

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Tuesday 29th May 2012 at 8pm in the Community Office

Present:
Councillors: Barry Adby
Ted Backhouse
Roger Beattie
Robert Barber
Tim Horton

Officer: Kristina Tynan

In Attendance: Linda Nicholson

Members of the Public: 1

Barry Adby presided over the meeting until election of Chairman.

46/12 Apologies for Absence
Tony Williamson

47/12 Election of Chairman
Ted Backhouse proposed Barry Adby and this was seconded by Roger Beattie. There were no other nominations.
Resolved: That Barry Adby be unanimously elected as Chairman.

48/12 Election of Vice-Chairman
Roger Beattie proposed Ted Backhouse and this was seconded by Robert Barber. There were no other nominations.
Resolved: That Ted Backhouse be unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

49/12 Co-option onto Committee
Prior to discussion on co-option, the time and days of meetings were discussed. It was noted that it was agreed at Full Council to change the Operation Meetings from a Wednesday morning to a Tuesday evening so that people who work and wish to be on it were not excluded from the Committee. At the last Full Council meeting when Councillor's chose their committees the only person to come onto the committee, apart from the original councillors was Robert Barber who would be able to make a morning meeting. Robert Barber stated that he was amazed that more Councillors

did not join this committee now that it has been given more duties and power over things. Tim Horton said that he thought this should be a discussion which takes place at the Annual Review of Committees and not at this stage. Discussion took place on this and the following was agreed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Operation Committee revert back to its original Wednesday morning meetings.

Vote: 3 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

The co-option issue was then discussed. It was noted that Linda Nicholson would not be able to make evening meetings.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Linda Nicholson be co-opted onto this committee if morning meetings are agreed.

50/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th April 2012 which were accepted by Council on the 8/05/2012 to be agreed and signed by the Chairman

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

51/12 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

52/12 Matters arising

Dogs in the Sports Field/Recreation Ground – Flyers are now being given out to dog walkers in this area. Robert Barber said that Chalgrove put in dispensers and dog bags. After discussion it was agreed that we look into providing these also. It was noted that perhaps we could obtain them free of charge. BA and KT to look into this.

53/12 Outstanding Issues

Trees in Town – OCC works. Some of these have been trimmed and a good job has been done on them. Robert Barber stated that some are slightly unbalanced. RBr stated that in regard to the 2 Cherry trees in Couching Street that OCC are removing one and the other one will have some serious pruning. BA spoke to the OCC men on site and they still have more trees to attend to. It was agreed that RBr contact OCC to find out what trees still need to be done. TH mentioned that the tree at the Cross is on the list but has not had any treatment as yet.

BT Phone Box in Car Park- TH has sent a letter on this and is awaiting a reply.

Post Box in Car Park – this has now been repaired.

Setts in Brookside- OCC are still discussing how best to put these back.

Leaves in Fenced Area – Berinsfield have cleared the leaves in this area. RB asked why our Caretaker could not do this. TB stated that they are in an awkward place and our leaf blower would take a long time to collect the leaves whereas Berinsfield has an industrial machine and can do the job in a few minutes.

Woodchip for Zip Wire – This has been delivered and raked in by BT and BA. It was noted that some of the shutter boards needs fixing back in place. BA/BT to do this. Also in between the boards and the fence there are a number of weeds and these should be removed.

54/12 Property

Car Park

Hedge on Johnsons Alley – see correspondence letter 1. It was noted that we wrote to the affected neighbours and their letter was discussed. There was much discussion on this issue. It was stated that the hedge if kept too high would be liable to fall over at some stage and that it needs to cut. It has been previously agreed that it should be cut to 10ft. It was agreed that Robert Barber look at the hedge and confirm the exact height that is needed. It was noted that these works could not take place until after the 31st July at the end of the bird nesting season. The residents will be informed. We have received one quote to date and the Clerk to obtain two more.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That this hedge is cut down to 10ft or the agreed height after Robert Barber has looked at it.

Trees on the BT side

The Leylandi trees on the BT side were discussed and it was:

Resolved: That the clerk write to BT asking them to cut these back.

Area behind recycling bins (Spring Lane side) – TH stated that this area needs to have saplings and ground planting removed. RBr to look at this area and inform the Clerk what works need to be done. We will then ask our Contractors to do this work.

Usage – Ian Hill had drawn up some graphs from the information we have collected. Copies held in office.

It was noted that it is rather difficult to say anything too concrete about the figures as the number of visits are quite low when you spread them across different times and weather. If we want to produce something more convincing we would need to organise a recording campaign to cover a full week, with hourly counts. This would give us something that would be more supportable as a case for making any changes in the parking arrangements.

Resolved: To do a hourly survey. A time period to be agreed and a rota to be drawn up and circulated to all councillors who will be asked to do some of the shifts.

TH said that we should look into making a charge to allow residents to park in the car park. BA said that he thought it should be preserved as a shoppers car park. TH stated that we should investigate the possibility of having another car park in the town. It was noted that if we start charging for the car park, SODC are entitled to some of the money.

Layout of Car Park Spaces – BA said that he thought that if the layout of the parking changed it may be possible to make some more spaces.

Car Park Order – This is still being investigated.

Ticket Machine – RB said that he still has this and asked that it is removed. The clerk to contact SODC regarding this as it is still owned by them.

Drains- It was noted that a resident has complained about not being able to get a co-op trolley into the car park because of a groove at the bottom of the slop where the drain and is it difficult to push the trolley over the rut.

