

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 10.30am in the Community Office

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Barry Adby –Chairman  
Bob West – Vice-Chairman  
Tim Horton  
Robert Barber  
Tony Williamson  
Ian Hill  
Neil Boddington  
Linda Nicholson

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

**Members of the Public:**

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74/13 Apologies for Absence  
There were none.

75/13 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 which were accepted by Council on the 11/6/2013 to be agreed  
It was noted that Minute 73/13 Howe Road – 1<sup>st</sup> line should read Howe Road not Hill Road and that Minute 67/13 item 3 Public Conveniences should state that 'the offer from WIB to paint the windows and doors' should also include the offer to do a deep cleanse on these conveniences.  
**Resolved:** With the changes above that these minutes be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76/13 Declarations of Interest  
TH WIB declared an interest in the Watlington in Bloom issue as he is Chairman of this Committee. He signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book and left the room for this item.

77/13 Matters arising  
**Emergency Plan** (Minute 66/13 refers) – LN reported that this has been sent to the Main Authorities and members will have a copy emailed to them shortly.

78/13 Outstanding Issues  
1. **Hedge in Car Park** – RB and KT to meet with Mr Irons to discuss this issue.

2. **Parish Controlled Trees** – RB said that he had nothing further to report.
3. **Alleyway to West Meadow** - It was agreed that we put a sign in this alleyway stating where the bin is located on Brook Street.
4. **Phone Box at Christmas Common** – This is scheduled to be strimmed and cleaned.
5. **Dog Bin by Icknield Way on Hill Road** – It was agreed that our spare dog bin (once BT has checked it is in good working order) be put in this location by Scion.

79/13 Property

1. Car Park

a) **Drains in Car Park** – BA reported that we are still in the same situation as last month, still awaiting a price from Scion which we will have for the next meeting. He suggested that we could perhaps tie this in with the works Thames Water will be doing on Hill Road and he will speak to them to see if this is a possibility. TH stated that he hoped that this issue could be resolved before the winter as it is a major concern and actions need to be done to resolve this issue.

b) **Car Park Entrance** - RB said that there had been a good meeting with Mark Francis from OCC who had no objection to the pedestrian entrance being moved in the light of Hill Road being one way. It was suggested that we could approach the Co-op to help with funding this. BA stated that the bellmouth that OCC are responsible for is a very small area. NB said that he would prepare some drawings for this scheme. It was noted that the sycamore tree could be replaced by a healthy tree.

**Resolved:** That Neil Boddington draws up a plan and that we then get costings for this scheme and that this can be an agenda item for the September Full Council Meeting. It was noted that we will speak to Mr Irons and Chiltern Gate residents once the plan has been drawn up.

c) **Pothole by Car Park** – It was noted that this was filled in by Scion but it does not seem to have been done very well. KT will speak to them regarding this.

d) **Bin in central reservation** – It was noted that this needs to be fixed to a post. BA to arrange this.

2. Public Conveniences

i) **Letter received from SODC** – This has been passed to the Strategy Committee for discussion.

ii) **Ash trees behind the public conveniences** – BA will arrange for these to be removed.

3. Community Office

1. **Outside Painting of Community Office** – This has been passed to the Finance Committee. It was agreed that we ask for a Finance meeting to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July to discuss this item only. This will be followed by a Full Council meeting to discuss any recommendation that is made.

80/13 Open Spaces

a) **Recreation Ground**

i) **Signs for Recreational Areas** – RB reported that an A1 sign would be £499 and an AO sign would be £729. Delivery charge would be shared with the signs being ordered for the chalk pit.

**Resolved:** That we order an A1 sign for the recreation ground. Wording will need to be agreed.

ii) **Bin for Love Lane entrance** – It was noted that Scion will put in the spare bin, from the Car Park, at this location.

iii) **Hedge around Sports Field** – BA stated that it is our responsibility to cut this hedge which is quite overgrown. Beechwood Estates have said that they would like it cut back 6m. RB will have a look at this and we will speak to Beechwood Estates and we will then seek 3 quotes for these works.

#### b) **Paddock**

i) **Willow Hedge** –RB to contact Sue Glenn. TH stated that this hedge looks very good at the moment.

ii) **Wendy Houses in Paddock**- It was noted that these are looking quite dreary. IT was agreed that WIB paint these, perhaps with some students. KT to speak to Terry Jackson regarding colours etc.

### 81/13 General Issues

#### 1. **Potholes**

**Quarrington Place** - It was noted that the road is sinking outside Quarrington Place. OCC are trying to get the original contractor back to re-do this.

**Missing White Lines in Town** – These will be reported to David Goldsworthy at OCC and if necessary Caroline Newton.

2. Lighting in Davenport Place - Mr Young attended the meeting for this item only.

*The meeting was adjourned whilst discussions took place with Mr Young. After this the meeting was reconvened.*

The resolution of July Full Council was noted 'That Council do not support the installation of an additional light in Davenport Place'.

3. **Bus Stop** – Howe Hill (Seymour Green) – Further to the question from Mr Richardson regarding this we note that there is a bus stop in this location and the buses stop when requested. There is one resident who uses this bus stop on a weekly basis. The Clerk with contact Mr Richardson.

4. **Ingham Lane/Brook Street Road** – It was noted that this had been scheduled to be done but was postponed due to snow. As we are now in a new financial year OCC have had to review it. It was initially turned down but with the Government money of £3M they will review it again and then it will have to be re-priced. If it is given approval by Cabinet the earliest the work will be done is in September.

TH said that he thinks that it is unacceptable to have to go through all these additional delays for a scheme which had already been approved. He said he will personally be taking this issue up with Caroline Newton and OCC.

It was stated that with the absence of white lines in this area (in excess of 1 year) that there have not been any accidents. BA said that he feels confident that this scheme will be done.

5. **Hill Road Hedges** – This issue has been dealt with and will be taken off the

agenda.

6. **Dog Fouling** – Following the email from a resident of Marlbrook on this issue it was:

**Resolved:** That we circulate a letter to all residents in this area regarding dog fouling and we will also put up some laminated signs around the green. The Clerk will inform the concerned resident about our actions.

7. **Taxis in Watlington** – It was noted that there is a sign up advertising a taxi service however the taxis do not operate from this area.

8. **Dead tree on Couching Street** – It was agreed that the Clerk arrange for this to be removed.

9. **Update from the WIB committee** – It was noted that the National Judging will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> August. The WIB were grateful for the Parish Council arranging the cut outside Orchard Walk. The work that the committee had done was congratulated and it was:

**Resolved:** That we send the WIB committee our congratulations on the work they have done around the town and also on the success of the Open Gardens and Horticultural Show, which was a triumph and which attracted a lot of people to Watlington.

82/13 Action List

To note any outstanding actions if needed and to note completed actions on the caretaker list. The Clerk will email the updated list to all Councillors.

83/13 Correspondence

1. **Email from M Francis – update on actions** – Actions were noted.

84/13 Future Issues for Discussion

**Grit Spreader for next winter** – That we purchase a grit spreader if there is one at a reasonable price. BA/KT to look at this.

85/13 Any Other Business

**Post Box in Car Park** – It was agreed that we put a sign up saying 'Post Box' on the front of the box.

**Car Park Noticeboard** – It was noted that a good job had been done on the repair to the top.

**Howe Hill** – It was noted that this road is now very dangerous even for small vehicles due to the overgrowth. It is thought that this area should have verges. It was agreed that a letter be sent to OCC and the National Trust on this issue. RB and KT to do this.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12 NOON**