



Notice is hereby given to the Members of Watlington Parish Council that they are summonsed to:

**THE MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD AT 7PM ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 IN THE WEST ROOM**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Nicky Smallbone (NS)- Chair  
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)  
Ian Hill (IH)  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Karyn Buck (KB)  
Andy Aherne (AA)  
Brenda Bradford (BB)  
Denise Mallon (DM)  
Keith Jackson (KJ)

**Via Zoom:** Leo Pesci

**Officer:** Kristina Tynan (KT)

**In Attendance:** Gill Bindoff (GB) – NPAB

01/25 Apologies for Absence  
Sylvia Glover, James Herridge-Leng, Isla Woodcock

02/25 To receive Declarations of Interest  
There were none notified.

03/25 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to be agreed and signed as a correct record  
**Resolved:** That these minutes be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record of this meeting.

04/25 Matters arising from the Minutes  
**Sport and Leisure Strategy and CIL funding for Watlington** (Minute 123/24 D:2 refers)- SB reported that we have received a 3- sided A4 response from Cllr Heritage the Cabinet Member with responsibility for sports and leisure activity. We were unsurprised by the response she had sent which give no commitment to improve anything in Watlington. The second part of her letter related to our CIL grant application for improvements to the Pavilion which was refused due to their being no reference to climate change in our application and suggests we spend our own CIL which we are doing already by 50%t funding the works. SB reported that JHL has now taken this issue over.

Regarding the unhelpfulness of the District Council on various issues, KB said that the Parish Council could have a liaison officer at the Community First Oxfordshire and she would be able to advocate on our behalf. KB will follow this up.

05/25 Chairman's Remarks  
NS reported that she had attended a Leadership Seminar, there were 24 people present some Chairs and some Clerks. She said that she realised that we are doing an amazing job and she is very pleased with herself, the Clerk and all Councillors.

06/25 Public Questions  
There were none notified.

07/25 County Councillors Report  
Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo had sent through a brief written report.

08/25 District Councillors Report -  
Report included in OCC report above.

It was noted that FvM will stand down in May. It was agreed that he has been by far the best District and County Councillor we have had in Watlington in recent years.

**Resolved:** That the Chair send a letter of thanks to FvM for all his work and help he has given to Watlington.

09/25 To receive the Balance of Accounts, Receipts received and approve the list of Payments to be settled.  
SB reported that the dual authorisation on the banks accounts is working out well and it complies with best practice which is great. He has done the bank reconciliations and reviewed the payments made. He read out the Balance of Accounts and stated that we have £417K in the bank and healthy reserves. He proposed that the list of payments be settled. [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 these reports were signed by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

10./25 Committees:

**A: FINANCE** – There has been no meeting

**B: PLANNING** - 7/1/2025 – Gill Bindoff

**Resolved:** That Council accept these minutes

GB said that she had no specific comments to make.

**C. OPERATIONS** – There has been no meeting

**D. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD Group** – There has been no meeting

KB reported that Lee Bowden has agreed to remain as the Chair of the Sports Club. However, they have run into some problems with regard to CASC and VAT issues which are being worked on. They may not make the deadline for the transfer to them 1/4/25 but we will keep driving for this date. The lease for the Sports Club is being drawn up by our lawyers at the moment and we should have this in the next few weeks.

**E. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD** - There has been no meeting

**F. ALLOTMENTS** – 13/1/25 – Minutes will be available for the February Full Council Meeting

11/25 Update from Working Groups if anything to report

**G. Charlotte Coxe** – Still waiting for a date for a meeting with OCC. They still need to sign of the annual accounts and FvM said that the next OCC meeting should make a decision on the future of the CCT.

**H. Traffic and Transport** – SB said that he has had a meeting with some residents who are interested in improving cycleways and footways and suggested that a working group be set up who can review what needs to be done. There are 7-8 footpaths that need looking at.

**Resolved:** That a Cycleway and Footway Working Group be set up. Members to include, Steve Bolingbroke, Gill Bindoff, Alex Jones and Andrew McAuley. It was also agreed that a post be put on Facebook asking for more volunteers to join this group.

**I. Flood Management** – Works to Pyrton Lane have been done. Regarding Church Meadows OCC have said that it is their responsibility which is good news. They will talk to Mike Chadwick from WEG who has information on this. OCC think that they know what works need to be done in both these locations. The OCC officer also met with some local residents to discuss the flooding issues and he seems to be a very useful person.

