



Minutes of the 'Remote' Meeting of Full Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2020 at 7PM (Meeting Ref: 941-841-898)

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR) – Chairman
Ian Hill (IH) – Vice Chairman
Nicky Smallbone (NS)
Andrew McAuley (AM)
Keith Woolfson (KW)
Tim Horton (TH)
Alex Basden (AB)
Rob Smith (RS)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Nick Hancock (NH)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

County Councillor:

Steve Harrod (SH)

Members of the Public:

Peter Richardson (PR)

Allotment Committee Members:

Gerald Short (GS), Fergus Lapage (FL)

46/20 Apologies for absence

Terry Jackson.

47/20 Chairman's Remarks

MR said that there are some positives coming out of the COVID 19 pandemic especially as regards nature and the environment and that that there is a cause for hope for unifying communities. There is also a better sense of connectivity to older people.

48/20 To receive Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 11a – KW declared an interest in this as he is the Chairman of WTFC and will not vote on this issue.

49/20 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th March 2020 to be agreed and signed as a correct record

There was one change agreed. Minute 44/20 -page 14, to change the paragraph on Watlington Town Football Club- to 'TH said that he has noticed that WTFC 1st Team has reached the final of the Charity Cup which is one of the best achievements for the club in recent years. The Reserves have also reached a cup final. KW said the Final will take place on 18th April. WPC wish them well and congratulate them on a great achievement'.

KW reported that neither final has now taken place of course, and all matches cancelled, and results expunged.

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

50/20 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none other than agenda items.

51/20 Update on COVID 19 and Watlington – Matt Reid

MR said that regular updates are put on the Facebook Page. He gave a brief update of what the Parish Council have done. The Emergency Plan was updated with an addendum for COVID 19. There are over 100 volunteers and there are street co-ordinators allocated to each street to liaise with the volunteers. These are all doing fantastic work. The office sends out weekly updates by email to these volunteers. There is a switchboard in place which connects people to an agent or to the Shops' representatives. The arrangements were put in place very quickly and Watlington had a system up and ready very quickly. Each volunteer has a unique number and has been asked three security questions so residents needing help can have them identified by the Parish Office. All shops that are open are taking payments over the phone and are doing deliveries. The Co-op are also now doing this. Some of our volunteers are helping with deliveries from the shops and the Pharmacy. We have also allocated 10 volunteers to help the Surgery with oxygen tests when needed. MR said that the whole community is now engaged, and our self-isolators and vulnerable people are being taken care of. There have been specific requests for telephone calls for a chat and the Parish Office have identified people to do this. MR said that everything is in place, but changes may be needed if there are further waves of the pandemic. We have been contacted via Shield by the District Council regarding vulnerable people and these are allocated to volunteers. MR said he had concerns about possible financial implications as this situation goes on, but we are lucky in having the Watlington Support Fund who can financially help people in trouble. He thanked Kristina and Rachel for the amazing work they have been doing regarding the volunteers and community support and keeping the parish office running.

52/20 Public Questions

There were none notified.

53/20 County Councillors Report - Cllr Stephen Harrod

SH said that he is not sending out reports at the moment but passing on information regarding the COVID 19 situation and OCC.

OCC Funding - He reported that there is a shortfall with the Government funding. OCC needs £64M but OCC has received £27M and this will mean making some tough decisions on services long term. MR said this is disappointing news.

PPE – OCC are being very active and are supporting local providers in obtaining this equipment and are looking into more sourcing locally. The supply situation is still tight, but Oxfordshire is getting by and are monitoring the situation daily.

Proposed Development at Harrington – SH said he would like to get SODC's views on this. He said that OCC are against this development as it does not seem at all sustainable and not a good location for workers as it is on the wrong side of the motorway for stations etc. SH stated that it is likely that Chalgrove will be raised again and it is still in the Local Plan. The Developers are still trying to get Harrington to be in the Local Plan. An Environmental Impact Statement is being done at the moment and the Developer may put in a planning application in June. The Government will want to promote local economies.

Edge Road – SH reported that he was trying to have a face to face meeting with OCC Officers with regard to this but with the COVID 19 situation this is not going to happen anytime soon. A Consultant to do an ecological survey has been commissioned and this will feed into the optioneering works. He said he has been assured that the views of residents will be taken into account. There will be a Consultation after the feasibility study. SH stated that he has stressed to Officers that Plan B is a non-starter and is contrary to the Local Plan and how opposed the Watlington residents are and this is now on the record.

