



MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE WEST ROOM

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR) – Chairman
Andrew McAuley (AM)
Ian Hill (IH)
Brenda Bradford (BB)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Andrew McAuley (AM)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

County Councillor:

Freddie van Mierlo (FVM)

In Attendance:

Denise Mallan, Henley Standard

20/23 Apologies for Absence

Alex Basden, Gill Bindoff, Rob Smith, Margaret Noon, Tim Horton

21/23 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

22/23 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th and 17th January 2023 to be agreed and signed as a correct record

Resolved: That these minutes are a correct record of this meeting, and these were signed by the Chairman.

23/23 Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

24/23 Chairman's Remarks– Matt Reid

MR welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased that Denise Mallan was attending and said he hoped we would get a few new councillors applying in time for the elections.

25/23 Public Questions

Lorraine Daniels (Bella Luce & WBA) sent a question about street parking in the High Street. A resident has gone on holiday and left a vehicle in the 1 hour spaces. Would it be possible to create a notice to put on cars to make people aware of the restrictions ? WPC has no authority but FVM said it would be possible to report the issue to OCC as they deal with on-street parking.

26/23 County Councillors Report - Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo

OCC news: Budget

Oxfordshire County Council will set its 2023-24 budget at the February full council. The budget is delivered within a context of high inflation and rising pressure for services, particularly in adult social care and children's services.

The administration will propose a 5% rise in council tax, including a 2% adult social care precept. Judicious savings, a rising council tax take from increased population, and a better-than-expected government settlement also support the budget and mean drastic cuts can be avoided, despite the gap between the council tax rise and the rate of inflation.

Children's Services & SEND: I am delighted to say that children's services will see an inflation busting boost of 12.3% (£18.8m). In this climate, providing a real terms increase (+1.6%) to children's services, including for special educational needs and other vulnerable children in care, has been difficult to achieve, but reflects the priorities of the administration. £500,000 will be spent to speed up needs assessments (EHCPs) for children with SEND.

Adult social care: Accounts for approximately half of OCC's budget and is particularly sensitive to inflation due to the labour intensive nature of care. Because of the size of the budget, it is difficult to provide an inflation matched rise, however, adult social care will get a 6.8% (£14.4m) increase to support its work, which will soften the impact of inflation. The 'Oxfordshire Way' reforms also support more efficient use of budget.

Highways and travel: We will be investing an additional £1.6m to reduce flooding on roads – clearing ditches and cutting through red tape (riparian rights!) that prevent action on the ground. Monies will also be used to clean signs and improve road markings. By investing in flooding prevention, we can reduce damage to road surfaces and save taxpayers money. However, it remains the case that successive grant reductions from government means that we have too little money to manage such a large network.

Climate: It's easy to talk the talk on climate – but walking the walk is much harder. Amongst other initiatives, there is increased funding for trees planting (essential not only for carbon capture, but also localised climate resilience).

Voluntary organisations, libraries, and other services: Library services will be supported as they account for the loss of income from DVD rentals etc. Voluntary organisations will also again be given a year's rent holiday where they pay rent to OCC

OCC news

Sustainable warmth grants: Home energy efficiency grants can be applied for online (Deadline: March 2023). OCC secured funding from the government's Sustainable Warmth Fund. Homes connected to the mains gas grid can apply for up to £10,000 and homes not connected can apply for up to £25,000 (means tested)

Call for hosts - Homes for Ukraine: A campaign encouraging people to come forward who are willing to accommodate families from Ukraine has been launched. While the government is reducing payments from the current £550 to £350 in April, or £500 for those hosting beyond 12 months, OCC has committed to maintaining the current rate of £550.

Active travel: OCC has secured over £0.5M from the government's Active Travel Capability Fund to invest in improving access to active travel. The county is also developing a plan for a 'Strategic Active Travel Network' that will link towns and villages. While only a plan at this stage, the data collected and planning done puts OCC in a good position to bid for government money when it arises.

Potholes: Freeze thaw conditions over the past couple of months has seen a large number of potholes emerge. OCC are dealing with the backlog but will take some time. Please continue to report potholes using fix my street (reporting each pothole separately).

Coronation: Apply for up to £10,000 funding from the national lottery. See also the government's guide on street parties.

Electric buses: First vehicles in a fleet of 159 electric buses set to arrive in September. n.b this may mean better quality buses for Watlington as electric buses arrive in Oxford.

Verges: Revised policy to go to Cabinet in February, with call for trial sites.

