



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee held on Tuesday Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 7pm in the West Room

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill (IH) – Chairman
Andy Aherne (AA) – Vice-Chair
Keith Jackson (KJ)
Tim Horton (TH)

Co-opted:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)
Rob Smith (RS)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

61/23 Apologies for absence
Roger Beattie, Leo Pesci.

62/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2023 which were received by Council on 10/10/2023 to be agreed as a correct record
Resolved: That the note of this meeting was a correct record of this meeting and that it be signed by the Chairman.

63/23 Declarations of Interest
There were none notified.

64/23 Matters arising
Enforcement for the High Street (Minute 57/23 g refers) – KT to check if enforcement has been out to Watlington yet and also if we could pay for extra visits.

65/23 Issues raised

a) **Replacement of allotment fencing** – IH – 3 quotes received
This was agreed at the October Full Council meeting. Three quotes have been received and it was agreed to **commission** David and Luke Stocks to do this work.

b) **Replacement of two-hour spaces in Hill Road Car Park** – The WBA had asked the committee to look at this. It was noted that initially only 4 of the EV spaces will be EV charging only and this will still leave 8 for general use until the demand for EV charging increases. However, we could put up a sign saying that these eight spaces are for two-hour parking. It was agreed that we review this in the new year. IH and AA to monitor the usage in the car park and this information can then be used to make a decision if we need to mark out more two hour only spaces. It was agreed that signage could be improved. The two-hour bays are for between 9am and 5pm.

c) **Discussion of residents parking permits in Hill Road Car Park** – WBA had also asked WPC to consider this issue as they feel that residents do not contribute to the car park, however it was thought that by paying their Council Tax they do contribute. TH said that there could be merit in allowing residential parking during the day and impose a restraint on overnight parking unless you

have a permit. This would generate income. However, is it possible to find a solution that is workable. It was agreed that we would do no more until IH and AA have done the survey of useage of spaces in the car park.

d) Update on CCTV/ANPR for Hill Road Car Park – IH said that we now have two quotes and need to chase up a third. Once we have this, we will need to decide what option we would recommend to Council.

e) Hill Road speed checks – IH reported that OCC had done a speed survey on this road about a month ago. This showed that speeds are slightly slower than on our other roads into/out of town. 50% of speeds were between 25 and 27mph and 85% were between 32 and 33mph. It was noted that we have not done a speed survey on this road previously. OCC are holding about £16K to use for traffic calming measures on Hill Road. It was noted that roundels saying 20mph could be put down. However, it was agreed that the most dangerous spot is by the ridgeway crossing, which does have a blind spot and we should use the money to address this issue. There could be extra signage warning of the danger especially to pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists and potentially mirrors. KT will set up a meeting with Jon Beale and IH/AA will attend.

f) EV Charging – It was agreed to contact some other parish councils to see what take up they have regarding the charging points. KT will do this.

g) Plan for phone box corner of Hill Road car park – AA/RS – AA had a meeting to discuss this with RS and IH. AA said that this area needs to be much more welcoming and his team will be looking at doing a plan for this area. It will be one of the locations in the Art Trail. It was hoped to provide a CAD drawing and costings soon. AA will continue to lead on this.

h) Outreach meeting – KT has organised this for Monday 13th November at 7pm in the Fox and Hounds. We have emailed our outreach list and asked them if there are issues they wish to raise. Freddie van Mierlo will be attending.

66/23 Budget update and discussion for budget 2024/25 and suggestions for new projects

A budget update to the end of September had been circulated to Members. There was discussion on this. Two new projects were mooted, A more robust shelter to go over the table areas in the recreation ground and refurbishment of the Rec Car park, however these are probably better as CIL projects. A list of all the previous projects raised had been circulated and IH asked that if every member could look at this list and have their suggestions ready for the next meeting where the budget will be further discussed. AA suggested a workspace for the caretaker and will look into this.

67/23 Task Report

The full list of current tasks is attached together with current status. It will be reviewed at this meeting.

a) **Maintenance of Play equipment at Rec** - KT reported that most issues raised at the last inspection have been dealt with.

b) **Sails over Rec benches** -discussed under budget.

c) **Review of CCTV policy** – IH will look at this.

d) **Replant gaps in new hedge at Mansle Gardens** – volunteers needed- IH will organise a work party. AA will also help with this. Now is a good time to attend to it. Helen, our gardener and Dan would be happy to also help. Helen will give KT the hedging plant order.

e) **Sprung gate at entrance to Rec from Love Lane** – This had been removed but it cannot be found. KT to cost one up.

f) **Salt Bin for Brook Street** – Agreed at Full Council to purchase a black salt bin.

h) **Drainage / mud accumulation in Hill Road car park** – Work scheduled for 22nd January 2024

- g) **Yellow Line extension to Brook Street** – Agreed at FC - KT to write to OCC
- h) **Longer term toilets for the Rec** – KT is writing to SODC to see if we can use the public conveniences earmarked funds and will also check if the septic tank could cope with adding these.
- i) **Marlbrook Planters to stop parking on the green** – Quotes needed – KT has a quote for wood ones and is looking at recycled plastic planters.

68/23 Correspondence - All correspondence was attached to the agenda

1. **OCC – Changes to Schedule 1 of S101 Grass Cutting Agreement with WPC (422)**- It was agreed that this be signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

2. **Rural Services Network** – Free period of membership of the Rural/Market Towns – Do we wish to take up this offer. It was agreed that we take up this offer. KT to do this.

3. **SODC – Carbon Emissions Calculator tool** – KJ to do this.

3. **Jon Beale** – Speed Survey Results Hill Road – These were noted and discussed above.

4. **SODC – Anti Social Behaviour Reduction techniques in Watlington** – Areas agreed that need to looked at: Rec, Car Park Hill Road, Paddock, Public Conveniences. KT will respond to them.

69/23 Any Other Business

1. **OCC – New outline proposals for new rural bus services**- Comments sent to OCC.

2. **OCC – community planting projects**. Anyone can put through their ideas. This has been sent to WCAG.

3. **Mike Lee – offer to sponsor a defib for Christmas Common area**. This will be discussed at the Outreach meeting

70/23 Date of next meeting- Tuesday 21st November 2023

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50PM