AM said that when we had a meeting with OCC on the 31/1/2020 they said that they would inform us when the Consultant was approached and that there would be another meeting with WPC

representatives. We were also assured that we would be given the scope of works. He asked if this meeting could be held remotely. SH will ask Officers with regard to a meeting and will ask them to send out the scope of works. AM said he would appreciate WPC receiving this document. RS asked when the Consultation would take place and SH said that it would happen probably in the 4th quarter of the year. The Consultant will only give his opinions and they will carry some weight. SH stated that this is a necessary step that OCC need to take so they can say they have considered all options and can show proof of this. TH thanked SH personally for the strong position he has taken on Option B of the Edge Road.

Charlotte Coxe Transfer – IH said that WPC are waiting to hear from our Solicitor as to whether the terms of the new agreement addresses the problems we have. IH will chase our Solicitor up.

54/20 District Councillors Report - Cllr Anna Badcock
It was noted that AB has been unwell but is recovering.

55/20 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. The receipts were also noted. *(This information is attached as an addendum to these minutes).*
Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts and the List of Payments be settled and that they be signed by the Chairman and the Chair of Finance when it is possible to do so.

56/20 Committees:
A: FINANCE – Nicky Smallbone
There has been no meeting.

COVID 19, Furloughing of Staff – This was discussed, and it was:
Resolved: That WPC do not furlough any staff members.

B: PLANNING –7/4/2020 – Andrew McAuley
Resolved: That Council accept these Minutes

P20/S0866/LB and P20/SO865/HH Barley Mow Cottage, 13 High Street, Watlington
AM said that at the Committee meeting it was agreed to not object. However, the day after the meeting more information had been received on this and the Committee agreed to withdraw the above comments and to re determine this once a site visit can take place. This has been agreed with the Planning Officer. At the moment there is a target date of the 5/5/2020 and if this cannot be extended the committee will have a remote meeting regarding these applications.

Planning Committee responses to SODC and OCC

Resolved: That Council note the below 2 points.

1. To note our response to Emily Hamerton and Paula Fox with reference to the planning process during Covid-19
- 2 To note our response to Susan Halliwell in response to the Bloor Planning Applications for discharge of conditions on Site A.

Councillors received the two responses by email.

C: STRATEGY - - Nick Hancock

There has been no meeting and NH said that this is not the time to deliberate on things going forward and said that Strategy Meetings will be suspended for the time being. NH stated that WPC keep loading additional work on the office and we need to assess how long things can continue the way they are doing so.

D. OPERATIONS – Ian Hill

There has been no meeting. It was agreed that there will be a remote meeting held on Wed 29th April.

E. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – There has been no meeting

1. Discussion on WTFC and WCC rent for the Pavilion during Lockdown – Decision to be made
KT reported that SODC have emailed her saying that the Pavilion is eligible for a grant because of the current COVID 19 situation. It was agreed that this item be deferred until we know more about this grant.

F. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD - There has been no meeting.

There will need to be plenty of action as the Local Plan moves to examination.

G. ALLOTMENTS – There has been no meeting

1. Application for installation of a standpipe in the Allotment for a plot holder – this was attached to the agenda.

NS said that the water pipes are very small and old and water pressure is not good. It was noted that there was a recent leak which has been repaired. The Allotment Committee had discussed at their last meeting to look at the cost of installing larger pipes and extending the coverage to the whole allotment. NS said she had no idea what the cost could be.

It was agreed that this be looked at and quotes to be obtained. The Clerk will seek these, and then further discussion can take place on this at the next FC Meeting.

GS the applicant spoke on this and stated that his application for a single standpipe would only use 2-3 gallons of water per day as the water is used for a misting system which does not need a lot of water. TH said that in the late 1980's there was only one standpipe for the whole of the allotments. FL who is on the Allotment Committee also spoke and each Councillor then commented on it in turn before it was voted on: **VOTE:** 6 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

CARRIED

It was agreed with the applicant that if there are any water pressure issues that he turns the standpipe down or off. The Allotment Committee will be informed of this decision.

57/20 Correspondence for Information

List was attached to the Agenda. No letters needed discussion.

58/20 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

British Legion – TH reported that there will be no VE celebrations on the 8th May and they will be looking into moving any celebrations to VJ day. TH said that they are looking into asking people to make or colour in bunting and/or flags and putting them in their window on 8th May. KT will put this information on Facebook.

59/20 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

Airband – They are sending our residents more information as they need 50+ to sign up.

Co-op – It was noted that they are doing an excellent service of delivering to neighbouring parishes and properties on the outskirts of Watlington.

Covid 19 Volunteers – TH said that there is so much good work being done that we should contact BBC Oxford and do a press release. The Clerk said that there would be coverage in the Henley Standard this week about Watlington.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50PM