



## MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7PM ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021 VIA ZOOM

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Matt Reid (MR) – Chairman  
Ian Hill (IH) – Vice Chairman  
Andrew McAuley (AM)  
Tim Horton (TH)  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Alex Basden (AB)  
Rob Smith (RS)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)  
Margaret Noon (MN)  
Keith Woolfson (KW)

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan (KT)

**County Councillor:**

Freddie Van Mierlo (later)

**Press:**

Anna Colivecchi – Henley Standard

**In Attendance:**

Gill Bindoff- NPAB

**Members of the Public:**

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87/21 Apologies for Absence

Steve Bolingbroke, Richard Dorney-Savage

88/21 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

89/21 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to be agreed and signed as a correct record

**Resolved:** That the minutes are a correct record of this meeting and to be signed by the Chairman.

90/21 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none other than agenda items.

91/21 Update on COVID 19 and Watlington – Matt Reid

MR reported that cases are on the rise and in Oxford numbers are very high and it has become a Covid hotspot. People have been advised to not leave Oxford. He said that people need to remain very cautious and has heard of many cases in Watlington.

He reported that he has met with the WBA and they will be putting up Covid signage for after the 19<sup>th</sup> July however ventilation in some of the smaller shops is still an issue.

It was agreed that we do not have face to face meetings at the present time, but it is hoped that these could be held in September.

92/21 Public Questions

There were none notified.

93/21 County Councillors Report - Cllr Freddie Van Mierlo- His monthly update has been emailed to all Councillors.

FvM reported on the following issues:

**CCT** –He has spoken to Richard Hodby (RH) and had a productive session with him and said that he felt this was gaining some momentum. He has also visited the Library and 33 High Street and noticed the wasted potential of number 33. This is sitting with RH and he is getting legal advice from Anita Bradley to see if it is legally possible to transfer the parking spaces and garages also to the WPC. He will have a follow up conversation at the appropriate time. He stated that he has looked at a garage lease and if the land needed to be resurfaces the costs would be met by the leaseholders of the garages and car park spaces so if this land was to be transferred there would be no additional cost to the Trust which takes it over. It was noted that WPC already have a Trust for the Town Hall and has taken on the car park and public conveniences from SODC. WPC also run two public parks, the community office and the Chalk Pits and would have the knowledge to take this on. WPC also has the accountability in place and motivation to take on this Trust. TH will send a note on this to FVM.

**Edge Road** – FvM said that there had been an OCC Full Council meeting today and he raised this issue. There is to be an informal Cabinet meeting on 20/7/2021 and this will be discussed. Andy Higginson has now moved on and Marco is now the key person on this for the present until they appoint a replacement for AH. He has also spoken to Lee Turner and he gave confidence that this is well progressed, and Marco will FvM in the loop.

GB asked why this issue is being taken to Cabinet unlike other transport projects. FVM said he would find this out. GB said that she understood that the Growth Fund money for this scheme has already been transferred to OCC and therefore all money is in place for this.

MR asked if FvM had spoken with Anna Badcock on this. FvM assured MR that they have a working relationship.

TJ asked that when this goes to consultation how much leeway will be available as there is opposition to it going through the ICC sports field. FvM that he did not have an answer to this but will find out.

**20mph** - FvM said he has put an update on this in his latest newsletter in which OCC recognise the difficulties many communities face in implementing 20mph zones due to red tape, the council is working on a new approach that will streamline the process drastically. This will involve a collective application of multiple villages / roads at the same time. There will be an invitation sent out for Councils to express their interest in doing this and then a collective public consultation put out. There is £200,000 available for this. FvM said he knows this is wanted in Watlington and suggested that it would be a good idea to put together a case on this.

TJ stated that WPC had already applied for 20mph and FvM said that he did not think this had been accepted by OCC as there is not an active file on this.

**Pyrton Lane** - FvM has been in touch with Paul Fermer and when they have the plan work can begin. FvM will check the amount of 106 money available for this and that WPC wished the remainder to be spent in Christmas Common. IH said that OCC have replace bollards at Christmas Common already but more for traffic calming needs to be done. FvM will look into this issue.

**Watlington – Oxford Bus 11** - OCC have given funding for this until April 2022.

**Sites B and C and PYR 1** – GB will send FvM information on these sites. GB is still waiting for more information from Emma Bowerman.

MR thanked FvM for attending this meeting.

94/21 District Councillors Report - Cllr Anna Badcock  
**There has been no report**

95/21 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. The receipts were also noted. *(This information is attached as an addendum to these minutes)*. TH said that the Co-op have now made a payment of £5K for the car park.  
**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 when it is possible to do so.

96/21 Committees:

**A: FINANCE** – 24/6/2021 -Tim Horton

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

### **Climate Action Budget**

**Resolved:** That:

a. The £2,000 budgeted in 20/21 and 21/22 for Watlington Climate Action Group is reclassified as a Carbon Reduction Projects Grant and is open to any Watlington Group wanting to fund a project aimed at achieving the 2030 target.

b. That a further £1,000 of the annual grant budget is ring fenced as an Environment Projects Grant open to any local group (e.g. WEG) wanting to fund a project to protect the local environment and that the Finance Committee agreed to use the £1500 which was unspent budget from 2020/21 to be used for this purpose in 2021/22.

c. That, subject to WCAG and WEG agreement, the Chalk Stream film proposal be considered for funding as an Environmental Project and a grant of £1000 be allocated to this proposal.

TH said that a special Finance meeting will be held towards the end of July which will only deal with specific items.

**B: PLANNING** –6/7/2021- Andrew McAuley

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

AM said that there were few applications for discussion and the item of Election of Vice-Chairman was deferred to the next meeting.

**Appeal** – Land to the rear of 56-58 Hill Road

**Resolved:** That WPC resubmit their objections to the Inspector.

**Masterplan PYR2** – TH said that there are many issues and think there will be major problems. This was discussed by the NPAB and the Interface Group will also discuss this. AM said that this is not the final plan. MR stated that there will be a meeting with Providence Land soon. TH said that we need more football pitches and KW said he would like to work with TH on this. TH will send his notes on this issue to all Councillors.

GB stated that it is important to remember the central green space is an amenity area for the development and it may be possible to put in pitches, but this is not usually what the space is used for.

**C: STRATEGY**-22/6/2021 – Andrew McAuley

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

### **Project Approval Process**

AM said that we had in excess of 40 projects suggested for CIL money and these have been whittled down. SB will send out a paper asking Councillors to vote on these shortly. It is imperative that the level of scrutiny of projects is robust.

**Resolved:** That Council approve the Project Approval Process which was attached to the agenda.

### **Climate Action Plan**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That Council approve the Climate Action Plan – TJ will circulate

**D. OPERATIONS** –17/6/2021 – Ian Hill

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

IH reported that there are no recommendations from this meeting. However, asked that the committee consider funding 1 or 2 more SID's with solar panels.

**E. PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD – 14/6/2021- Matt Reid**

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

SB has done a lot of work to review whether the sports clubs can stand alone, and this is currently being discussed with them. We also have to look at the strategic possibilities. TH said that if the Sports Club could be independent this would have financial, staffing and strategic implications for Council.

**F. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY BOARD – 21/5/2021**

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

The Housing Needs Survey has been completed and discussed at the NPAB meeting. The survey to be circulated to all Councillors by GB. The majority of respondents are already homeowners and it is important that we should give publicity to the information on the SODC Housing Register as many residents are unaware that this exists.

A Sports Survey has also been done on Survey Monkey and this will be publicised in the next Watlington Times and on the WPC website and Facebook page.

An application has been sent to Locality by Rachel Gill for money towards the Conservation Area Re-appraisal and a Management Plan for trees in the town which are not WPC owned.

**G. ALLOTMENTS – 28/6/2021 – Roger Beattie**

**Resolved:** That Council accept these Minutes

RB reported that there is a new committee now in place which is very strong, and he is looking forward to working with them. The two gates have now been repaired.

**Water Upgrade**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That as over half the project money has been found by various sources that the Parish Council pay the remainder of money needed to achieve the water upgrade which is desperately needed at the Allotments.

After discussion this was delegated to the Finance Committee to consider.

**Allotment Rents**

It was noted that Full Council need to approve any suggested rent increase.

**Resolved:** That the allotment rent for 2021/22 for each plot holder

**Hedge Cutting** – It was agreed to send our appreciation to Tom Bindoff for all the years he has cut the allotment hedge on the allotment side of the recreation ground.

**H. INTERFACE COMMITTEE – There has been no meeting- Matt Reid**

There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow night.

97/21 Motions from Councillors

**Cycle/Walking access to Junction 6 from Watlington – Proposer: Tim Horton (Paper attached)**

That the Council recommence discussions with Oxfordshire County Council and Sustrans concerning the possible establishment of a cycle/walking route to Junction 6 of the M40 from Watlington (using the old railway bed) whilst also seeking to involve residents of other parishes in every practical way.

TH stated that in 2008 OCC prepared a business case on this scheme which went into a lot of detail. It was mooted that this be added to the Major Projects List. TH said that OCC have money available. It was noted that SODC are also looking at a route between Lewknor and Wallingford. TH is also in contact with Oxford Cycle Network. After discussion it was:

**Resolved:** That Tim Horton be delegated to further investigate this issue.

98/21 Correspondence for Information

List was attached to the Agenda

**Letter 80** – S Pullen re Red Kite View – AM stated that OCC said that the current lighting is only interim lighting as the correct bulbs are not available. It was noted that the lighting is now being turned off at night. There has to be some lighting as it is 30mph area. Discussion will continue on this issue with Bloor.

99/21 Reports from Organisations and Representation on other bodies

**Meeting with ICC** – MR said that Margaret Noon, Richard Dorney-Savage and himself met with Mat Hunter and he introduced them as the new parish representatives. MN is looking into having some joint projects especially with environmental issues and she is having a look at their curriculum.

**FOWL** – MN had attended a meeting and reported that Story Time is now taking place in the Paddock and which has had a good response and FOWL have purchase some big books for this. ArtWeeks had exhibitors in the Library and this was hugely successful. They are currently preparing for the Christmas Calendar. There has also been a zoom author reading. MN said that it is a pleasure to see the very positive effect on our community

**WCAG** – TJ reported that Sophie Nelson is starting up a Youth wing of WCAG.

100/21 Other Matters for Discussion at the discretion of Chair

There were none raised.

101/21 Confidential Session

**Resolved** THAT THE COMMITTEE GO INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION IN ACCORDANCE TO THE STATEMENT BELOW TO DISCUSS THE NEXT TWO AGENDA ITEM.

As discussion is needed on negotiations.

**Confidential Items:** EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC RESOLVED: THAT under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for items of business of the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 7,8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

102/21 Sports Field Rent Review

**Resolved:** That a meeting to be arranged with Beechwood Estates and Jonas Carter and our representative from Saville's to be in attendance with WPC representatives.

103/21 Watlington Club - Discussion of the Transfer Document 2003

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

**The meeting then ended at 8.47pm and went into Confidential Session.**

