



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 19th September 2018 at 8pm In the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Tom Bindoff (TB)
Ian Hill (IH)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Fergus Lapage (FL)

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

87/18 Apologies for Absence
Bob West, Tony Williamson

88/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th July 2018 which were accepted by Council on the 11/9/2018 to be agreed as a correct record

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

89/18 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest notified.

90/18 Matters arising
There were none other than agenda items.

91/18 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

1. **Removal of white line at the Town Hall** – No update
2. **Junction 6 Noticeboards** – Tony Williamson will clean these. Update from TW next month.
3. **Table Tennis table for Rec** – A grant from the CC Fund is being applied for.
4. **Fire Hydrants Watlington** – We now have a map of the hydrants in Watlington and this will be added to the Emergency Plan
5. **Fence by Recreation Ground and Allotments** – RB will do a temporary fix. Discussion took place on whether this should be a proper entrance in the future. To discuss with Allotment Committee regarding the new developments in Watlington.
6. **Cherry Tree in Paddock** – Awaiting comments from CwT
7. **Hedge between Allotment and Recreation Ground** – KT to find out when this is to be cut.

92/18 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. Trees

a) **Do we wish to plant a tree for Armistice Sunday?** Free trees and plaques are available.

Discussion took place on this and it was thought that this would be a good idea. Four possible locations were identified:

1. Where the sycamore was removed at the corner of Hill Road car park.
2. The roundabout triangle at Cuxham Road
3. At the end of Allnut Close (to replace the one removed)
4. Mansle Gardens

Resolved KT to ask Martin Gammie CwT for his views,

2. Highways

a) **Progress report on High Street parking** – IH reported that there has been a meeting with Lee Turner (OCC) and we have put forward a proposal for making part of the pavement for parking cars. We also need to speak to the Bus Company. IH said he would chase up this.

b) **Parking at bottom of Love Lane between Schools and Chequers** – following earlier site visit. *OCC have commented that the Parish could consider timber posts or fencing to alleviate the problem.* It was noted that this is OCC Land. Discussion also took place on having a change of surfacing.

Resolved: It was agreed to leaflet the 4 or 5 residents who would be affected by this to get their opinions on:

- a) Bollards
- b) Change of Surfacing
- c) Situation to remain the same

and to ask for any suggestions they may have.

c) **New Bollards in High Street and Shirburn Street** – KT has chased this up to no avail but will chase up again.

d) **Proposed disabled car park bay outside the Library** – IH reported that we commented on this stating that the bay marked on the map is in the wrong place and that we did not want the library disabled bay being used by, we believe one person.

e) **Pyrton Lane Improvements** – IH to update after the meeting on the 14/9/2018 – IH said that following this meeting the residents are working up a proposal to send to OCC. They have agreed on the following things; 100m strip to be made to look like a single line; a build out; speed hump; give way signs; and Twenty is Plenty signs. OCC said they could fund this from some earmarked traffic calming funds (allocated for Shirburn Road)

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council agree in principle to the design subject to the Pyrton Lane Residents agreement. The picture overleaf shows a draft proposal and not the final version.

It was agreed that we would conduct a door to door survey of residents once the new plan is available.

Example: Northbound – Entrance #6-18



f) **Task Force - Training of people to officially identify potholes and repair them.** (Notes from the Town and Parish Liaison Forum are available in the office – SvP attended)
KT reported that she had spoken to OCC about this. At present there are 5/6 parishes piloting this Super User scheme and they are happy for us to also be a pilot. Several volunteers would be needed with at least one being computer literate as they will be able to have access to a part of the Fixmystreet website where they can authorise repairs to Scansa. They will be able to do full repairs to Category 2 potholes (the 28 days to be repaired potholes). Training both on the website and on the ground would be given by an OCC Officer. They will also need to sign an agreement with OCC. Discussion took place on this and it was thought it would be a good idea to do this. It was agreed in the first instance to recruit some volunteers via the Watlington Times, The Town Facebook page etc. It was also agreed to contact the parishes who are already doing this to see how it is working.

g) **Twenty is Plenty signs for Watlington** – IH stated that we can request these at no charge. After discussion it was agreed that IH prepare a map with locations of where they would be sited and bring back to the next meeting.

3. Footpaths

a) **Footpath 13** – Update from TB and attached email from Anna Badcock re possible funding. A quote was discussed for the improvement to a stretch of this footpath which is in the region of £5000. However, it was noted that only 1 resident has complained about the state of the path. TB said that the path is only muddy for two months of the year. It was agreed to invite the resident to the October meeting and discuss the issue with him. TB said that TOE have agreed to give £500 if we go ahead with the scheme.

b) **General Footpath Issues**

1. **Swans Section of Ridgeway** – see email from Mr Orr

It was noted that Copas Farms had been given permission to put in 4 entrances into the hedge. However, it is thought that these have been put in dangerous location. At present OCC are looking into the safety concerns. KT to chase up this with OCC.