Resolved: to ask the Co-op if they could repair/tarmac this groove.

Request from GoRide to be able to park one bus in the car park – This was discussed and it was agreed to ask them to look into parking it in the Catholic Church car park and not the Hill Road one.

Public Conveniences

Roof – This work has been commissioned and it should be done in the next fortnight by Colin King. It was noted that due to the weather he has got behind schedule on this.

Drain Clearance – It was noted that these need to be done at six monthly intervals. This to be added to the forward plan.

Future improvements – It was noted that the floors and walls have been pressure washed and they are much improved. It would help if the grouting was redone and BA to look into this. We have asked for some quotes for new stainless steel toilets and urinal. There is approximately £12,000 available to spend on improvements. It was noted that the first 5 years advance payment is now finished and we will now receive annual payments(which will increase by RPI) from SODC to maintain these conveniences.

Tube Heater – We have been advised to fit one of these by Wallgate to try and stop the frost damage to the hand units, which cost us in the region of £450 to repair as frost damage is not within our contract with them. A quote has been received from Neil Campbell for £195 to install.

Resolved: That we accept this quote and ask Neil Campbell to install these.

55/12 Open Spaces

Mansle Gardens Entrance

It was noted that since the last meeting the hedge in this area had fallen over and was in the footpath. Berinsfield tried to stake it but this did not work. They then took out this section of the hedge on safety grounds.

It was noted that the WIB committee will bring a proposal on this area to the September or October meeting of this committee.

Recreation Area

Porta-loo- This has been ordered for the Jubilee Weekend/Half Term holiday and should be delivered on the 1st June.

Request from Bread Bin for catering van in this area- No request has come in writing.

Ash Tree by Pavilion – see correspondence letter 8

Roger Beattie asked for a report and quote on this from Complete Tree Services on behalf of the Youth Club as they are looking into various options for a possible extension onto the pavilion. Robert Barber said that the original pavilion design was based around this tree and said that he has spoken to the Forestry Department at SODC on this issue. The report given by Complete Tree Services was based on the proviso that a planning application was imminent. If this had not been the case his report would have recommended remedial works to the tree. Robert Barber asked that Hugo Loudon (Heritage Tree Services) who has worked on this tree previously be asked for a quote for works to these trees and two other quotes to be sought.

Tim Horton said that this tree is very important visually and the Jubilee Committee are offering to plant a tree in this area. Our Tree Wardens to be asked to suggest a location and see if any permissions would be needed.

56/12 General Issues

Sports Field Trees – The road side of these trees have been done. Robert Barber to have a look at them from the Sports Field side and report back to this committee.

Co-op/WIB Clean-up – This was a very successful clean up and the Clerk to write and thank them on the Parish's behalf.

Tim Horton stated that the general litter condition in the town is much better than two years ago. He also said that the Co-op members worked very hard.

OCC TRO B480 and B4009 – 20th June 2012 – Barry Aaby explained the 2 closures, one is for one day only and the other over a period of 2 week at night time. There are diversions in place and OCC will be putting up signs prior to this date to alert motorists about this.

57/12 Correspondence

1. Residents 30 Watcombe Road – Car Park Hedge- **Discussed above.**
 2. GoRide – Request for one bus to park in car park- **Discussed above.**
 3. OALC – Broadband questionnaires from OCC for residents, businesses and parish Councils – **Noted and have been circulated. Information to be put in the Watlington Times.**
 4. SSE – Electricity Supply rates until 31/3/13- **Noted**
 5. Berinsfield Community Business – re waterlogged ground grass cutting -**Noted**
 6. Chilterns AONB –re grant scheme – **Noted**
 7. Laytons – Quote for Car Park Hedge- **Noted above**
 8. Complete Tree Services – Ash Tree by Pavilion- **Discussed above.**
 9. N Campbell – quote for tube heater- **Discussed above.**
 10. Bix and Assendon Parish Council – copy letter of reply sent to John Howell and Copy email from R Barber to Just Racing re Triathlon – **It was noted that we need to keep working on this for the 2013 triathlon. John Howell and Lord Camoys had asked Alan Rose to a meeting which he did not turn up for. Tim Horton said he was perturbed to read the exchange of emails given to us by Bix and Assendon Council.**
Resolved: That we write to Caroline Newton on this issue and ask her to look into this for us.
 12. Oriel – Tree related subsidence at 32 Sycamore Close – attached.
 - 13 OCC – TRO for 490 and B4009 – 20th June - attached
- Press Cutting** – re Ping Pong revival.

58/12 Future Issues for Discussion

Triathlon – When letter has been sent and reply received.

59/12 Any Other Business

A letter had been received today from Ed Donald asking about the rumour of H&H on the Industrial Estate moving to Lys Mill. Barry Aaby has investigated this and confirmed

that they already rent a storage unit at Lys Mill. They have no plans to move from the Industrial Estate within the next 2-3 years as far as their operators licence is concerned. Lys Mill, which is in the Parish of Britwell, have all the necessary paperwork for their operations. It was noted that Caroline Newton and Anna Badcock have been involved in discussions with Mr Donald. The Clerk to write back to Mr Donald giving our views. It was mentioned that perhaps he could have spoken to H&H in the first instance. Mr Donald also referred in this letter to Lorries in the Town, The Clerk passed his comments onto PC Ian Kent who have spoken to him and explained the situation and he is content with their reply.

There Being No Other Business the Meeting closed at 9.30pm