



Minutes of the 'Remote' Meeting of Full Council held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7PM via Zoom

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR) – Chairman
Ian Hill (IH) – Vice Chairman
Nicky Smallbone (NS)
Andrew McAuley
Tim Horton (TH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Rob Smith (RS)
Alex Basden (AB)
Richard Dorney-Savage (RDS)
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

In Attendance:

Gill Bindoff (GB)

Press:

David White – Henley Standard

Members of the Public:

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175/20 Apologies for absence
Keith Woolfson

176/20 Chairman's Remarks

MR said that this is the last Full Council meeting before Christmas, and it has been an unprecedented year due to Covid 19. We will still meet remotely in the New Year and will review this in March 2021. He said that he cannot see any major change happening in the next few months. Watlington has so far come through it intact and support was given when needed. The Support Fund is there if any financial help is needed for our residents however, they have not had many requests so far. MR stated that he is so proud of the job everyone has done to ensure the safety of our community.

177/20 To receive Declarations of Interest
There were none notified.

178/20 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th November 2020 to be agreed and signed as a correct record
Minute 170/20 page 50, One amendment was agreed, to remove the words 'which has' and replace with 'outside of our Watlington 25% in the locale.....'
Resolved: That with the one amendment above, the minutes are a correct record of this meeting and will be signed by the Chairman when this is possible.

179/10 Matters arising from the Minutes

CIL – TH reported that he has had a discussion with a lead officer at SODC. She stated that she would expect that money attributable to Watlington would be aligned to the needs to improve

infrastructure to the benefit of the 183 new homes in the Town and the Town more broadly. In TH's view we should need to show our spending ambitions (albeit subject to review by SODC) to show that they are legal and identify with parish and district ambitions for Watlington. For example, if 'our' CIL money was used in Didcot this would be a gross abuse of the assumptions of the SODC CIL paper. WPC will need at some stage, to give SODC our CIL 'wishlist' for innovations that were closely costed. AM said that there will be a few changes to the paper, and we would need to prove that we are entitled and fundamentally this has not changed, but money can be bid for by other parishes and developments. AM believed that when these policies by SODC had been formally made, we would receive a paper from SODC.

ICC – MR said that a planning application has been received for temporary classrooms on this site to cope with the intake next year. They will also be having a sixth form.

Local Plan – SODC Scrutiny Committee met last night and their decision was that it was not appropriate to make a decision on this. The Cabinet will be looking at this tonight. The final decision will be made by Full Council on Thursday 10th December.

Chalgrove Airfield – It was noted that the next critical stage to comment is when the planning application goes in.

Office Christmas Closure – The office will close on Friday 18th December and will re-open on Monday 4th January 2020.

180/20 Update on COVID 19 and Watlington

MR said that we need to brace ourselves for Winter and vaccinations began today.

181/20 Public Questions

There were none notified.

182/20 County Councillors Report

Cllr Stephen Harrod had sent his apologies and will now be on holiday until January 2021.

183/20 District Councillors Report

No report had been received.

184/20 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.

Skate Bowl Repair and Painting – It was noted that this is an incredible piece of work and thanks were given to Martin Dix who put so much of his own time into doing this for no payment.

Pump Track – It was noted that the skateboarders have been looking into having one of these in Watlington. It was thought that this would be a good contender for CIL funds. This project is being costed at present and will need to be discussed by the Operations Committee in the first instance.

185/20 Committees:

A: FINANCE –26/11/2020 – Nicky Smallbone

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

St Leonards Church – Request for grant for Churchyard 2021/2022

Resolved: That a grant be awarded for £850.00

WBA request for donation for Christmas Trees and consideration of some backdated funds.

Resolved: That in the light of non payment for these since 2016 and now with Covid 19 we allocate £1000 for trees and decoration of Watlington. (£450 is currently the budgeted figure)

Internal Audit Statement (Annual) – to accept the following statement.

Resolved: The main role of the Internal Auditor is to check all the financial and accountable records that the Clerk must keep. This is done soon after the end of the financial year and involves all the financial transactions and both the legal authority and procedural authority for such transactions - eg the signed minutes of all meetings. Once the Internal Auditor is satisfied with the accounts and records, the Clerk prepares the relatively brief submission to the External Auditor. During the year the Clerk occasionally seeks her advice - eg in transferring the Receipt and Payment accounts, operated through the year, into Accrual accounts needed for audit. Were the Clerk to leave or become temporarily unavailable, the Internal Auditor would assist a new or acting clerk.

Safeguarding Policy

Resolved: That Council agree this policy.

It was noted that training for Councillors may be needed and the Clerk will look into this.

Watlington Climate Action Group

Request for funds for a thermal imaging camera and cost per resident (to be taken out of their allocated grant) Council to discuss if this project is an appropriate use of the funds.

After discussion it was:

Resolved: That this be delegated to the Finance Committee to make the decision.

B: PLANNING –1/12/2020 – Andrew McAuley

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

AM said that there were no recommendations from the meeting.

58 Hill Road – AM has contacted the Officer and the Planning Committee will reconsider this application in January.

C: STRATEGY- There has been no meeting.

It was noted that a Projected Proforma sheet on projects, which will give a good audited trail, will be discussed at the next Strategy meeting and AM thanked SB for doing the draft. This will ensure that all projects will be treated by the same criteria.

D. OPERATIONS – 19/11/2020 – Ian Hill

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

Traffic Calming Pyrton Lane – IH reported that we will be sending the specification out to potential bidders. OCC have confirmed that this cost will be taken from the S106 money allocated to this project. OCC will also be sent a copy of the paper.

Prospect Place Signage etc – IH said he has now had a response from the Highways and Footpath department and they will not allow road signs on the footpath but would be happy with ‘Pedestrians in Road’ signs and putting up some notices at the entrance to the Church. They would not allow speed humps on the footpath on Church Meadows. IH said he will rework the proposals after the feedback and a letter will then be sent to the residents. We will also be encouraging residents to tell delivery drivers to park in the Church Car Park and not to drive up Prospect Place. Information will also be put on the Facebook page.

SIDS – the posts for Swyncombe, Britwell and Cuxham have been put in but we are awaiting OCC to order more before the ones for Watlington are installed.

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

F. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD –20/11/2020

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

GB said that the Committee are looking into doing a Conservation Area Appraisal and the Clerk had sent through the specification. She asked for approval to use this to obtain quotes for this work. GB stated that the money for this will come out of a Locality Grant.

Resolved: That the specification for the Conservation Area Appraisal be sent to Consultants to obtain quotations.

G. ALLOTMENTS – 23/11/2020 – Nicky Smallbone

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

NS said that there was nothing to report on the allotments.

186/20 Consultations

SODC - Consultation on proposed changes to the Joint Statement of Licensing Policies for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils -Deadline 17 Dec 2020.

WPC noted this consultation but agreed not to respond.

187/20 Correspondence for Information

List attached to the Agenda

355) Mark Draisey – Suggestion of crowdfunding purchase of Ken Cook Painting – It was agreed to forward this onto the British Legion.

188/20 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

Watlington Times Past Issues – It was noted that the Watlington Times should have copies going back to the first edition. There are electronic versions for some issues.

189/20 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

MR thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a good Christmas

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM