



MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 11th APRIL 2023 IN THE WEST ROOM

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR) – Chairman
Ian Hill (IH)
Andrew McAuley (AM)
Brenda Bradford (BB)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Tim Horton (TH)
Alex Basden (AB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

County Councillor:

Freddie van Mierlo (FVM)

In Attendance:

Gill Bindoff – NPAB

53/23 Apologies for Absence

Rob Smith, Margaret Noon.

54/23 To receive Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 10 [P23/S1057/LB](#) and [P23/S1055/FUL](#) -Age Concern Drop-in-centre 33 High Street Watlington.

Ian Hill declared an interest in these applications, as he had been closely involved with these applications. Matt Reid declared an interest as he has been closely involved in the 'Watlington Welcomes' group to house a refugee family in this property. However it was noted that they did not have a prejudicial interest that would restrict them for voting on this.

55/23 Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on 14th March 2023 to be agreed and signed as a correct record

Phoenix Players Coronation Event (Minute 45/23 refers) - The following amendment to the minutes was agreed ' The WPC were keen to underwrite this event so that the ticket price for this event could be reduced for the community population and that the end of year figures be looked at to determine the amount that can be underwritten'

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

56/23 Matters arising from the Minutes

Freight Consultation – It was agreed that the WPC will send in a response, albeit after the deadline. MR will draft an email with emphasis on maintaining the current 7.5 tonne limit and that there is no additional heavy traffic. A copy to be sent to FvM.

Watlington Library - MR reported that he has met with Philip Pinney from FOWL to discuss the library services and that there may be unseen costs once the transfer takes place. There has never been a rent payment for the Library as OCC managed the Trust and this needs looking into.

57/23 Chairman's Remarks– Matt Reid

MR thanked everyone for all their work over the last 8 years. A lot has been achieved even though parish councils do work slowly. There is much to be done over the next few years.

58/23 Public Questions

There were none notified.

59/23 County Councillors Report - Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo – *his report had been sent to all Councillors*

FvM reported on the following issues:

OCC new NHS deal: OCC reached a new deal with the NHS that will save OCC nearly £5m a year. OCC pools resources with the NHS in order to deliver social care and mental health services in a coordinated way. However, a review of how costs are apportioned to each organisation has meant OCC will reduce its liabilities in the agreement. The agreement will allow OCC to focus funding on its responsibilities while also allowing OCC and the NHS to continue to cooperate into the future.

Cost of living measures agreed for 23/24: A range of measures, totalling £9.5m, to support residents with the cost of living was agreed by cabinet for 2023/2024. The measures are funded mostly through national grants, but with £2.3m contribution from OCC. National government funding does not cover the full range of measures that councils are encouraged to take. The measures include, council tax support, practical support for those leaving hospital, and significant funding for children in receipt of free school meals during school holidays. A new Local Crisis Fund (administered by district councils) has also been established, which will support people during periods of financial crisis.

Boundary review: OCC has submitted to the boundary commission its suggestions for new county division boundaries (passed unanimously at Full Council). The Commission's consultation will close 9 May. The Commission will then develop its recommendations and consult on draft proposals 1 Aug- 9 Oct 2023. Watlington and Chalgrove will be separate entities due to ward numbers having to be equal (data submitted by SODC) and other parishes will be added to both the Watlington and Chalgrove wards.

Councillor priority fund: Applications to the fund will reopen in April 2023.

20mph for Watlington – one amendment was made to the consultation map: the 20mph on the Britwell Road was adjusted, 20 mph will begin before Harman's Way.

Red Kite View – Residents have been asking when the footpath to Cuxham Road will be opened. This has been delayed pending a report from the tree officers at OCC. They have finalised a report valuing 3 Silver Birch trees. However, Section 280 facilitates tree work needed for a footpath so these trees will get felled. It is OCC's policy to plant 2 trees for every tree that is cut down and these will be planted nearby where appropriate. This would be done in the next planting season. Once this issue is sorted out the footpath should be opened.

Thames Water High Street Road Closure– Works to install water in 33 High Street- They have 5 days to do this work and no work has yet started. The closure signs are up but no work is happening. The local businesses are worried about the weekend.

Residents falling into brook on Brook Street - KT and IH are meeting with Jon Beale, OCC Highways on site tomorrow.

TH asked about the Waste Site at Oakley Wood and asked if there are grounds to improve this site. FvM said that there would be a consultation on this coming out soon.

TH also asked if Highways may consider greater attention of the total resurfacing of roads. FvM said that short stretches may be considered as long stretches are planned 2-3 years in advance. and he asked that TH submit a list to him which he can send to OCC officers to consider. At present it costs £45M a year to maintain Oxfordshire roads at the current level and only £15M is Government funded. OCC borrowed £80M 4-5 years ago but this will run out in 2025. However

Cookley Green and Howe Road were resurfaced last year so there have been some works in Watlington. This will be further discussed by the Operations Committee prior to submitting a list to FvM.

Britwell Sweep – FvM said he had sent an email to AM and MR on this. (Letter 355)

60/23 District Councillors Report - Cllr Anna Badcock

There was no report received. MR thanked her for her service over the last four years.

61/23 To receive the Balance of Accounts, Receipts received and approve the list of Payments to be settled.

MR 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 and the List of Payments be settled.

It was noted that we are still awaiting the final grant payment for the MUGA from SODC. KT has contacted them regarding this.

62/23 Committees:

A: FINANCE – There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING – 27/3/23 and 4/4/2023- MR

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

To consider the following applications, which have been referred from the Planning Committee P23/S1057/LB and P23/S1055/FUL

Age Concern Drop-in-centre 33 High Street Watlington OX49 5PZ

Proposed alterations to existing house and construction of a new community room on land attached to rear.

No Objection in principle. The Planning Committee voted to defer these two applications to Full Council whilst the outcome of a community survey on the need for the additional building was evaluated.

Applicable WNDP Policies:

P1 Protect and Enhance the Character of Watlington and the historic Setting of the Town
WPC has no objection to this application. This cottage forms part of the Charlotte Cox Trust and it is therefore, important that this listed building be brought back into a habitable state that will give it longevity. The internal design and alterations will result in a modest three-bedroom cottage that is sympathetic to the nature of the building's listing. The external appearance of the building will not be altered and therefore, there is no detrimental impact on the street scene along High Street or the Watlington Conservation Area. The addition of a community room in the land to the rear of the cottage will provide an asset that can be used for by various community groups. The low-level design of the building ensures that its impact on the Conservation Area and the views from the adjacent lane are limited.

MR stated that the Planning Committee felt that it would be sensible to discuss this at Full Council as there were only three Councillors at the Planning Committee as well as two co-opted members.

GB said that the consultation on the Community Survey would not be finished until the 15th April and it was an NP Consultation on the scheme, not on the Planning Consultation and there had been a Locality Grant to obtain the surveys necessary and for an architect to draw up plans. Locality required a community survey and this is what is being done. It was not done as part of the planning application as residents can post their comments on line as usual. However she reported that to date she had received 12 responses to the NPAB consultation and that they all objected to the proposed new community room. None of the responses had given any material planning objections

It was noted that when the CCT is transferred to Watlington Parish Council, a Trust Body will then be established and they will then discuss how they want to move forward and what scheme they want to go ahead. The Planning Application and the surveys done will give them a good starting point to move things forward and there will be three years to consider the proposals.

AM stated that there is nothing from a planning perspective to object to and the Planning Committee recommend approving it.

Vote: 4 in favour, 1 objection, 2 abstentions

NO OBJECTION

Redrow Applications B and C – The Planning Committee had sent comments on this to SODC but due to the Elections the SODC Planning Committee will not consider these application until June.

C. OPERATIONS- 23/2/2023 – Ian Hill

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

IH reported that he had no matters to raise from the minutes.

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

MR stated that we are now in the fallback position with the budget to the PSFC reduced to £5K. He said that he is hopeful for the future as the Clubs are putting on more events to raise funds to cover the shortfall.

E. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD – 20/3/2023

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

GB reported that there will be a follow up meeting with local businesses as the NPAB are following up some issues raised at the last meeting.

F. ALLOTMENTS – There has been no meeting.

RB stated that the committee is being very active and the next meeting will be held on the 25th April. An inspection visit of plots will take place on the 23rd April. Inspections are done every 6 months.

G. INTERFACE Working Group–Matt Reid

MR stated that over the last two years this body comprising of parish councillors from Watlington and Pyrton have been working together on the edge road proposals. He said it will be important to re-establish this group after the election to discuss the edge road route when the planning application by OCC is submitted. MR said that he does not think OCC has arranged a sufficient land take for PYR 2 as there is not enough space for hedges and trees and this detail needs to be nailed down. MR said he also met with the new Chair of Cuxham as they have concerns about the Edge Road and consequences for their parish.

He will report this to new Councillors at the orientation meeting on the 28th April.

H. CHARLOTTE COXE SHADOW BODY

MR reported that he has met with Philip Pinney from FOWL to discuss the library services and that there may be unseen costs once the transfer takes place. There has never been a rent payment for the Library as OCC managed the Trust and this needs looking into. There are more questions and these need to be addressed before any transfer takes place.

63/23 Two Pieces of Land on Hill Road – to agree to sign the lease with Watlington Park – information attached. Email attachment titled SSI Leases

It was noted that there a few questions that need to be answered before this can be signed. IH stated that there is WEG meeting shortly and as they look after the land he will ask for comments from them. IH and KT can then contact Alex at Watlington Park. It was noted that we would need written assurance from WEG that they will continue to maintain these two areas. IH said that WEG is redoing the management plan which includes these areas and will send a copy of this when finalised.

64/23 Fibre Broadband in Watlington –letter from Craig Bower was attached to the Agenda.

TH said that he met with Airband at the Town Hall to look at ways to install broadband in this grade 2* listed building. The connection will probably come in from the road on the Pharmacy side. This service would be provided by OCC at no charge He said it would be very useful to have this in the town hall and should lead to extra bookings. MR stated that we need to be careful that by accepting

this offer it does not mean that we would approve the high poles that they wish to install with many of them being in the Conservation area. It was noted that SSE will not allow them to use the current installed posts.

