Parishes Group. He also pointed out that the OCC calculation method is inaccurate. The consultation closed on the

14/9/15. The T1 6.30am and 3 afternoon services are subsidised and the subsidy will run out in December 2015.

They are suggesting removing 3 afternoon services which would mean residents could only come back to Watlington on the 1.30pm or 5.30pm services from Oxford. MR thanked IH for his excellent work on the response. TW said would it be worth asking what the cost is for running the bus from Garsington to Watlington. It was noted that WPC are helping to subsidise the weekend 101 services until December 2015 along with the other 4 parishes in the 5 Parishes Group.

2. Grant for Churchyard Maintenance – Application was attached to the agenda.

RB said that the burial plots are very expensive at about £400 per plot and asked what this money is being spent on. RB also said that he would like the attendance figures for the church services. MR said that in principle he does not have a problem with £800 pa for maintenance or a percentage of this. Regarding the £1,900 for one-off works has the Church considered some fundraising towards this? It was noted that these works would not be able to be carried out by volunteers. After discussion it was agreed to ask the Church the following questions:

1. A fuller breakdown of income. This can then be used to agree a potential split possibly 50:50.
2. How much more plot space is there. This was answered by TW who said that plot space is not an issue as a decision has been made that the area behind the church will be used for re-burials. He also stated that it is a legal right that any resident of Watlington can be buried there.

Resolved: That a group of Councillors meet with Mike Gardner with a view to bringing a recommendation on this issue to the October Full Council meeting. MR, IH and RB will meet with MG and discuss all issues. KT will arrange.

3. **Ecotec** – MR stated that he is working on a draft letter to be sent to Khalid Scofield. This will be an agenda item for the October meeting.

441/5 Short Discussion items

1. **HGV Monitoring System** – IH said that OCC are happy to be given reports on potential illegal HGV's in the Town but that they do not have the resources to deal with them if they are inundated with reports. It is very important that only sensible reports be sent to them otherwise this could have a detrimental effect. It was noted that vehicles such as rubbish lorries, concrete mixers, buses and coaches are excluded from the weight restriction. We need to have a cast iron list of all exemptions. KT will find this out.

2. **Profile of Parish Council and Consulting with Residents** – Agreed to defer this to the next meeting. MR, RH, TB and TJ to meet up to discuss a draft Communications Strategy. MR to organise this meeting.

3. **Safeguarding Children** – Our policy was approved by FC in July 2015 – How do we implement this? It was agreed that TW go through this document with Liz Winton and this issue to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

4. **Broadband** – Angie Paterson has organised a meeting with Ed Vaizey on this issue on 2/10/2015. MR and RW will attend as WPC representatives.

5. **HM The Queens 90th Birthday** – TJ has requested that we celebrate this in some way. TJ would be happy to lead on this if agreed. –Agreed to defer to the next meeting when TJ will be present.

6. **Post Office** – If any discussion needed following meeting with John Howell. It was noted that JH raised some possibilities for this. The regional manager can be contacted. TW said that he is trying to speak to Simon Jones, Chairman of WBA on this issue. MR will speak to the Chiltern Business Centre.

7. **Children's Centre** – possible request for support. IH said that he received an email on this issue from the County Councillor, Mark Gray, who has been delegated to look at this issue. A meeting will be arranged and will be attended also by Ann Pritchard and David Turner from Chalgrove PC. A sum

of £3000 from Watlington and Chalgrove has been mooted to provide a basic service. The health aspect will be funded by the Health Authority. The meeting will take place on 6/10/15 and IH will ask if RH or RB would also like to attend it.

8. NP Launch on 30th September 2015 – It was noted that the Steering Committee members will each lead a table on the various topics. Rachel Gill and Peter Richardson are working on a video which will be shown at the start of the Launch meeting. 10 categories have been identified for needing Advisory Groups to work on.

It was agreed to invite Chairs of our neighbouring Parish Councils to the launch.

45/15 Update on on-going issues that are not agenda items for this meeting unless agreement to discuss is made.

1. **Charlotte Coxe Trust and 33 High Street** – IH and TW will attend a meeting on this on 8/10/2015 and will report to the October Full Council meeting.

46/15 Correspondence

1. **Community Energy Offer** – It was agreed that this is not the right time for us to do this but it was noted that in the future we may be able to apply for small grants.

47/15 Items for Future Meetings

Icknield Community College Link - IH
Communication Strategy – MR, RH, TB, TJ

48/15 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

SODC Street Cleansing Grants - IH reported on the SODC Scrutiny Meeting he had attended prior to this meeting. He had addressed the Committee on this issue as did Chalgrove and Goring Parish Council Chairs. He stated that SODC have been paying us and also BIFFA to clean the streets. In reality BIFFA come every second week to Watlington and because we have already cleaned the streets, they then leave without doing anything. We are one of twelve parishes that signed up to this scheme back in 1992. Watlington receives the biggest amount £5,800 pa with Chinnor being next with £5,100 pa. SODC used to contract their street cleaning on a place by place basis but now the contract includes all places with no specific list of jobs. They cannot change the BIFFA contract so are now suggesting not paying the parishes to do this work. Bigger towns such as Didcot, Thame, Wallingford and Henley did not sign up to this scheme back in 1992. The Corporate Governance department of SODC are suggesting that this money should not be given to the Parishes who did sign up. The Scrutiny Committee agreed that this issue should be re-looked at and will come back to the Scrutiny Committee in a few weeks. It was also stated that it would be unfair to just stop payment on the 1st April 2016 and if it were going to happen it should be phased in gradually. Anna Badcock has also been asked to make representations for this grant to remain as it is. The savings to SODC if these payments cease would be minimal, less than £20,000.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.57PM