



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 10th MAY 2022 IN THE WEST ROOM

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR) – Chairman
Ian Hill (IH) – Vice Chairman
Tim Horton (TH)
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Andrew McAuley (AM)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

County Councillor:

Freddie van Meirlo

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock

60/22 Election of Chairman

Steve Bolingbroke nominated Matt Reid, and this was seconded by Andrew McAuley. There were no other nominations.

Resolved unanimously: That Matt Reid be elected as Chairman.

61/22 To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of Office

MR signed the 'declaration of acceptance of office' form.

62/22 Apologies for Absence

Margaret Noon, Terry Jackson, Rob Smith, Alex Basden, Gill Bindoff.

63/22 To receive Declarations of Interest

Steve Bolingbroke declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 15 d, Zebra Crossing at Brook Street as the proposed crossing would be outside his house and did not vote on this item.

64/22 Election of Vice-Chairman

Matt Reid proposed Steve Bolingbroke, and this was seconded by Ian Hill. There were no other nominations.

Vote: 5 in favour, 1 against.

Resolved: That Steve Bolingbroke be elected as Vice-Chairman

65/22 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12th and 26th April 2022 to be agreed and signed as a correct record

There was one amendment, Meeting on 26th April, Minute 62/22, 3, WPC stance on Chalgrove Airfield. SB voted against this, so the decision was not unanimous.

Resolved: That with the change above, these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and will be signed by the Chairman.

66/22 Matters arising from the Minutes

Queens Platinum Jubilee Community Event (Minute 59/22 refers) – MR reported that Watlington Band and the Choir cannot get enough people provide the entertainment. The local residents who had offered to put on a bar and cake stall no longer wish to do so without the entertainment. So now we are working with the PTA to put on a community event. The WBA are putting up bunting in the town.

TH reported that he will be putting on an exhibition on the 4th and 5th June in the Town Hall which will look at Watlington in the 1950's.

EV Charging Points – SB reported that we have had notification that we have been awarded a grant of £65K which is the maximum possible for this project. SB stated that when we have a target date, we will put out publicity about this.

67/22 Chairman's Report– Matt Reid

MR said it has been an exceptional year in that we are now very low on member numbers, and we will need to have some serious recruitment for new Councillors.

68/22 Public Questions

There were none notified.

69/22 To appoint Statutory Bodies

Each committee terms of reference need to be reviewed at the first meeting of each committee.

A **STRATEGY** (8 Parish Councillors)- Andrew McAuley, Matt Reid, Steve Bolingbroke, Margaret Noon, Terry Jackson.

B **PLANNING** (Min of Eight Parish Councillors) – Andrew McAuley, Matt Reid, Terry Jackson, Alex Basden, Rob Smith, Ian Hill
Co-opted Councillors: Gill Bindoff, Tony Powell

C **FINANCE** (Max of Eight Parish Councillors) – Matt Reid, Steve Bolingbroke, Ian Hill

D **OPERATIONS** (Min of 6 Parish Councillors) Ian Hill, Roger Beattie, Terry Jackson, Alex Basden, Rob Smith.

E **ALLOTMENTS** (2 Parish Councillors)- Ian Hill, Roger Beattie

F **PAVILION AND SPORT FIELD** (4 Parish Councillors)- Matt Reid, Steve Bolingbroke, Alex Basden, Margaret Noon.

G **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD** (4 Parish Councillors, 6 co-opted)- Andrew McAuley, Steve Bolingbroke, Terry Jackson

To Note Working Group:

INTERFACE GROUP - Andrew McAuley, Matt Reid, Ian Hill

70/22 Representatives to other Bodies:

Current representatives shown in brackets.

1. **“Support Fund” and “The Watlington Public Charities” Trustees** - to appoint 1 representative (Mr Barber to serve until May 2022)

The letter from Robert Barber was noted. Robert Barber has served as a parish council appointed trustee of the Watlington Charities since 2001 most of that time as chair or vice-chair and his term of office ends this month. WPC has already appointed Rob Smith as one of the WPC appointed trustees. The trustees had reached out to the wider community community for applicants as 3 trustees will be leaving. They had very good response to this which led to a strong shortlist and Eric Join has now joined. RBr said that they have identified some other suitable contenders. Their AGM takes place on Tuesday 5th July (to which the public are invited) and asked that his replacement's tenure is delayed until then.

TH stated that the trustees have an important role in managing open land.

Resolved: That we ask Robert Barber for the short list from which we could appoint a trustee from after their AGM has take place.

2. **Watlington Education Foundation** – Margaret Noon

3. **Friends of Watlington Library** – Margaret Noon

4. **Representative for Youth Club** –Roger Beattie, Margaret Noon

5. **Charlotte Coxe Trust Body Interim Group** – Matt Reid, Terry Jackson, Tim Horton, Roger Beattie, Ian Hill

6. **Icknield Community College** –Margaret Noon

7. **Parish Transport Representatives** – Ian Hill, Tim Horton

8. **Town Hall Charity Trustee Body** - Tim Horton, Ian Hill, Terry Jackson, Matt Reid. More members would be welcome.

