

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

Present:
Councillors: Barry Adby – Chairman
Tim Horton
Tony Williamson
Linda Nicholson

Officer: Kristina Tynan

93/11 Apologies for Absence
Ted Backhouse, Roger Beattie

94/11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st September 2011 were accepted by Council on the 11/10/2011
Resolved: That these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

95/11 Declarations of Interest
Watlington in Bloom – Tim Horton declared a prejudicial interest in this item and signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book. He left the room for this item.

Watlington in Bloom – Tony Williamson declared a non- prejudicial interest in this item as regards the Churchyard and signed the 'Declaration of Interest' book. He remained in the room for this item.

96/11 Matters arising
There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

97/11 Outstanding Issues
BT Phone Box in Hill Road Car Park – Awaiting response from BT re their schedule of re-painting. It was agreed that the Clerk post a letter to BT regarding this as no response has been forthcoming further to her email on this issue.

Car Park Noticeboard – BT has refurbished this. TH and LN said that he has done an excellent job on this.

Posts on Church Meadows Path – BT has repaired and re-installed. It was noted that BT has done a good job with these.

Arrows in Car Park – BT has repainted and it makes it much clearer to motorists which way to drive.

98/11

Property

Car Park

Morning and Evening monitoring- This to be monitored by BA and TH and then the results to be reported to the next meeting. It was noted that TB is unable to this monitoring at present. TW said he would help if he is free when the dates are agreed.

Space Markings- It was agreed to defer this issue to the next meeting.

Public Conveniences – Future improvements – SODC lease was attached to agenda

BA/TH/LN/HB and BT had a meeting at this site yesterday to discuss various options. TH had given out a paper with the following points at the meeting.

External

1. Putty to crittall windows and re-paint.
2. Replace 3 or 4 loose tiles on roof – *Agreed we ask Colin King to do this urgently.*
3. Consider replacement of fascia boards (especially street side).
4. Remove ashlings at back of site and reduce growth above entrance to 'Gents' – *BA to speak to the neighbour concerned regarding this.*
5. Consider placement of troughs for planting below windows (especially Gents side).
6. Paint railings with black Hammerite.- *Agreed to ask BT to do this in the Spring.*

Internal

1. Either specialist cleaning or provide new covering to existing flooring.- *Get Quotes.*
2. Remove panel urinal with two pods (one adult, one child).
3. Replace 4 WC's, one gents, 2 ladies – but try to retain steel boxes.
4. Repaint ceiling – replace all or some areas of tiling.
5. Review fire safety.

Discussion took place on these and other issues. It was noted that these toilets were installed by SODC in 1994, 17 years ago including a disabled toilet. There will be money in earmarked funds to do some refurbishment. It was noted that these were originally in the Watlington car park which was then moved to Hill Road.

There is an existing problem with the flow in the urinals and this needs to be looked at with urgency. A camera may be needed to put in the pipes and if this is needed that this is done ASAP. Some of the above issues were agreed

(see wording in italics above).

It was agreed that we need to look at the cost of the long-term maintenance of the toilets and we need to consider a planned maintenance for a number of years and also what amount would need to be earmarked for an emergency.

BA stated that we have a copy of the original plans showing drainage etc, which is very useful.

It was agreed that we carry on looking into these issues and get quotes for the above ideas but that we need to look at the urinal issue urgently and it was:

Resolved: That we look into the urinal issue and a camera to look down the pipers be arranged as soon as is practicable.

LN stated that the Ladies are used frequently by parents with children and that they are a very valuable asset to the Town.

99/11 Open Spaces

Recreation Ground

Dogs in the Recreation Area – It was noted that TB had asked the committee to consider the issue of dogs being kept on a lead but it was thought that this would be very difficult to enforce. The issue of a total ban on dogs in this area was also mooted. We are hoping to get Jacky Nabb to come and meet with us soon to discuss how Chalgrove addressed this issue and it was agreed to defer any further discussion on this until this meeting has taken place.

The Playing Field Article – grants available for maximising sporting benefits of playing field land – 24/10/11-12/12/11 – It was agreed that we are not in a position to ask for any grants at present.

100/11 General Issues

Lorry Watch – It was agreed that in the first instance we take a note of lorry registration numbers,time and direction, from the Town Hall bench and give to Trading Standards to look at. BA and TH to agree a day and do this

Emergency Plan – update

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the attached emergency plan be adopted by Council.

Watlington in Bloom –judging report was attached to the agenda.

Congratulation to WIB for The 'Gold' award was given. Tim Horton said that one forgets how good the Town actually looks and we need to keep up the good work. One point made that there was no litter in the Town and that key groups in the Town are doing fantastic work. The Allotments were cited as an Academy of Good Practice. The work being done on Watlington Hill is having a good impact also.

The downsides are that we are not getting the Business Community to involve themselves to do better things, and that Mansle Gardens needs to better

attended to. Improvements in communications with WIB are needed to improve certain aspects. It was noted that WPC are now planting the War Memorial at the request of the British Legion.

TW stated that the Churchyard hope to put in a system that can be easily maintained and is hoping that the Allotment Committee will come and empty compost bins.

It was noted that the roundabout at Cuxham Road/Britwell Road should be looked at to see how it could be made more attractive.

It was agreed that BA seek a meeting with the new supervisor of the Community Payback Team to see what ways they may be able to help the Watlington Community.

Walkabout 18/10/2011 – The only area looked at was the Public Conveniences which has been discussed above. A walk-about to be arranged for the Spring.

Triathlon 2011 and issues to be raised for 2012 – It was noted that BA had given a report on the 'Wash-Up' meeting at the last Full Council meeting. It was agreed that we send all our comments to Roger Belson. It was noted that Angie Paterson has been asking parishes for their comments. It was noted that there is a value into entering into a dialogue for next year as soon as possible. It was agreed that the Clerk contact Peter Ronald, OCC Event Manager and Angie Paterson about this issue.

101/11

Correspondence

1. Thames Water – High Consumption letter for water in Paddock/Community Office – **It was noted that in the past estimates have been used but this time we have had an actual reading. BA/KT to keep an eye on this.**

2. Mason's funfair – Asking if they can have a fair on Parish Land – **It was agreed that the WPC have no suitable location for this.**

3. OCC – Snow Day reminder – 29/10/11 Abingdon- **Noted, It is hoped that BT will be able to attend this.**

102/11

Future Issues for Discussion

Look at Forward Plan.

103/11

Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.35AM

