

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 19th January 2011 at 10.00am in the Community Office

- Present:** Barry Adby – Chairman
Ted Backhouse –Vice-Chairman
Tony Williamson
Neil Boddington
Roger Beattie
Linda Nicholson
- Officer:** Kristina Tynan
- In Attendance:** Val Meddings, Vicki Law – Twinning Committee
- Members of the Public:** 1
- 01/11 Apologies for Absence
Angie Paterson
- 02/11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th November 2010 were accepted by Council on the 14/12/2010
Resolved: That these minutes are a correct record of the meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.
- 03/11 Declarations of Interest
There were none.
- 04/11 Matters arising
There were none other than agenda items.
- 05/11 Outstanding Issues
Noticeboard on Pavilion – It was noted that the Sports Club do not want to pay towards a noticeboard, therefore a smaller noticeboard could be purchased at a cost of £175 which would be split 50:50. It was agreed that it would be best to be installed on the Pavilion wall which faces the car park.
Resolved: That this item be looked at in the February meeting.
- 06/11 Property
Community Office
Parking – BT has refurbished the car parking posts and has put them in a more prominent position in front of our car parking spaces. It was suggested that we could paint something on the ground.

Decorating – Two quotes had been received. However in the light of budget savings to be made for 2011/2012 it was thought that this would not be possible. It was suggested that we contact the Community Payback Team to see if they could do this work.

Resolved: That we ask the Community Payback Team to do the decorating in the Community Office.

Public Conveniences

Refurbishment

Resolved: That we ask our Watlington Caretaker to repaint the doors.

07/11 Open Spaces

Recreation Ground

Ditch by ½ Pipe area – Barry Adby stated that the Community Payback Team will clear this area in the Spring.

Proposal for toilets for the Pavilion – Neil Boddington has produced some initial drawings. Neil Boddington to discuss with Rhian Woods regarding costs for this project. A planning application would need to be submitted to SODC. NB to report back on detailed plans and costs.

Zip Wire – RB reported that he has met David Whiteside (Playdale) at the Recreation Ground and he suggested that the woodchip needs to be raked and levelled.

Resolved: That we ask our Watlington Caretaker to do this when it is dry.

Streets and Roads in the Town – Snow Clearance

It was noted that guidance has been received from the District Council. There were a number of points that were not clear and we will seek clarification. We will then circulate the information to the Business Association and residents at an appropriate time.

It was noted that OCC have not refilled the salt/grit bins and it was thought that they need to be filled in the summer ready for the winter ahead. BT to check the levels in each salt/grit bins.

It was noted that Love Lane was taken off the OCC gritting regime this winter because of the cost. It was stated that during the bad weather Hill Road from the centre of town up to the Surgery was very bad.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we ask the County Council to add Love Lane to the gritting regime for next winter.

08/11 Watlington in Bloom

Mansie Gardens – Email from T Jackson – This was discussed and the following response to her questions was agreed;

1. *Have you looked into the logistics of having brick planters built at the entrances to the town?* Barry Adby is looking into the cost and logistics of this however the Parish Council would not be able to put any money into this.

2. *The litter bin situation is not good, there are bins that should be replaced and or updated.* Bins around the town belong to SODC.

3. *The mini-roundabout by the Industrial Estate is apparently sponsored by Sherstons. We have not had a response to our enquiry as to whether this means there is any money available to spend on the looks of the roundabout.* – This is an SODC initiative – we have no say in this.

4. *Last year we also suggested that the Parish increase the number of 'gardener hours' allocated to the Paddock.*? Last Year we had quite a few extra hours put in . However this year we will not be able to afford any extra gardener hours.

5. Is the issue of the dumped Tarmac in Mason's Wood being dealt with? – *This land belongs to the Masons and we have sent a letter to them on this.*

6. *Regarding Mansle Gardens, has there been any further discussion and thus decision on the issue of new entrances? I have been struggling to get a builder to actually provide a quote but am still pushing. Will we need more than one quote for the final work?* – The Parish Council need to have 3 quotes as stated in our Standing Orders

7. *Would the level of permission we have so far allow us to get a work party together to*
- *remove ivy from plum trees in hedgerow trim dead wood and growth from stump - stump is more than 3 inches and not dead - should be part of a tree works application.*
 - *cut out fleur de lys shape in grass ready for granite sett outline and planting with Lavenders, Lady's Mantle and bulbs - Not at the moment.*
 - *remove small crab apple tree that is ailing?* – This should be part of a tree works application. (I assume that is the small plum.)

Pollarding the ash would naturally need consent. please be aware that a conservation area notice of intent will be required for any intended works'

Discussion took place about whether we should enter the Britain in Bloom competition this year in the light of the stringent budget limits we will have.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That a meeting take place with Ian Hill and the former Watlington in Bloom members to discuss this issue and therefore if there is a need for a Watlington in Bloom Advisory Committee.

[NB: Since the meeting the remit of the WIB Advisory Committee has been checked by the Clerk and this committee ceased in August 2011.]

Entrances to the Town – Brick Planters – BA to report

09/11 **Twinning Visit** – Val Meddings and Vicki Law - Twinning Committee.

It was noted that a cheque for £2030.70 was given to the Twinning Committee as the same amount was transferred into WPC Account for them, which was a European Grant toward travel and expenses towards their trip to Mansle in 2010.

A draft programme for the Mansle Visit in August was presented. The question was asked if there were any ideas from the Twinning Committee in regards to Mansle Gardens. VM suggested that the Parish Council consider giving a gift to Mansle. It was agreed that this would need to be a Full Council decision and will be put on the forward plan for discussion after the new Council is in place.

VM also asked if there were any Councillors who would be prepared to put up any visitors from Mansle. It was also requested that the Chairman be present at the formal event. The dates to be given to Ian Hill.

Resolved: The Clerk to email all Councillors regarding this.

It was stated that the Twinning Committee could use the community office facilities for photocopying etc and if the Parish Council could pay the bills so that the VAT element would not have to be included.

It was agreed that the Twinning Committee send the Council a final programme once all details have been confirmed.

10/11 General Issues

Gritting – A snow Guide has been received from OCC- **Discussed above**

Parking in the High Street – people parking longer than 1 hour in the 1 hour spaces
Malcolm Bowler from OCC has advised that PCSO's are able to ticket who abuse the 1 hour limit.

Resolved: To contact PC Ian Kent and PCSO Diane Greenwood asking them to ticket/enforce these spaces.

Potholes - The office sends regular updates/list to OCC on these. We are told they are on a list to be dealt with but a lot are still awaiting repair.

12/11 Correspondence

1. David Orpwood - Request for Grit Bin between Seymour Green exit to B480 and Chicken Farm – letter was attached to agenda

This letter was discussed and it was noted that it would cost £160+VAT to purchase a bin. It was agreed to check if OCC would fill a bin if one was installed. It was agreed to defer a decision on this until the next meeting when the budget for next year has been agreed. The Clerk to inform DO of this.

2. Sara Sheppard – re snow clearing in the town.- **noted**

3. British Legion – Great Poppy Party Weekend 10-12 June 2011 – The British Legion have asked if the Parish Council could have a stall at their August Fete which they will combine with the Poppy Weekend.

Resolved: That this be an agenda item for Full Council.

13/11 Items for Future Meetings

February Meeting

Snow Clearance in the Town

Watlington in Bloom

Proposed toilets for the Recreation Ground

Salt Bin – Between Seymour Green and Chicken Farm

14/11 Any Other Business

Hedge in Pyrton Lane – A question has arisen as to whose responsibility this hedge is. The Clerk to check with OCC Land Registry in the first instance.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.50AM