71/22 County Councillors Report - Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo- His monthly update had been emailed to all Councillors.

Tree Policy – FvM stated that there has been a significant change in this policy. Where trees need to be felled, two more must be planted. OCC have not allocated any additional money. However, there may be some CIL and development funding that could be used. There will be a budget for next year and more tree officers will be needed.

Pyrton Lane – FvM reported that these works should start on August 5th.

Edge Road – There will be meeting on Friday 27th May with Duncan Enright, Harbi and Duncan Steward and WPC and Pyrton Council representatives. FvM said that he is 100% confident that the edge road will go ahead but the timing is unsure. It ws stated that WPC and SODC wanted the road to be built before the housing, but the appointment of the engineer continues to slip. The Growth Fund grant has to be spent before April 2023.

Chalgrove Airfield – WPC continues to oppose this and FvM has spoken to Cllr Liz Leffman who is also opposed to this, and she has spoken to Homes England who will be putting in another planning application. She had concerns about deliverability of projects in terms of infrastructure.

Road Closure B481- There is a closure in place for a week from the 13th May. However, he did not think that it will be closed for the whole time. The contractors should be giving updates.

TH stated that the current road closures including the two current ones in Watlington and said that this is affecting our businesses in the town and thinks that they should ask for a temporary reduction in business rates as a collective but obviously this would be a SODC issue. He said that there seems to be no co-ordination of road closures at OCC. FvM stated that he is unhappy with the way OCC handle road closures and there seems to be a lot of problems especially with communication with residents and he has asked residents for evidence. FvM will be writing to the Chief Executive asking for enforcing/control for contractors to do the road closures properly. KT reported that a wall of a resident on Shirburn Road was driven into and knocked down due to contractors putting signage in an incorrect place and which a lorry could not get through.

72/22 District Councillors Report -Cllr Anna Badcock

Debt and Housing issues – AB said that after 9-10 years of not having many of these issues now there are quite a few residents who have needed help with both of these. A lot of them being Covid related.

Planning – AB stated that it is good to see the problems with development in Pyrton and Watlington being resolved and congratulated Watlington on this. She said Emma Bowerman who is the officer on the local developments is a great asset and that SODC are lucky to have her.

District Councillor Grant – AB reported that she has helped the Watlington Allotments with a community shed; Wild Oxfordshire for hedgerow schemes in the ward; First Steps Family Hub with equipment and Rainbow Nursery for outdoor play equipment.

Waste – AB said that there have been new operatives and it can be hard initially for them to know how to access some properties. It is very important to contact Biffa if there has been a missed collection and their response is great and they will usually come back to empty the bins.

SODC Relocation – AB reported that WPC may already be aware that SODC has taken advantage of an opportunity to vacate the offices at Milton Park a little earlier than planned. The lease will end this autumn and a project is already underway to identify suitable, cost-effective interim accommodation that will meet our current needs now we've adapted to flexible and remote working and will bridge the gap between leaving Milton Park and moving into permanent offices. Plans have been drawn up for a new Headquarters building on the 'Didcot Gateway'.

KT stated that it is impossible at present to speak to any officers which can be very frustrating. AB said that it is also hard for her to contact them.

5 Year Land Supply – SODC are required to build x amount of housing each year and at the moment SODC are in arrears of this and can lead to developers using this to build contentious development if the Inspector rules in favour of them doing this due to a lack of land supply. This is always a concern, the Chair of Scrutiny, has requested a full and thorough review into the Council's preparation for Appeals and the approach taken to review the 5 Year Land Supply. This work remains on plan and the report should come to Scrutiny in July. The findings of the report will help bolster the Council's case at Appeal. Whilst the Council is confident that our figures are correct, there can be no doubt that CoVID19 delayed progress for many developers and this can, and in some areas has, impacted some authorities' land supply. SODC have written to the Secretary of State pointing out that this situation can result in an unfair, and 'manufactured' bias in favour of developers, but the responses have not been promising.

AB was asked to find out how many houses SODC are short of at the present time. Regarding the Local Plan 2011 a lot of housing was allocated to Didcot and the house builders were frustrated as they did not want to build there so said they could not afford to build in this location, and this has led to decreased number of housing as they will wait and build in areas, they can make more profit. AB said that she could ask a few Planning Officers to come to Watlington and speak to WPC on this issue.

As regards the WMDP, it was noted that Watlington have exceeded their allocated housing number and a review is taking place on the NP working on what is in the current Local Plan.

In the recent Queen's speech it was noted that there will more say in the design of building which is hugely encouraging.

Parking Enforcement - the County Council has now taken over traffic enforcement from the Police, effective from the 1st November 2021.

73/22 To receive the Balance of Accounts, Receipts received and approve the list of Payments to be settled.

TH read out the Balance of Accounts and proposed that the list of payments be settled as per the prescribed process. The receipts were also noted of which one payment was CIL. There are few significant payments for the tree work and the grass cutting.

Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts and the List of Payments be settled and that they be signed by the Chairman and the Vice- Chair of Finance.

These are shown at the end of these minutes.

