



Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office At 8pm on Tuesday 23rd January 2018

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid – Chairman
Terry Jackson – Vice-Chairman
Tom Bindoff
Ian Hill
Tom Bindoff
Rob Smith

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

In Attendance:

Peter Richardson (for Agenda Item 6.1 only)

01/18 Apologies for absence
Fergus Lapage

02/18 Minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 21st November 2017 which were received by Council on the 12th December 2017, to be signed as a correct record

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

03/18 Declaration of Interests
There were none notified,

0418 Matters Arising
Mason's Wood (Minute 79/17 item 4 refers) – TJ asked if we have heard anything back from the Masons and KT said we have not. It was noted that he has posted comments on the WTN Facebook page but has not been in touch with us direct. - It was agreed that we post a formal letter to John Collinswood rather than an email as previously.

Speed Survey on Howe Road – It had previously been agreed to do another speed survey. It was noted that the layby at the top of Howe Hill would be more suitable than the previous location which was by Marigold Cottage. The Clerk will now ask OCC to do this. The email on this from Mr Edwards was noted.

05/18 Consultations

1. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Part 2 Site Allocations: Informal Consultation and Renewed Call for Site Nominations - paper was attached to the agenda.

This was discussed and it was agreed that we have no sites to put forward. However they do need to look at transport routes and Watlington is not an appropriate route, it is an AQMA and has a 7.5 ton weight limit. The Clerk will respond.

2. Brize Norton Consultation for Airspace Change Proposal

It was agreed that we note this but send no comments.

3. London Oxford Airport Consultation

It was agreed that we note this but send no comments.

06/18 Discussion Items

Main Discussion Items

1. Car Park

a. Survey Results

PR gave a precis of the results of the survey which was sent to local businesses. Their responses to the questions were as follows:

- 50% of respondents agreed that the idea of using a dashboard parking dial would be good.
- The purpose of the Car Park is unclear to some respondents – a minority of respondents considered it more important to provide parking for their staff than for their customers
- A few traders were repeatedly chased for responses but demonstrated a lack of interest in taking an active part
- Virtually no respondents said their staff use the Recreation Ground Car Park as it is too far to walk
- There was a mixed response about losing unrestricted parking spaces through conversion to 2 more two hour spaces
- The existing system of “voluntary contributions” is being interpreted differently – does it cover “staff car parking” or a “customer facility” or both?
- There seems to be little foresight in envisaging a future situation of local population increase
- Any form of charging for shoppers and visitors would be detrimental

It was noted that we need to check the position on Business Rates and whether a Charitable Trust can take over the operation of the Car Park in an efficient and worthwhile manner and could it incorporate other WPC assets.

TW has asked SODC about this and is chasing them up for an answer.

It was noted that there is a Car Park Group and it was agreed to ask them to meet and provide a paper for the next meeting. ***TB and RS will lead on this issue and organise a meeting.***

b. Civil Enforcement Powers (CEP) – IH said that this issue was raised at the SODC Town and Parish Forum in November 2017 by Goring Parish Council. They raised the issue that they experience numerous problems of illegal parking in side roads and the High Street. Currently this can only be addressed by the Police, who unfortunately do not appear to have the time or resources to issue penalties to discourage this problem. They asked SODC to acknowledge that illegal parking affects local residents and businesses due to vehicle movement issues, and therefore with increasing vehicle numbers, a more effective enforcement system would help address the matter. A number of Parish Councils stated that they experience the same problems. Since the meeting Goring have sent a draft letter to a number of Parish Council and ask that they support asking SODC to help set up a more effective enforcement system. It was stated that this will not help in the short term.

This was discussed and a vote taken: 5 in support, 1 abstention.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we ask SODC to give serious consideration to adopting CEP and allowing delegation of powers to Town and Parish Councils who wish to take up the option a more effective enforcement system

2. Proposal for on-going monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan following the Referendum

IH said that he has discussed this with Gill Bindoff (NP Forum Co-coordinator).

There needs to be new Monitoring group/committee set up to replace the NP Steering Committee after the Referendum takes place. This group would be made up of people who want to be involved in monitoring the NP and checking whether the NP is being adhered to. They would make recommendations to Full Council on the NP, The SODC Local Plan and also looking at Planning Applications which may affect the NP. CIL and 106 money would also need to be looked at.

After discussion it was:

Resolved: That IH draft a note on this which can be discussed at the next NP Steering Committee Meeting on the 5th February and which he will attend.

3. Charlotte Coxe Trust – Due Diligence Paper for approval

TW had drafted a paper on this issue following a meeting with IH, MR, KT and himself. IH had produced a list of issues and TW has used this as a basis for the paper.

TW stated that OCC have now agreed to transfer the site, including the parking spaces and garages behind the library following our agreement for the access to 10 Davenport Place. (We have not yet had this in writing from OCC).

We have asked OALC the question that if the CCT enters into a contract which goes wrong and costs more than it can afford, is the PC as Local Authority and Corporate Body responsible for the charity deficit arising from the decision of the Trustee Body?

TW said that the fall back position is that the CCT could sell the building on a 125 year lease.

There is the issue that if the WPC do not take over this transfer then the building would deteriorate and be an eyesore in Watlington.

It was noted that we still have a number of questions that need clarification from our Solicitor on the various leases.

There would need to be a management survey every year on the CCT.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That WPC sign the transfer agreement when all the queries have been answered. That Council accept the Due Diligence Report.

07/18 Short Discussion items

1. **WPC Strategic Plan** – Councillors to be assigned to lead on specific issues.

See attached updated Plan.

This can now be taken off the agenda.

2. **Activities Oxfordshire** – Paper was attached to agenda. The activities were noted.

08/18 Update on on-going issues

1. **33 High Street Wall**– TW said that the issue of the wall was first brought up in Feb 2017. OCC had a survey done by Carillion. The Shadow Body obtained quotes for both rebuilding and mending it. OCC said that it had to be re-built. OCC have now agreed a contractor from the quotes given by the Shadow Group and OCC have said that this should be done soon. This work will be paid for out of the CCT fund.

2. **Air Quality** – IH said he had nothing to report. He is chasing up SODC for the report. It was agreed that we write to Cllr David Dodds, copying in John Cotton and Anna Badcock stating that if this is not received WPC will put in a Freedom of Information request.

3. **Welcome Pack for new residents in Watlington** – TJ said this is on-going. It was noted that this will be important with the 183 new houses allocated to Watlington. This will need a lot of thought.

4. **Comet Bus Service** – Setting up a Community Group – IH said he has nothing to report.

5. **Link with Icknield Community College School Council**- MR reported that the pupils are doing some mock up Parish Council meetings where they will discuss specific issues as an academic exercise in having debates. It was noted that it would be good to have feedback on these.

6. **Chalgrove Solar Park** – IH said he has had a phone call from Black Rock regarding the trench at Brook Street which they have said they will repair. There will be a meeting with them and OCC shortly.

7. **Going Forward Buses** – IH stated that this company who are the operator of the Wallingford Service on three days a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays are looking into increasing this to five days a week as it is proving very successful. Users of the service are very positive. They have also been looking into a service into Henley.

09/18 Correspondence

No correspondence needed discussion.

10/18 To note items for Future Meetings -

1. **Hill Road Car Park – March 2018 Agenda** - A paper will be circulated on all issues.

2. **General Data Protection Regulations** (to be implemented May 2018) – RG is attending an OALC course on this in March.

11/18 Any Other Business to note – Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.58PM