



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7PM ON TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE WEST ROOM

Present:

Councillors:

Nicky Smallbone (NS) – Chair
Brenda Bradford (BB)
Keith Jackson (KJ)
Tim Horton (TH)
Ian Hill (IH)
Isla Woodcock (IW)
Roger Beattie (RB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

In Attendance:

Gill Bindoff (GB) – NPAB

County and District Councillor:

Freddie van Meirlo (FvM)

Press:

Lily Shanagher – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

11

115/23 Apologies for Absence

Steve Bolingbroke, Andy Aherne, James Herridge Leng, Leo Pesci, Denise Mallon, Karyn Buck, Steph Halliwell.

116/23 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

117/23 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11th July 2023 to be agreed and signed as a correct record

One amendment was agreed, Minute 119/E, Discussion with Redrow. The last sentence to be changed to ' This issue will be referred to the next Finance Committee meeting'

Resolved: That with the amendment shown above that these minutes be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of this meeting.

118/23 Matters arising from the Minutes

Boxes by MUGA for Smurfit (Minute 113/23, Letter 383) – NS reported that the designated group met to discuss this, and it was agreed that these industrial metal boxes would be dangerous to children, WTFC are very keen to keep this area clear as it used before matches. It was agreed that she will either need to bring items needed with her or speak to WTFC to see if they can find her some storage space. NS has informed Smurfit of this decision.

119/23 Chairman's Remarks

NS said that there will be a piece on Karyn Buck in our WT page for September and asked for a Councillor to do a piece for October. IW will do this and send to the Clerk.

120/23 Public Questions

A number of WBA members were present and Lorraine Daniels was the spokesperson and said the

following:

As a retail community, we implore the WPC to support the High Street.

A lack of communication on the installation of the EV chargers has left us feeling very disheartened. Especially as we had a meeting in March with some members of the council present where a commitment was made to improve communication. We are in the process of spending a lot of money on marketing to mitigate the damage that will be caused by the edge road. Sadly, none of us can survive on Watlington sales alone, we rely on visitors to keep us here.

Following our meeting with Ian Hill and Keith Jackson 23rd August 2023, We, the High St retailers thought it might be helpful for us to attend this full council meeting to answer any questions that you may have and to check on the progress of the actions called for at that meeting which are as follows.

1. *We requested that the completed installation of the EV charging points be delayed until after Christmas. Ian Hill said he would email SSE, is there a reply?*
IH said that he has spoken to the Contractor and informed SSE that we do not want to see any works carried out until January 2024. However, confirmation has not yet been received from SSE.
2. *We request that large signage from now onwards stating that any vehicle can park in the bays. Is there any legal reason that this cannot be put in place?*
IH stated that only 4 out of the 12 bays will be marked out for purely EV Charging, 2 rapid and 2 fast chargers, the rest will be able to be used by any vehicle. When they are put in there will be ANPR monitoring.
3. *The EV charging points have been put in the 2- hour parking bays that were put in the carpark a few years ago to boost high street parking availability and to ensure that not all the car park was full of residents. When can we expect Reinstatement of the 12 2 -hour bays.*
IH said that there is no reason that this cannot be done, obviously there would be a cost to doing this. He will ask for this to be discussed by the Operations Committee in the first instance.
4. *We also discussed the possibility of introducing parking permits for residents to reduce the number who use it for permanent parking and we would like you as our Parish Council to take this forward for discussion.*
IH this would also be an issue for the Operations Committee to discuss initially.

WPC will regularly keep the WBA informed via Lorraine Daniels.

NS said that Karyn Buck is working on a proposal to improve communications with local organisations and hopefully this will help things improve and move things forward.

TH reported that there will be drainage works which will include a silt drain on the Watcombe Road side and this will help with the mud etc that is currently there, but the works will be carried out after the Christmas period.

GB stated that the Planning Committee have put in a holding objection to the Garage application on Couching Street. The proposal includes a café with 26 seats but only 5 parking spaces.

121/23 County Councillors Report - Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo

- **Proposals for Improved Rural Transport** - Oxfordshire County Council's 2023-24 budget includes £800,000 for the provision of improved rural transport, linking villages with nearby market towns or Oxford. For many communities this will herald a resumption of public transport coverage for the first time since 2016. The proposal has been sent to parish and town councils for their comments. In most cases the services under investigation look to restore previous coverage to communities that have remained largely unserved by public transport following the withdrawal of Oxfordshire's bus subsidy budget in 2016. The proposals for Watlington are to re-introduce the bus to Reading and Thame. There is no guarantee at this stage that they will go ahead.
- **HGV's** – The Atkins Report on weight restriction has been completed and is on the OCC website. FVM said that for clarity it guarantees that where weight restrictions are in place, but issues persist,

this could be investigated further to understand why and to inform any supporting work needed. The removal or amendment of existing weight restrictions is not recommended and as mentioned is not something OCC are considering.

