



MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7PM ON TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2022 VIA ZOOM

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR) – Chairman
Ian Hill (IH) – Vice Chairman
Tim Horton (TH)
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)
Andrew McAuley (AM)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Alex Basden (AB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Rob Smith (RS)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

District Councillor:

Anna Badcock (AB)

In attendance:

Gill Bindoff (GB)- NPAB

Press:

Anna Colivicchi – Henley Standard

13/22 Apologies for Absence
Margaret Noon.

14/22 To receive Declarations of Interest
There were none notified.

15/22 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11th January 2022 to be agreed and signed as a correct record
One change was agreed, Minute 10/22 I Charlotte Coxe, to remove the word 'family' at the end of the sentence.
Resolved: That with the change above, these minutes are a correct record of this meeting and will be signed by the Chairman.

16/22 Matters arising from the Minutes
20mph Christmas Common – TJ asked if an application form had gone into OCC for this. IH said that it had not. However, he and TH had a meeting with Robert Barber to discuss speed/traffic issues and RB stated that there are mixed opinions in the village. IH stated that perhaps it would be a good time to hold an outreach meeting. KT to find possible dates.

17/22 Chairman's Report/Update on COVID 19 and Watlington – Matt Reid
MR said that there has been a lot of recent publicity on Watlington, 33 High Street was in the Henley Standard, Christmas Common/Watlington walks in The Guardian, PYR 2 last week in the Henley Standard and today he has been on BBC South talking about the edge road now that PYR 2 has been granted outline permission. MR stated that hopefully this may help in attracting new Councillors.

As agreed previously from March meeting of Full Council will be face to face. Regarding Committee he

stated that this would be up to the individual chairs and therefore put forward the following motion:
'That Chairs of Committee be allowed to choose what mode their meetings be held in'

Vote: 7 in favour, 2 against

CARRIED

18/22 Public Questions

There were no public questions notified.

19/22 County Councillors Report – Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo had sent his apologies.

His monthly update was emailed to all Councillors.

20/22 District Councillors Report - Cllr Anna Badcock

AB attended to discuss the Sports and Recreation Strategy for Watlington Agenda Item 10C only.

MR thanked AB for her help on recent planning issue and also asked that thanks be extended to her team. There was a good result on the Grove Farm application with the SODC Committee who voted unanimously against the application, and it was great to see the strength of public opinion against this application.

21/22 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. He highlighted that a 50% payment is on the list for the new play equipment at the recreation ground. The receipts were also noted.

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.

22/22 Committees:

A: FINANCE–27/1/22 -Tim Horton

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

Financial Reserves Policy – This has now been revised and one minor change was agreed.

Resolved: To adopt the revised Financial Reserves Policy

Financing of the Tree Works as per Martin Gammie's specification

TH stated that this money is needed do all the work needed to WPC trees. An amount of £6,200 will also be used from this year and next years tree budget.

Resolved: That Council allocate the sum of £2025 from General Reserves to enable the tree works to be completed.

B: PLANNING 1/2/2022- Andrew McAuley

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

Recalibration of Britwell Road – AM confirmed that as the post-minute note states in relation to the email received 2/2/2022 from Harbi at OCC. 'I would like to inform you that it is intention of OCC to deliver the Sweep at Britwell Road as part of the Edge Road (WRR). Once we have a design confirmed, OCC will review land requirement incl. acquiring additional land if needed'

AM said that receiving this email is very helpful to WPC, especially the last sentence.

MR will make contact with the landowner.

Grove Farm – Holiday Pod Application – AM stated that the SODC Planning Committee voted unanimously to reject this application which was a great result for WPC. However, the owner has now put in for a change of use for a storage and distribution centre.

PYR 2 – SODC passed this outline application.

C: STRATEGY – 25/1/22 - Andrew McAuley

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

AM stated that this was the first of the Strategy new 'B' meetings

WPC Sports and Recreation Strategy-

Resolved: That Council adopt the Sports and Recreation Strategy.

SB thanked AB for attending the meeting to speak on this. He reported that he had a n initial meeting with AB to discuss SODC's role and that we will need help from SODC to be able to deliver some items.

- Additional Sports Grounds Facilities – This would be a planning item and would need to be in our NP.
- MUGA – A capital grant application has been submitted to SODC.
- Additional Skate Facilities– This is being well progressed and AB said that a grant application should be submitted to SODC at the appropriate time. She said that the grant officers are the most important people to liaise with.
- Swimming Pool – There is a high demand for this. SB reported that SODC identified a need to provide a swimming pool in the North of South Oxfordshire. AB thought it unlikely that a pool would be built in Watlington, and they would be more likely to look at Chalgrove/Wallingford and Berinsfield. AB stated that if a pool is built it would have to come with lots of housing and that Watlington would not welcome this.
- SODC will be receiving £380K of CIL for recreation and it is hoped this money could be spent in Watlington. AB said that she supported this and advised to put in a request for this to SODC for expansion on Football and Cricket. She suggested WPC would need to have talks with SODC Sports Team, CIL officers and also the developers. Emma Bowerman would also be very helpful.
- Active Travel – AB reported that there is a general shift towards this and when grant application are being considered the health aspects are in the SODC policy with an added requirement to get people off roads.

Resolved: That Anna Badcock and Steve Bolingbroke meeting the SODC Sports and Recreation Team and also the CIL Officer to discuss our Strategy for Watlington. It was noted that we do have financial estimates for proposed schemes.

Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) – Deadline 16th March - MR reported that the Transport Group have been delegated to draft a robust response which will be circulated for comments.