20mph for Watlington & Christmas Common. The consultation is open until the 23rd March. If there is no opposition it will automatically be approved. Red Kite View is not included as the road is currently unadopted, it will be added to the 20mph area once adopted. The relief road will be 30mph and residential roads off it will be 20mph.

Watlington Relief Road Consultation. This will run from the 20th February to the 20th March. There will be a drop in event on the 9th March in Watlington and 23rd February in Pyrton. Discussions on bus drop off areas for Icknield Community College are still ongoing.

RB asked about road closures and poor signage. The Brook Street closure was poorly signed as is the Chalgrove closure. FVM said that it was difficult as diversions had to be on similar roads and suitable for all traffic, and in the case of Brook Street was for emergency works. FVM also said discussions were ongoing around the High Street Thames Water closure as the bus company were not happy as services would have to run from Cuxham roundabout.

27/23 District Councillors Report - Cllr Anna Badcock
There was no report.

28/23 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.

Resolved: That the Balances of Accounts and the List of Payments be settled and that they be signed by Matt Reid, Chair and Ian Hill, Members of the Finance Committee.
These are shown at the end of these minutes.

29/23 Committees:
A: FINANCE - There has been no meeting.

B: PLANNING 7/2/2023 – Andrew McAuley
Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

AM reported that there was not much to report. There had been a large contingent from Christmas Common attending to listen to a presentation on developments opposite the Fox and Hounds pub. IH noted that despite damage to the verges near Castle Meadows there were some daffodils coming through. Beechcroft have offered to plant replacement / additional daffodils and WPC are grateful for this.

C. OPERATIONS 19/1/2023 – Ian Hill .

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes, with an amendment to task 83 – it is not possible to reduce the size of the roundabout but the edging can be improved and planting replaced with a pebble garden to minimise damage.

Outreach Meeting - IH suggested setting a date for this as there is a lot of interest in SID devices in the surrounding settlements.

EV Project – this is still being delayed waiting on SSE to complete the power connection. IH to forward the SSE contact to FVM to help expedite.

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

E. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD – 23/1/2023 Andrew McAuley

Resolved: That Council accept these minutes

GB has had a fall and could not attend. WPC wished her a speedy recovery.

GB asked AM to raise the following points:

1. **Tree Survey** – this is very comprehensive, Martin Gammie will do a Zoom presentation on the 6th March to go through the details.

2. **Design Guide** – this has been finalised after help from AECOM. RG to forward to FVM, BB and DM.

3. **Management of green spaces in new developments.** There are several options – WPC can take on the space or the developers set up a management company and charge residents. GB is arranging for Community First Oxfordshire to give a presentation on the various models. MR said he would talk to Pyrtton about this as there are large green spaces in the PYR2 site.

F. ALLOTMENTS – There has been no meeting.

G. INTERFACE COMMITTEE – MR met with Colin Ludlow recently.

H. CHARLOTTE COXE SHADOW BODY – MR/IH/GB

FVM believed that OCC are waiting on some information back from WPC. MR said an information pack was being prepared for the new council.

30/23 Booking Proposal for all our venues and the MUGA

AM went through the options for a booking system to enable online booking and payment for the MUGA and all other function rooms.

In summary:

1. Manual system as per current – approx. cost £50/month
2. Bookteq – booking and payment system –cost £50/month
3. Pitchbooking – booking and payment system – cost £125/month

Resolved : That WPC go ahead with the Bookteq option. RG to check on ‘landing page’ set up.

31/23 Date and format of the Annual Parish Meeting

As there will be elections in May it was suggested to hold the Annual Parish Meeting at the end of April.

Resolved : to agree a date at the end of April for this meeting.

32/23 Kings Coronation Celebration

The PTA are willing to be involved in an event similar to the Jubilee event in the Paddock and asked for support from WPC. There was a discussion on whether to provide gifts for the children and what would be appropriate. Mugs and wildflower seeds were suggested.

Resolved : WPC to provide a financial contribution to this event.

33/23 Consultations

There were none.

34/23 Correspondence for Information

35/23 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of the chair
None

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.52pm



Watlington Parish Council

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Summary of WPC Bank Balances for Full Council

Balance on Parish Accounts at 1pm on 14/2/2023

Barclays Premium A/C	£	150,548.63
Barclays Current A/C	£	3,142.90
Barclays High Interest Bus A/C	£	80,093.78
Barclays Pavilion a/C	£	3,183.60
Unity Trust **	£	125,648.44
Totals	£	<u>362,617.35</u>
Held by WPC for Young People Fund	£	26,543.54

Signature of Chairman:



Date:

14th February 2023