## J. Arts Spine Project

### Revised Proposal on number of sculptures and locations –

SB reported that In December the working group reviewed the initial proposals from Joseph Hillier and selected the works we wanted to go forward with. In parallel the work to get planning permission, landowner permission and funding have largely stalled and it is unlikely we will be able to deliver the first sculpture for May 2025 and the proposal for the Art5pine has been amended as below to reflect availability of locations and maximise funding for art:

- There will be no sculpture in Hill Road Car Park
- The Art Gallery Phone box in Church Street will not go ahead
- The map/ interpretative Board at the Town Hall will not be installed and we will rely on the QR codes to provide map and background to the project
- The number of waymarking signs will be reduced

The amendment allows us to afford one stainless steel and bronze work and four large ceramic pieces. The works chosen all reflect aspects of Watlington. The target for installation of all works for May 2026 with a grand opening during Art Week. To maintain momentum, it would be preferable to start the work in early 2025 but at present SODC are refusing to release the funding which could delay the project by up to 6 months. SODC are also asking for £3K for legal costs for us to put sculptures on the land in front of the public conveniences and the car park which is very unhelpful as we are developing this as part of a S106 on their behalf.

The art works in this proposal come to £116,000. A total of £123,000 when the cost of the research and design phase already committed is included. SB has confirmed these prices with Joseph Hillier. Watlington PC will be paying for any related landscaping, legal work, insurance, maintenance etc. from CIL and annual budgets as agreed at our December 2024 meeting. Section 106 payments already agreed from Bloor and Redraw will come to £114,400. With indexation and the additional dwellings on the Redraw site, we estimate the total receipts will be about £123,000.

**Resolved:** That the amendment to the Arts Spine Project be agreed as above.

SB was thanked for all his work on this project,

## K. EV Project

IH reported that the TTRO is in place for the works to begin on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. CCTV has been installed and is just waiting for the electricity connection. An on-line set up to view the footage will need be set up in the office.

IH has done a leaflet drop informing residents of this work.

## L. Mains Drainage to Pavilion Project

IH said that this work is going well and the final installation and septic tank removal will be done towards the end of next week. Part of the hedge between the Rec and the Allotments had to be removed and new hedging and a fence will need to be put up and this will be agreed with the Allotment Chairs.

IH was thanked for all his work on this project.

## 12/25 Habitual or Vexatious Complaints policy

**Resolved:** That this policy be agreed and accepted.

## 13/25 Consultations

**1. OCC –** Seeking our views on the proposal to introduce a 30mph speed limit on the B480 Cuxham Road in Watlington, replacing a 400-metre length of the current 50mph speed limit north of the roundabout junction with Willow Close in the process.

**Resolved:** That WPC agree to this proposal

**2.The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has recently**

issued a consultation on local government standards, to which NALC will be responding. NALC has accordingly published and produced the following standards sector survey ( ) to help inform its response.

We would be grateful if your council would complete this to help inform NALC's response by 23:45 on 2nd February 2025. Alternatively, you could respond directly to the consultation at [Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England - Scope of this consultation - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

**Resolved:** That SB sends in a WPC response to this.

14/25 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

**Community Ball Event** – KB reported that there is a clash on the agreed date of 21/6/2024 and a new date will be agreed shortly.

15/25 Correspondence- see attached list

[Please let the office know if you want a copy of a specific letter]

**Letters that need discussion**

**658) Highway Engagement Feedback Form** – request to complete survey- Some Councillors have sent in their responses.

**668) Gigaclear update:** Initial works to begin over the course of the coming weeks- Noted

**671) OCC National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey 2024-25-** Councillor to do this as individuals if they wish to do so.

**676) Gravy & Custard** – Catering Agreement for Midsummer Barn Dance 21.06.25 – Deferred until a new date has been agreed for this event.

16/25 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

**My Watlington** – KB reminded Councillors that the leaflets will need to be stuffed with vouchers and asked that anyone who is free at 6pm on Wed 29<sup>th</sup> January help do this in the Parish Office.

**Complaint from Cuxham Resident-** This has been discussed with the Monitoring Office who is not taking any action on this.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.10PM**

**BANK ACCOUNTS**

	At <u>Dec month End</u>	<u>1</u>
Bank - Current A/C	2,413	
Bank - High Interest Account	82,073	
Bank - Business Premium Account	190,172	
Pavilion and Sport Field Account	0	
Unity Trust Bank Account	125,522	
Total Bank Accounts	<u>400,180</u>	<u>—</u>
Other balance sheet items	17,743	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>417,923</u></u>	



*Chair - 29/1/25*



