



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 at 8pm In the Community Office

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Tom Bindoff (TB) – Vice-Chair  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Tony Williamson (TW)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)  
Fergus Lapage (FL)

**Co-opted Member:** Jenny Wilkinson

**Officer:** Kristina Tynan (KT)

**Members of the Public:** Peter Logan, Jonathan Moses, Carson Rea (To speak on Pyrton Lane issue)

01/19 Apologies for Absence  
Bob West, Ian Hill, Fiona Butler.

02/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018 which were accepted by Council on the 11/12/2018 to be agreed as a correct record  
**Resolved:** That these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

03/19 Declarations of Interest  
There were no declarations of interest notified.

04/19 Matters arising  
There were none other than agenda items.

05/19 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

1. **Removal of white line at the Town Hall** – This has been programmed in and will be done in the new financial year.
2. **Junction 6 Noticeboards** –Tony Williamson has cleaned these as best he can.
3. **Outdoor Table Tennis table for Rec** – A grant has been received from the County Councillors Grant and these have been purchased. They are in storage and they must be installed by 31<sup>st</sup> March. RB is looking at costs for materials and installation.
4. **Cherry Tree in Paddock** – Awaiting comments from CwT – KT will email him.
5. **Parking at bottom of Love Lane between Schools and Chequers** – RB will obtain some costings for this for the next meeting. It was noted that we do not have any money in the budget for this, but it

would be very useful to get an approximate cost.

6. **Kissing Gate with disabled access**- Awaiting Response from Watlington Public Charities – They have not had a meeting and will respond once one has taken place.
7. **I-Play** –Work Commissioned.
8. **Super User** - Training of people to officially identify potholes and repair them – No update
9. **Moving car park tubs to Couching Street/Brook Street Junction** -TJ/TB to try to do this before the February meeting.
10. **Twenty is Plenty Signs** – Awaiting new design from OCC, following issues raised by TvP.

## 06/19 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

### 1. Highways

#### a) **Pyrton Lane Improvements** –

The survey has been completed – the results are attached to the minutes.

TW thanked everyone who had been involved with doing this and said it was an excellent piece of work. It will show OCC that the majority of residents are serious about getting improvements done. TW said that he hopes that in one year the Edge Road construction will be started and he hopes that in the second year that the first of the houses will have been built, due to pressure from the Growth Board. Therefore, we are looking for improvements to Pyrton Lane for the next two years. In two years Pyrton Lane may become a cul-de-sac.

TB asked that if speed bumps were installed and the road became a cul-de-sac would residents still wish to have speed bumps. Jonathan Moses said that it would still help cars not to speed so he thought yes residents would still want them.

After discussion it was

#### **Resolved:**

1. That the Survey to be sent to OCC.
2. OCC to be asked to draw up a plan and give costings and time scales for the preferred option.
3. To arrange a meeting with OCC to discuss this issue.
4. To appoint Fergus Lapage to be the Parish Council representative to liaise with the Pyrton Lane Residents Group.

#### b) **Pyrton Lane Crossing – Concerns over safety of children crossing**

This email from Keith Woolfson states his concern about children crossing at the junction of Pyrton Lane and Cuxham Road. The hedge from one of the properties is so overgrown that vision is severely affected, and he thinks it is a very dangerous crossing. The Operations Committee agreed it was an appalling crossing for school children. It was also noted that the road markings are barely visible. Carson Rea (CR) said that the other issue is that where the cars park on Cuxham Road it means that cars have to go to the other side of the road to pass and this makes matters worse.

**Resolved:** to write to OCC asking them to take action by cutting the overgrown hedges urgently as they feel this is a major safety issue.

CR stated that the hedgerow backing from the Marlbrook Estate is an ancient hedgerow and should be improved. This was noted.

### 2. Footpaths

- a) **Footpath 13** – TOE application has been submitted. We need to get the Landowners permission

for these works. The Clerk to send a letter to him.

#### b) **General Footpath Issues**

1. **New Footpath Accesses in the Town** – PL asked if there is a possibility of new footpaths in the Town to connect to other areas. TB said that this is something that the NPAB will be looking at.

2. **High Street – Metal Fingerpost** – TW said that the Church have asked for a sign to be added to the metal post. It was noted that there will also be a new one coming for the Ridgeway. After discussion it was:

**Resolved:** That the Church be allowed to put up a sign (same font and style) as the existing signs subject to checking that the height is sufficient to be able to do this with no risk to pedestrians (min height would be 6' 6")

TB stated that there could be more signs showing the way to the church. It was thought another one on Church Close would be useful. TW will pass this onto the Church.

#### 3. Tree Issues

None other than mentioned elsewhere in the minutes.