D. OPERATIONS – 20/1/22– Ian Hill

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

Grass Cutting Contract 2022 -2025

Resolved:

1. That we contract The Landscaping Group Oxford for the grass cutting, subject that there is first discussion on some matters which would include range of work, grass collection and verge management.
2. That we contract Owain Devey for the hedge cutting work.

Item 3 was not discussed as the work needs to be retendered.

3. That we contract Donald Cousins for the gardening work. [He has withdrawn his tender and Operations will further discuss this]

TPO's on Trees – IH stated that we know which of WPC trees are protected but trees that have an order on them do not always show up as they seem to only be there for a limited time. IH is investigating this.

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

F. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD – 11/1/2022

The minutes were not circulated therefore they will be approved at the next FC meeting.

The Future of Traffic Management for Watlington 2030 – SB has prepared a draft paper on this and what issues Watlington will face. He has done some work on defining the problems and the next step is to get a group together. He asked councillors to let him know if they wanted to attend the workshop and to nominate any other parties who they think would contribute. There will be a meeting held in March.

G. ALLOTMENTS - Roger Beattie – There has been no meeting.

Clear Up – RB reported that a clear up has happened and a contractor has taken all the old waste. This is part of the plan to make the allotments tidier. The water upgrade will happen in March. The hazel coppicing will take place soon.

H. INTERFACE COMMITTEE –Matt Reid

MR reported that there has been an ad hoc meeting to discuss the response to the SODC Committee on PYR 2 at the SODC Planning meeting.

I. CHARLOTTE COXE SHADOW BODY – There has been no movement on the trust transfer due to OCC divesting themselves from Cherwell. It was agreed that GB and IH continue with the locality grant and both issues can continue in parallel. It was noted that the Locality grant would need to be spend by the end of March 2023. We are also waiting on a report from the OCC officers following their site visit. As regards the Afghan family housing for a year scheme, an application has been submitted to have the water put back on and a committee has been formed so as there is a separation between entities. Phase 1 is the scheme Jeremy Irons is leading on and Phase 2 transfer of the trust and what the use the building has, including costing of a chosen project. SB stated that he had concerns about the separation between CCT/The Shadow Trustees and the WPC and that we need to ensure that WPC funds are not spent on the CCT.

23/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Does WPC wish to put on any events, beacon lighting etc.

It was thought it would be good to put on an event. The flag at the town hall should be kept up from now.

It was agreed that we need to have a sub-committee including residents to organise an event. However, music and a picnic were thought to be a good ideas. A small stage could also be erected. TH offered to put on a photographic exhibition. It was agreed to ask the Finance Committee if some money could be allocated to this. The WBA could be asked to put up union jack bunting. The Church are putting on a flower festival on for this weekend. An open mike event was also mooted. The WI could be asked to be involved. MR/KT to ask for committee volunteers.

24/22 Extension to Meeting Time

In relation to Standing Order 3 (w) and with the time approaching 9pm it was:

Resolved: That we extend the meeting time for 20 minutes.

25/22 Councillors Motions

New Rights of Way – Approval in principle by the Parish Council is needed before discussions

can take place with Redrow - Proposer Andrew McAuley, Seconder Matt Reid.

Watlington Parish Council intends to create new rights of way on its land at Marlbrook for walking and cycling from the north end of Willow Close to the boundary of Site C and from Willow Close to the boundary with Site B.

These new rights of way are intended to improve the existing network of routes for walking and cycling. They will connect the housing developments at Sites B and C with Marlbrook and provide traffic free routes via Site C and Pyrton Lane to the town centre, the schools, the recreation ground, and sports field. Agreement needs to be reached with Redrow so that the design of their developments makes provision for the new routes in their Reserved Matters planning application. The aim is to get agreement for the inclusion of the routes in the plans for the new housing developments and, also, agreement that Redrow will bear the cost. It is intended that the new routes will be wide enough to provide safe, shared routes for pedestrians, cyclists and users of mobility vehicles.

There was much discussion on this.

Vote: 7 in favour, 2 against [RB had left the meeting]

CARRIED

The following two motions were deferred to the next meeting of Full Council.

Environment Emergency – Proposer Steve Bolingbroke

Council notes:

- That at its meeting of 11th January Council voted to declare an Environmental Emergency
- That no definition was provided as to what an Environmental Emergency is or what Watlington Parish Council can do to avert or mitigate it
- An emergency is a situation that poses an immediate risk to [health](#), [life](#), [property](#), or [environment](#) (UK Government definition) and implies that urgent intervention is required to prevent a worsening of the situation or mitigation of its effects.
- That no actions or policies were proposed as a result of the declaration.
- That an Environmental Emergency is defined by the UN as *“sudden-onset disaster or accident resulting from natural, technological or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that causes or threatens to cause severe environmental damage as well as loss of human lives and property.”*
- That at its meeting on 11th February 2021 SODC declared an Ecological Emergency linked to issues such as biodiversity and habitat degradation.

That Council resolves:

1. To ask the proposer of the motion to define what is meant by an Environmental Emergency and its principal characteristics in the context of Watlington
2. To identify the broad actions and policies that Watlington Parish Council might take to address the Environmental Emergency
3. To agree how actions to address the Environmental Emergency fit within WPC’s priorities. Specifically, whether these actions should take priority over; actions to address the Climate Emergency, provision of facilities and services to the community, provision of housing and economic development.
4. To take no action and pass no policy which is justified on the basis of there being an Environmental Emergency until actions 1 to 3 have been completed.

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

26/22 Consultations

27/22 Correspondence for Information – List Attached

28/22 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies
There were none given.

29/22 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 9.15PM