- 65/23 Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Friday 21st April in the Town Hall – To agree who will give updates on topics.
MR will give a Chairs report and IH will report on the MUGA and EV Charging scheme.
- 66/23 To approve the Watlington Parish Council Members Handbook – collated by MN.
It was note that there were a few amendments needed and IH and KT to do this. It can then be sent to the new Council members who take office on 9th May.
- 67/23 Consultations
Oxfordshire County Council adopted a new Freight and Logistics Strategy in July 2022. The strategy included a commitment to explore an area-based approach to weight restrictions (action 10). They are now progressing this action and conducting a study to investigate the feasibility of area-based weight restrictions. To help inform the study, we are inviting local stakeholders to share their views on where there are existing or potential future challenges with inappropriate Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements. It is important to clarify this is engagement to inform the study and not a consultation on proposals.
These suggestions will be one piece of evidence used to help inform the outputs of the study. OCC is also analysing a range of data to ensure the outputs are evidence based.
The engagement activity runs from **10th March 2023** until the **10th April 2023**. Further information and the online activity can be found here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/area-weight-restrictions>
- Councillors can submit their own personal comments on this, and it was discussed above in matters arising.**
- 68/23 Reports from Local Organisations
Youth Club – BB reported that the youth leader and helper have handed in their notice, so things are a bit in flux at the present. The Youth Club shut for Easter, and it is hoped to have a new leader in place in May when the Club can re-open.
- 69/23 Correspondence for Information – List attached to the agenda.
350) St Leonards Church – Celebration Service of Friday 5th May at 6pm followed by refreshments – **Would anyone like to attend to represent the Council?** MR to attend.
353) SODC – Do we wish to take CIL Payment in April.
Resolved: That we do not take this payment at this stage. The next payment date will be in September 2023.
- 70/23 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair
Council formally recorded many thanks to Matt Reid for his thoroughly good work as Chair and for bringing the Council into a modern world.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.58PM



Watlington Parish Council

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Summary of WPC Bank Balances for Full Council

Balance on Parish Accounts at 11/4/2023

11/4/2023

Barclays Premium A/C	£	103,574.41	MR
Barclays Current A/C	£	2,965.51	MR
Barclays High Interest Bus A/C	£	80,193.18	MR.
Barclays Pavilion a/C	£	1,804.88	MR
Unity Trust **	£	125,648.44	MR
Totals	£	<u>314,186.42</u>	
Held by WPC for Young People Fund	£	26,543.54	

Signature of Chairman:

Date:

11th April 2023

Payments to be authorised by Watlington Parish Council at Full Council Meeting 11th April 2023														Paid	
TO WHOM	DETAILS	Payment	Car Park	Pub Conv	Special Proj/CIL	TH Grant	Operations	Central	Wages	Grants	INCL VAT	VAT	EXCL VAT		
24/03/2023	Purple Architects	Architectural Work 33 High Street	BACS		8240.78						8240.78	1373.46	6867.32	LGAS111	
24/03/2023	Fieldform	Final Invoice			20514.42						20514.42	3419.07	17095.35	LGAS1976519	
27/03/2023	Sign of the Times	Cast Iron Sign High Street					772.80				772.80	128.80	644.00	LGAS111	
05/04/2023	Staff	Salaries /Wages November	BACS						4591.10		4591.10	0.00	4591.10	LGAS112	
11/04/2023	OALC	Annual Membership						580.27			580.27	96.71	483.56	LGAS111	
11/04/2023	Community First	Annual Membership						70.00			70.00	0.00	70.00	LGAS111	
11/04/2023	SOHA	1/35 Charges West Room						751.2			751.2	0.00	751.2	LGAS111	
11/04/2023	WBA	Christmas Trees 2022						350.00			350.00	0.00	350.00	LGAS111	
11/04/2023	OCC	Comet Bus Trips February						188.00			188.00	0.00	188.00	S137	
11/04/2023	i-design	Repairs to Noticeboard in Rec					62.00				62.00	0.00	62.00	LGAS111	
11/04/2023	Print Shop	Printing for CCT display in library						25.00			25.00	4.17	20.83	LGAS111	
11/04/2023	School Bears	Coronation Pens for Children x 400						228.00			228.00	38.00	190.00	S137	
11/04/2023	O Brake	SID moving etc						40.00			40.00	0.00	40.00	LGAS111	
Totals				0.00	0.00	28755.20	0.00	834.80	2232.47	4591.10	0.00	36413.57	5060.21	31353.36	
Receipts 15th March 2023 - 11th April 2023															
Pavilion				Parish Council				MUGA							
Rental of Pavilion	£	489.50		1/2 Precept	£	73,642.50							10		
WTFC		£97.00		MUGA Hire		495							70		
				Loyalty Rewards		0.75							10		
				Bus Tickets		55							390		
				Wayleave		8							10		
				Allotment Rent		48							5		
				Photocopying		20									
Total	£	586.50	Total	£	74,269.25							495			

[Handwritten signatures]