122/23 District Councillors Report - Freddie Van Mierlo

- **£50,000 fund for climate and nature:** SODC is funding a £50,000 grant pot for projects to enhance nature and biodiversity and access to it. Applications for grants between £1000 and £15000 should be made to The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment.
- **5 Year Land Supply** – SODC has lost its exemption to exhibit a 5-year land supply: the reasons being the economic downturn, developers waiting before they build. Another reason is that a large development on Grenoble Road has not yet put in a planning application. There are 20,000 homes in the pipeline but developers are not bringing them forward at this stage so there is shortfall in development. However, Planning Inspectors are giving a lot of weight to Local Plans so speculative development may not get through. A development in Chalgrove did not get permission as the Inspector thought it was inappropriate. The land supply should not have any effect on Watlington as there is sufficient housing being developed.

123/23 To receive the Balance of Accounts, Receipts received and approve the list of Payments to be settled.

NS read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled as per the prescribed process. [These are shown at the bottom of these minutes]

Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts be accepted and the List of Payments be paid and both reports signed by the Chair.

124/23 Committees:

A: FINANCE– There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING 1/8/23 and 5/9/23 – Gill Bindoff

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

Watlington Garage Application – GB reported that the Planning Committee have put in a holding objection to this for a number of reasons including : parking, what consideration has been given to this site being in the Conservation Area, impact on local residents with the garage being open until 10pm, smells, impact of noise with ground source pump and air conditioner units. The principle is supported but much more information is needed.

Redrow Play Areas – comments were sent to them and SODC on these.

Redrow Deed of Easement – This issue has been referred to the Finance Committee. Legal advice from our solicitors is being sought.

C. OPERATIONS – 25/7/2023 Ian Hill

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

SID's – A pole has been installed in Howe Road and this will now be on the SID rotation cycle.

Business Case for Toilet in Recreation – This was circulated to Councillors at the meeting and will be on the next Finance agenda.

Smurfit Notice on MUGA fence – NS will speak to her regarding obtaining WPC permission before notices are put up in this area.

D. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 18/7/23- Nicky Smallbone

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

Pavilion Business Plan – LP and KB will be having a meeting with WTFC and WCC to help them move forward with this.

E. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD – 17/7//2023 – Gill Bindoff

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

F. ALLOTMENTS – 10/7/2023 and 5/9/2023 (not sent)

Resolved: That Council accept the minutes of the 10/7/2023

Allotment Rents for 2023/2024

Resolved: That Council agree to the new allotment pricing structure which sets the basic rent at £20 for plots up to 100m2 and then 10p per m2 above that, rounded to the nearest £1.

Allotment New Fence – A business case for this is being drawn up and will be sent to the Finance Committee for consideration.

G. Edge Road Liaison Group – There has been no meeting

H. Charlotte Coxe Working Group – see attached full paper.

Proposer: Ian Hill, **Seconder:** Nicky Smallbone.

The recommendation was discussed. TH said that this is a radically different proposal to what has previously been discussed. He said that 4-5 trustees with only 1 from Council is not acceptable and a proper balance needs to be struck. He stated that NPAB members contributed to the interest of the CCT but that there is no reason they should automatically be given a slot and he said he did not agree with a FOWL member being a Trustee. He said that he said that there should be consideration given to 6 Trustees with a ratio of 3 from WPC (as otherwise it would be too distant from the WPC) and 3 should be from nominations given with an open competition for members of the community.

NS asked Council whether this should be deferred to the October Full Council meeting. This was agreed by all present.

THE RECOMMENDATION BELOW WAS DEFERRED AND NOT VOTED ON.

RECOMMENDATION : That Full Council resolve to :

1. Oversee the formation of * a “Shadow” group of 4 or 5 Management Trustees with the expertise to negotiate arrangements with OCC and others and to prepare legal, financial and governance proposals for final WPC approval. Management Trustees must act independently of WPC, and it is proposed that only one shadow trustee should be a Councillor (to be selected), that Gill Bindoff be invited to continue her work and that a member of FOWL be invited. Additional expertise in legal / financial / property areas will be required.
2. To commission legal and other advice on behalf of the shadow trustees provided that there is agreement that CCT (in the form of OCC) repay all costs to WPC.

125/23 Project Updates

EV Charging – Ian Hill said that this had been discussed above.

126/23 Consultations

There were none to be considered.

127/23 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

Youth Club – RB said that this would now be re-opening on October 5th. A youth worker has now been appointed.