93/18 Open Spaces

1. Recreation Ground /Sports Field/Pavilion

a). **I-Play** –Work was commissioned in July 2018. RB will contact them as the lead time is 12 weeks to see where we are with the repairs.

b). **MUGA Proposal for Recreation Ground** –RB stated that he has had a meeting with Andrew McAuley on this to address the concerns raised and the information requested by SODC. The residents will also be contacted. On-going.

c) **Canopy for small children's area** – These have stretched a bit and are being made smaller. One of contractors who is putting a new surround in the zip wire area knocked down one of the poles, but he will reinstall it. The canopies have been taken down for the winter.

d) **Consideration of Toilets, Youth Club Room and Conservatory to be added to Pavilion building**

RB said that this was looked at by the Youth Club 6/7 years ago and it got to the stage that a plan was drawn. However now a different location is being considered, with toilets for the recreation ground, extra storage for the Sports Clubs and a standalone room for youth not connected to the Pavilion The Youth People's Fund have some funds, from the old Youth Club to put into this scheme. It was noted that provision for youth is needed. It was also noted that with the new houses being built there will be a lot more younger people in the town. FL said that this should be looked at in a wider strategic way as this may not be the best way for the future. After further discussion it was agreed to ask the Strategy Committee to discuss this as part of a longer-term view.

2. Paddock

a) **Performance Space** – BW to update at the next meeting. We are still awaiting the report on trees from CwT.

b) **Poisoning of Rowan Tree** – IH had put an article in the WT on this and on the Town Facebook page. TJ suggested reporting this to the police as it is a criminal offence, but it was agreed not to as they would not be able to do anything about it. TB said that although Martin Gammie thought it would not probably survive it does seem to look a bit healthier now and that we ask MG to have another look at it at some point.

c) **Proposal from TJ that WPC declare itself herbicide and pesticide free** – TJ thought that WPC should do this as part of an environmental policy and that SvP had suggested it. JW said she has done a lot of research on this and does not think it should be done. There are many environmentally friendly products available which could be used if necessary. JW said that she weeded the wall on Shirburn Street and was disappointed at how quickly the weeds came back and the area looked untidy again. TB said that if the weeds keep being pulled up they will eventually stop growing. JW said that her Task Force Volunteers would get disgruntled if all they are doing is continually weeding the same area and not doing things in other areas of the town. After further discussion it was suggested that a trial take place on this wall where ½ is sprayed (by an authorised person) and ½ is weeded and to see what the results are before deciding on this. It was agreed that the Status Quo remain which is to only spray if necessary.

d) **Teddys Play Area** – TJ is still working on the moving parts board for the wall. However, she said that since WiB planted bulbs the area by the wall is not weeded. KT said that is not part of any of our gardening contracts but they are supposed to mow right to the fence. In the first instance it was agreed to speak to Tracey our Gardener. TJ and KT to meet her.

3. Other Areas

a) **Landscape Design for Triangle on Cuxham Road and Benches for this area** – TJ said that the tree

stumps will be made into children's seats by Tom Bindoff, but the area does need a bench/s. It was thought that residents may wish to sponsor them as a memorial bench. TJ to get designs and prices of suitable ones which we can then ask residents if anyone would like to do this.

b) **Willow Close** – Clearance along hedge- Two quotes have been sought to date.

KT said that she has met contractors on site but really needs a very specific brief to give them. KT to meet with some Members on site to discuss this.

94/18 Property

1. Car Park

a) **Hedgerow at the Car Park** – email on this issue from Peter Richardson and SvP – TB said he has had a good look at this and the area gained if the hedge was removed would be at most about 4ft. It was agreed that this idea is a non-starter and the hedge is a very nice one. It was thought that there would be complaints by local residents if we suggested removing it as there is an agreement with one that it is kept at a certain height to protect their privacy.

b) **Moving car park tubs to Couching Street/Brook Street Junction** –TJ asked if she could obtain some quotes for doing this. TB said that we should try to do it ourselves in the first instance. It was noted that some of box trees have died and TJ will replace. JW has some concerns about doing this.

c) **Report from SvP on her meeting on car parking with John Backley at SODC.**

To note that she has arranged a site visit at the car park with Indigo on the 15th October.

2. Public Conveniences

No discussion needed.

3. Parish Office

a) **Carpet for Office** – We have two quotes. However these need to be broken down into separate components. RB/KT will contact the companies and ask them to do this.

95/18 Sub-Committees

1. **Signage for Allotment saying no children to walk through them** - It was agreed in the first instance to ask Rainbow Nursery to put something in their newsletter. It was noted that the Allotment holders have no problem with supervised children going through the allotment.

2. **PSFC actions** – No discussion.

96/18 General Issues

1. **Volunteering and Volunteer Awards** –*Deferred to the next meeting.*

2. **Task Force** – JW to update and has also asked that more Hi-Viz Jackets be ordered. Decision to be made on whether to purchase more.

Resolved: To put these on the list as part of the Volunteering Grant.

Due to Standing Order 3(w) and with the time being nearly 10pm it was:

Resolved: *That the meeting be allowed to continue until 10.10pm at the latest.*

3. **Kissing Gate with disabled access** – A quote has been obtained. It was noted that this in to the Public Charities Land and that we ask them to consider putting one in. *KT will action*

97/18 Budget

1. **Update 2017/2018 for Operation** – This was discussed and agreed was for the first 6 months of the Operations Minutes September 2018

year.

98/18. Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

Due to the Time restraint on this meeting items not discussed will be on the next agenda.

1. Litter Bins for recycling in the Town –
2. Red Kites and how to stop people feeding them- TJ
3. Electric Charging Points - RB
4. Initial Discussion for Budget 2019/2020 – Members to consider new projects etc for the next meeting.
5. Consideration to giving a contribution to the Beacon Festival for compostables etc - TJ
6. Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service - *attached*.
7. OCC – Do we want more salt this year.
8. Footpath 13 – October – PL to be invited
9. Johnsons Alley Hedge – October - CP has requested to attend
10. Tree Replacement Scheme -October

Future Items: Noticeboard for Children’s Play Area in the Paddock

14. Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.08PM