74/22 Committees:

A: FINANCE—There has been no meeting,

Queens Platinum Jubilee Community Event

Resolved: That Council give a grant of up to £500 for this Community Event from the "Miscellaneous" budget line item.

It was noted that we should be planning more for community events and there should be a budget item in all years for community events.

B: PLANNING 3/5/2022- Andrew McAuley

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

C: STRATEGY – There has been no meeting.

D. OPERATIONS – 21/4/22– Ian Hill

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

Watlington Drainage and Brook

Resolved: That Council agree with the proposal outlined and which is shown at the end of the Operation Minutes.

Zebra crossing on Brook Street

Resolved: That WPC ask OCC to consider a pedestrian crossing in this location.

E. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD –25/4/2022 - Matt Reid-

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

MR said that the clubs are working slowly on the idea of taking over the pavilion.

F. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD – 11/4/2022

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

G. ALLOTMENTS –4/4/2022 - Ian Hill/ Roger Beattie

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

RB said that the water upgrade has been done but has left the 'road' a bit higher and this is being looked at. They have a plant sale coming up and have received grants for a community shed and a compostable toilet.

H. INTERFACE WORKING GROUP –Matt Reid

MR reported that there have been discussions about closing off Pyrton Lane for works. There will be 2 representative from Pyrton at the upcoming meeting with OCC.

I. CHARLOTTE COXE SHADOW BODY

FvM said that there has been a first meeting of the Charlotte Coxe Trust at OCC and elected a chair, Geoff Saul who is a lawyer. The committee approved the following:

a) Permit Watlington Parish Council ("the Parish Council") to use volunteers to carry out decorating and garden renovation work at 33 High Street, provided that other work is handled by professional contractors.

(b) Authorise Oxfordshire County Council ("the County Council") to grant a 12-month tenancy of the property at a peppercorn rent to Watlington Parish Council which allows the Parish Council to sublet the property to refugees, provided that the Parish Council takes on full responsibility for repair during the term of the tenancy and any profit the Parish Council makes from subletting is returned to the Trust.

The library will be further discussed by the CCT Committee at the next meeting. They also invited WPC to present their case to take over the Trust. Some officers had concerns about this and they

need to have a lot of confidence that WPC can take this on and meet the objectives of the Trust and the legal obligations. There is also an option that WPC representatives could become trustees of the current trust or that OCC could become trustees if the Trust came to WPC. TH stated that he could not believe that OCC would renege on an undertaking given to WPC 10 years ago.

CCT Interim Shadow Body – MR reported that the water has now been reconnected. There are discussions on the lease, tenancy agreement taking place and we need to obtain our own legal advice on whether we are allowed to do this as a PC and that councillors could not be sued. The current works are being underwritten by Jeremy Irons and there is a letter of comfort being drawn up by his solicitor. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That we obtain our own legal opinion on the various matters above and a spend of up to £1000 was agreed.

There will then be a meeting of the CCT Shadow Body.

75/11 How can WPC attract New Councillors – Discussion

Due to lack of time this was deferred.

76/22 Councillors Motions

2. Motion to join the CAT directory – Proposer Terry Jackson

Whilst discussing climate change with other groups and parishes there has been a wish expressed that we should be able to share our process and actions with each other. To this end The Centre for Alternative Technology has created this opportunity. I propose that we should add ourselves to this community of sharing information. This would be an opportunity that works in two directions – we could share our excellent Climate Action Plan created by Steve Bolingbroke with insights of where he got his information but conversely, we would be enabled to look at how other councils and groups are working and adopt their methods where we think they help.

The Centre for Alternative Technology hosts this directory through its Zero Carbon Britain Hub and Innovation Lab (www.cat.org.uk/zcb) and takes no responsibility whatsoever for any information or advice shared between people contactable via this directory. Our privacy notice is here: <https://cat.org.uk/privacy-notice/>

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Og_Hiln7OESaXUPwLwun_FRmOdSEhHVMhkUTO0e5ALRUMzBVWjhHME9CUDU5VFROVjZSQ0FGNEhQSSQIQCN0PWcu

TJ had emailed more information to members.

Resolved unanimously: That we do not join the CAT directory.

It was noted that other groups or individuals may wish to join it.

77/22 Consultations

There were no consultations that needed discussion.

78/22 Correspondence for Information – List Attached

All correspondence was noted.

79/22 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

There were no reports from other bodies

80/22 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

To note any other matters raised by Members of the Council

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35PM



Watlington Parish Council

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Barclays Bank PLC

Please provide balance on Parish Accounts as at close of business
On 9/5/2022

Barclays Premium A/C	£	412,125.40 CR	(CIL: £277,332.65)**
Barclays Current A/C	£	2,647.44 CR	
Barclays High Interest Bus A/C	£	80,018.46 CR	
Barclays Pavilion Account	£	5,444.80 CR	
TOTALS	£	<u>£500,236.10 CR</u>	

Account held by WPC for the
Young People Fund

£ 26,540.88

Signature of Chairman:

Date: 10th May 2022

** CIL Money will be moved to Unity Trust Bank