128/23 Correspondence

Letter 402 - Alice Bignell – enquiry about having a Coffee Van in the Paddock – AB gave out a proposal to members. In summary she would be using the paddock approx. 3 times a week perhaps 10-2pm. She will sell take out coffee as well as the Orange Bakery bread. The van being used is a vintage French converted horsebox which she said would bring a community feel for gatherings in

the paddock. It will also provide an opportunity for young people to work in it during the summer. She is also hoping to expand to other villages and would like it to attend community events. AB said her requirements would be power and the ability use the entrance to the paddock and written permission from WPC to apply for a street licence.

WPC stated that surfacing would need to be put down to not ruin the grass or re-instatement would have to be made. AB to confirm the weight of the vehicle . It was also suggested that she perhaps looks at different times.

After discussion it was:

Resolved: That Council agree in principle. Terms and Conditions, an agreement and cost would need to be drawn up.

This issue will be put on the Finance Committee agenda for the next meeting.
NS will speak to the WBA regarding this.

129/23 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.25PM



Watlington Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Kristina Tynan
Watlington Parish Council
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Watlington
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Summary of WPC Bank Balances for Full Council

Balance on Parish Accounts at 12/9/2023

Barclays Premium A/C	£	168,788.67
Barclays Current A/C	£	2,987.01
Barclays High Interest Bus A/C	£	80,575.70
Barclays Pavilion a/C	£	373.06
Unity Trust	£	125,594.44
Totals	£	<u>378,318.88</u>
Held by WPC for Young People Fund	£	26,654.95

Signature of Chairman:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Snelshue', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

12/9/2023

Payments to be authorised by Watlington Parish Council at Full Council Meeting 12th September 2023											Paid				
DATE	TO WHOM	DETAILS	INCL VAT	VAT	EXCL VAT	Car Park	Spec Proj/NP	Allotment	TH Grant	Operations	Central	Wages	Pub Con	Grants	Power
20/07/2023	HMRC SHIPLEY	Tax and NI	2369.53	0.00	2369.53							2369.53			LGAS112
21/07/2023	WEL MEDICAL LIMITE	Defib pads	143.88	23.98	119.90						143.88				LGAS111
25/07/2023	SurveyMonkeyCore	Annual Subscription	384.00	64.00	320.00						384.00				LGAS111
28/07/2023	CASTLE WATER LTD	Office and Paddock Water	28.43	0.00	28.43						28.43				LGAS111
31/07/2023	ONECOM SVS LIMITED	Tel and Broadband	46.98	7.83	39.15						46.98				LGAS111
01/08/2023	SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE	Business Rates Office	694.00	0.00	694.00						694.00				LGAS111
01/08/2023	SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE	Business Rates Car Park	289.00	0.00	289.00	289.00									RTRAD57
02/08/2023	Staff	Wages	4338.72	0.00	4338.72							4338.72			LGAS112
02/08/2023	VIKING	Office Supplies	56.96	9.49	47.47						56.96				LGAS111
02/08/2023	PLAYDALE PLAYGROUN	Play Equipment Parts	82.56	13.76	68.80					82.56					LGAS111
02/08/2023	PLAYDALE PLAYGROUN	Play Equipment Parts	356.92	59.49	297.43					356.92					PHAS164
02/08/2023	THE PRINT SHOP	NPAB Consultation Printing	150.00	25.00	125.00		150.00								PHAS164
02/08/2023	ADVANCED PEST CONT	Removal Wasp Nest Allotment	54.00	9.00	45.00			54.00							LGAS111
02/08/2023	OLIVER BRAKE	SID Data and moving	80.00	0.00	80.00					80.00					LGAS111
02/08/2023	PELICAN PLUMBING	Public Conv Leak	90.00	0.00	90.00								90.00		PHAS87
03/08/2023	Screwfix	Parts	20.27	0.00	20.27					20.27					LGAS111
03/08/2023	OCC	Comet Bus	47.00	0.00	47.00									47.00	S137
04/08/2023	Barclays	Charges	10.00	0.00	10.00						10.00				LGAS111
07/08/2023	TULU LTD	Porta Loo	130.28	21.71	108.57					130.28					LGAS111
07/08/2023	SHIELD MAINTENANCE	Dog Bin Emptying	103.99	17.33	86.66					103.99					LGAS111
07/08/2023	OLIVER BRAKE	SID Data and moving	110.00	0.00	110.00					110.00					LGAS111
07/08/2023	A CLISSOLD	Various minor works	255.52	0.00	255.52					255.52					LGAS111
07/08/2023	OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY	Staff Pensions	1483.16	0.00	1483.16							1483.16			LGAS112
11/08/2023	SSE	Office Gas	7.82	0.37	7.45						7.82				LGAS111
11/08/2023	Ebay	2nd Monitor KT	57.99	0.00	57.99						57.99				LGAS111
11/08/2023	HUCK NETS UK LIMIT	Parts for repair for Basket Swing	272.28	45.38	226.90					272.28					PHAS164
11/08/2023	SLATTER CRICKET +	Muga Bi Monthly visit	770.00	128.33	641.67					770.00					PHAS164
16/08/2023	SAGE SOFTWARE LTD	SAGE Accounts Monthly DD	54.00	9.00	45.00						54.00				LGAS111
17/08/2023	SAGE GLOBAL SERVIC	SAGE Payroll Monthly DD	9.60	1.60	8.00						9.60				LGAS111
22/08/2023	STAGE CONCEPTS	Staging for Town Hall refunded	498.00	83.00	415.00				498.00						LGASS133
29/08/2023	OLIVER BRAKE	SID Data and moving	90.00	0.00	90.00					90.00					LGAS111
29/08/2023	WISESERVE LTD	Remote Back Up	48.00	8.00	40.00						48.00				LGAS111
29/08/2023	SHIELD MAINTENANCE	Dog Bin Emptying	103.99	17.33	86.66					103.99					LGAS111
29/08/2023	OCC	Comet Bus	188.00	0.00	188.00									188.00	S137
29/08/2023	AZURE HYGIENE	Supplies for Pub Conveniences	50.76	8.46	42.30								50.76		PHAS87
29/08/2023	VIKING	Supplies for Officc	97.16	16.19	80.97						97.16				LGAS111
29/08/2023	RICOH	Photocopier Quarterly	467.31	77.89	389.42						467.31				LGAS111
29/08/2023	WISESERVE LTD	Remote Back Up	48.00	8.00	40.00						48.00				LGAS111
29/08/2023	GRUNDON LTD	Car Park Bin	122.33	20.39	101.94					122.33					LGAS111
29/08/2023	SHIELD MAINTENANCE	Dog Bin Emptying	103.99	17.33	86.66					103.99					LGAS111
29/08/2023	THE LANDSCAPE GROU	Church Grass Cutting	300.00	50.00	250.00									300.00	S137
31/08/2023	ONECOM SVS LIMITED	Tel and Broadband	50.68	8.45	42.23						50.68				LGAS111
01/09/2023	SIMPLY LOGOS AND W	Hi Vis Jackets for VolunTERS	121.20	11.51	109.69					121.20					LGAS111
01/09/2023	SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE	Business Rates Office	694.00	0.00	694.00						694.00				LGAS111
01/09/2023	SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE	Business Rates Car Park	289.00	0.00	289.00	289.00									RTRAD57
02/09/2023	Staff	Wages	4338.72	0.00	4338.72						4338.72				LGAS112
05/09/2023	Barclays	Charges	10.00	0.00	10.00						10.00				LGAS111

