



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 7pm in the West Room

Present:

Councillors: Ian Hill (IH) – Chairman
Andy Aherne (AA) – Vice-Chair
Roger Beattie (RB)
Keith Jackson (KJ)
Tim Horton

Co-opted: Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer: Kristina Tynan (KT)

53/23 Apologies for absence
Leo Pesci, Rob Smith.

54/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2023 which were received by Council on 12/9/2023 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.

55/23 Declarations of Interest
Keith Jackson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5b as he lives opposite this area (Brook Street) and did take part in the discussion.

56/23 Matters arising
Task 12 - Phone Box Refurbishment([Minute 51a Refers) – TH stated that he was working on this proposal just for the phone box and was hoping to raise money from outside the Parish Council for this. However now that it is a wider scheme being looked at he does not want to be part of this. At the last meeting a group was set up to look at this RS/RB/AA and KJ. AA will now move this forward and arrange a meeting of this group.

57/23 Issues raised
a) **Bins including salt bin for Red Kite view.**
IH had sent out a map showing all bins in the town including salt bins. It was noted that there are four, Brook Street, Love Lane, Chestnut Place and St Leonards Field (overflow car park). Brook Street has a wooden box around the plastic bin which is in very poor condition as is the plastic liner. It was noted that these can be purchased from OCC for £250. It was noted that this bin is within the Conservation Area and it was agreed to look for a bin that would be in keeping with this area. JW said that Salt Bins did need to be obvious. It was noted that KT has ordered a Salt Bag from OCC (no charge). Isla Woodcock has asked that one be installed in Red Kite View. This was thought to be a good idea but what location would it be put in. It was noted that this has not been budgeted for in the current financial year but once costs of bins have been looked at we can further consider this.
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we replace the Salt Bin in Brook Street with a new salt bin.
[Photos to be sent with the FC agenda item]

b) Bollards on Couching Street and Brook Street

JB had sent an email and had suggested putting 7 new rubber bollards, which will bounce back if hit in this location at the junction of Couching St with Brook St and a section of Brook St. He had offered a 50% split between OCC and WPC. TH suggested that we write back and ask OCC to pay 100% of the cost and this was agreed. KT will do this.

The two OCC white metal bollards at the end of Couching Street were mentioned and IH thought that JB will be replacing one. They are not in good condition. KT to write to JB asking what is being done with these.

Extending the double yellow lines in this area (from Chestnut Place to Couching Street) was also discussed and it was thought it would be worth asking OCC to do this. By not having parking in this location, it may stop the lorries having to go on the pavement on the opposite side of the road.

A vote was taken on this issue: **3 in favour, 2 against**

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we ask OCC to extend the double lines in this location (see map below)



c) Marlbrook Planters – Discussion on residents feedback

It was noted that there were more in favour of planters than not. Some residents have also offered to 'look after them'. Quotes for material have been obtained. KT suggested that we also look at ones from recycled plastic as these would need no maintenance. KT will get quotes for the next meeting.

d) **Car Park Drainage Scheme and bottom corner works** – This has been agreed- confirmation of detailed work to be commissioned. KT to ask Edmorr to start these works in January if possible. KT to send to Members the quotes to check they include everything before the work is commissioned.

f) Play Equipment Inspections

At the previous meeting it has been agreed to look at Rospa doing the inspections and a quote has now been received. It was noted that this would be approximately £500 more than Playdale charges.

RESOLVED: That we commission Playdale to do the play inspection for the Recreation Ground and Paddock.

g) **Removal of one High Street Parking Space and parking on yellow lines** – OCC had responded to our request with the following:

'In the first instance, I'd suggest my colleagues in the wider parking team can discuss a higher profile for enforcement in the High Street with our contractor (Conduent). By copy of this email to them, I'll ask them to let you know how that goes.

Thereafter, if it might help, we could look at some advisory hatched markings, or a 'keep clear', or possibly change the restrictions to a loading ban (kerb stripes), which is slightly stronger than double yellow lines alone. Ultimately, red lines/routes are the strongest restriction we could introduce, but still require enforcement. If the issue is 'word of mouth' leading to abuse of the restrictions, then red routes wouldn't change that. So, let's try boosting enforcement first and go from there'

KT to chase up enforcement team to check they will be visiting Watlington and ask if it would be possible for WPC to pay for extra visits and if so, how much these would be.

58/23 Task Report

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

Comments on the Task List

Task 7- OCC Speed Survey for Hill Road – The rubber lines are down so this is currently being done. Results will be sent to WPC once completed

Task 14 -Trim Trail – It was agreed to look at this after the next play equipment inspection.

Task 8- Replant part of hedge in Mansle Gardens – It was agreed that this be done. IH to speak with our Gardener about how many plants will be needed and the plants to be bought from Babylon Plants. It was agreed that this can be done by volunteers and IH will organise a work part in Oct/Nov when it is the best time to plant them.

Benches in Paddock – Bob Thomas will be repairing these. He has the materials.

Task 16 – Sails at the Rec – This has been burnt and cut by vandals and has now been removed. It was agreed that a more robust cover is needed. RB will look into options and costs. It was thought that this would be a good project for the next financial year and this will need to be looked at when we are considering the budget for next year.

Task 24 – Maintenance of play equipment – RB asked that it be minuted that our caretaker has been doing an amazing job with repairing equipment. He has practically rebuilt the basket swing and has saved us a few thousand pounds by doing this. The committee agreed with his comments and KT will pass this onto Dan.

Task 32 – Barrier at end of Church Street – TH reported that Little and Payne have come up with some designs and he will be discussing them with the local residents. He said that the scheme will be funded by the residents but will need to be approved by OCC and WPC.

Task 36 - Street Cleaning Machine – TH said he is in favour of purchasing one but will not be pressing for it at this time.

59/23 Correspondence

1. OCC – New outline proposals for new rural bus services – attached. Do we wish to propose any comments. Does the public transport group have any comments.

Resolved: That due to the short deadline, the Transport Group be delegated to send in comments.

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

3. OCC – Jon Beale email for item 5 b - **Noted**

4. Mike Lee – offer to sponsor a defib for Christmas Common area – **It was thought that either the phone box or pub would be a good location. An outreach meeting to be set up for Oct/November and this could be an agenda item for this meeting. KT to arrange a date with the Fox and Hounds (this would be a Monday) and then email the outreach group with the date and asking what items they would like on the agenda.**

60/23 Any Other Business

Residents Parking Permits for Hill Road Car Park – The WBA has asked that the committee look into this and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Workshop for the Caretaker – TH stated that he thinks that we should build a workshop where tools can be kept and work can be done there. He thinks that not having one is a major limitation for the caretaker and gardener.

AA agreed but said it should be built at one end of the Parish Office. KT to speak to staff about this idea and will feedback to a Finance meeting. TH said the building would be need to be in the region of 10m x 5m.

Car Park Noticeboard – TH has removed all the staples. It was thought this does not need repainting at the time whilst the committee is potentially looking at a scheme where it may be removed. IH has taken out all out of date information. The office to look at putting new information in it.

Noticeboard for Red Kite View – TH suggested that we put one up in this location and this should be considered when setting the budget for next year.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.35PM