05/09/2023	CASTLE WATER LTD	New Direct Debit Office and Paddock	182.97	0.00	182.97								182.97					LGAS111
11/09/2023	SSE	Office Gas	7.81	0.37	7.44								7.81					LGAS111
12/09/2023	Beechwood Estates	Annual Rent	5000.00	0.00	5000.00								5000.00					LGAS111
12/09/2023	TLGO	Grass Cutting July	1564.92	260.82	1304.10							1564.92						LGAS111
12/09/2023	TLGO	Church Grass Cutting July	384.00	64.00	320.00							384.00						LGAS111
12/09/2023	Bookteq	Booking System July and August	120.00	20.00	100.00								120.00					LGAS111
12/09/2023	PLAYDALE PLAYGROUN	Shackles	87.85	14.64	73.21							87.85						PHAS164
12/09/2023	GRUNDON LTD	Car Park Bin	130.31	21.72	108.59	130.31												RTRA057
12/09/2023	Edmoor	Fixing of Outdoor Fitness Piece	600.00	150.00	450.00							600.00						PHAS164
12/09/2023	Elancity	Solar Panel	515.08	85.85	429.23							515.08						LGAS111
12/09/2023	Wallgate	Annual Charge for Wall Units	1197.00	119.50	1077.50									1197.00				LGAS111
12/09/2023	TLGO	Grass Cutting August	1564.92	260.82	1304.10							1564.92						LGAS111
12/09/2023	THE LANDSCAPE GROU	Church Grass Cutting	300.00	50.00	250.00													300.00 S137
Totals			31772.89	1810.54	29962.35	708.31	150.00	54.00	498.00	7440.10	12558.31	8191.41	1337.76	835.00				
Receipts 12th July - 12th September 2023																		
	Pavilion								Parish Council	£								
	Rental of Pavilion	£	88.00						Interest	340.35								
	WTFC		£427.00						MUGA Hire	287.50								
	WSC		£853.82						Loyalty Rewards	0.60								
									West Room	180.00								
									Precept 1/2	73,642.50								
									VAT Return	88,514.49								
									Photocopying	5.00								
									Cont for War M pl	167.40								
									Public Charities	1,000.00								
									Allotment	10.00								
									Chalg Bus Cont	606.50								
	Total	£	1,368.82					Total		164,754.34								

N Saubler

MH-ll