### 07/19 Open Spaces

#### 1. Recreation Ground /Sports Field/Pavilion

a) **Smurf-Fit asking to keep a tractor tyre on our land** (behind the basketball wire fence)

**Resolved:** That we allow Smurf-Fit to have a trial for 3 months subject to it being kept locked when not in use.

#### b) **Consideration of dogs being kept on leads on the Sports Field**

RB had brought up this issue. The Clerk said that this has been discussed several times and the residents are split 50:50 on this issue.

It was thought in the first instance that we get the views of the PSFC.

#### 2. Paddock

a) **Performance Space** – Awaiting SODC comments on the trees. KT will chase up Martin Gammie.

#### 3. Other Areas

a) **Landscape Design for Triangle on Cuxham Road and Benches for this area** –TJ said she has spoken to the Mogg family who think it would be a lovely idea to call this space after Lady Mogg. Memorial Benches were also discussed. The Clerk will speak to Nigel Mogg.

It was also noted that the dog bin will need to be moved a few inches. TB will organise this.

b) **Willow Close** – Clearance along hedge- TB/TJ will try to do a site visit before the next meeting.

c) **Green Area at Marlbrook** – Consideration of installing bollards to stop cars driving over and parking on the green.

This issue was discussed, and it was agreed that in the first instance we send out a survey to all the residents to obtain their views. The Clerk will draft this and send to all members. JW will help with the delivering/collecting.

d) **Footpath behind St Leonards** – JW reported that this is still covered with leaves and is very slippery. She said that the Task Force had cleared the middle but could not do all of it. The Clerk reported that

she had asked SODC to do it and will chase up SODC.

#### 08/19 Property

##### 1. Car Park

a) **Consideration of installing a mirror opposite the Car Park** – It was noted that SODC do not support mirrors being used.

b) **Mud in the Car Park** – TB said that he was thinking of getting a team together to remove the mud. A skip would be needed. KT asked if it would be worth asking the Community Payback Team if they are able to do this. It was agreed that KT contact them in the first instance.

##### 2. Public Conveniences

a) **Consideration of new hand units** – These units are now in excess of 20-years-old and Wallgate will no longer be able to give us a maintenance contract as some parts are now obsolete. A quote is attached for discussion.

It was agreed that we look at this issue at the next meeting.

##### 3. Parish Office

a) **Carpet for Office** – Deferred to the next meeting.

b) **Art Weeks** – Request to use the main office for Art Weeks

**Resolved:** That we allow the office to be used for Art Weeks in May.

##### c) **Consideration of building a wooden box for rubbish outside the Parish Office**

Ed Warner had come up with a design for this and said that he could build it with Bob Thomas. This would be to put all the blue street waste bags in and make the outside office area much tidier. He had supplied a design.

**Resolved:** that we agree for this wooden box to be made by Ed Warner and Bob Thomas and that we pay for the materials which will be in the region of £550.

#### 09/19 Sub-Committees

1. **Allotments** – Minutes attached from meeting 10/1/2019

##### **RECOMMENDATION FOR OPERATIONS:**

**Footpath from bottom of Love Lane to the Allotments which has no ownership**

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** That they investigate registering this path to the allotments with Land Registry.

TB said that we first need to check that the Allotments are registered with Land Registry. He said that it could not be claimed as a footpath as it does not lead to anywhere. However, the land could be claimed. KT will check if the Allotments are registered as the first step.

2. **PSFC** – No issues raised

#### 10/19 General Issues

1. **Tub Planters** – Request for two new ones to replace the two at the bench on Hill Road

**Resolved:** That we purchase 4 new planters, two for by the bench and two to replace some broken ones in the Town.

KT said she had looked at some, but they were not sturdy enough. RB said he would look at the ones in the garden centre in Princes Risborough.

**2. Litter Bins for recycling in the Town** – SODC have given approval for the type of bins we are considering installing – The budget 2019/2020 has some money allocated for these. TJ will draw up a plan showing the proposed locations which KT can then send to SODC for approval.

JW said that she has been looking into recycling of crisp packets. KT said she has registered our interest in this and pet food packaging and is waiting for a response from Teracycle.

**3. Health Walks in Watlington and other Walks (FL)** – FL gave out a paper on becoming a ‘Walkers are Welcome Town’.

RB said that he and Nicky Smallbone had a meeting with GoActive recently and they are looking into activities for over 55’s.

FL asked for approval to become a Walkers are Welcome Town. It was noted that there are six criteria which need to be met and an accreditation process. There would also be a membership fee.

After discussion it was agreed in principle to becoming a Walkers are Welcome Town and that FL does some more research into what needs to be done and bring information to the next meeting.

**4. MUGA** – The Planning Application to be resubmitted

RB said that the Planning Application is now ready to be re-submitted. A letter will be sent to Love Lane residents before it is sent. This was noted.

**5. Note of Walkabout with Steve Harrod and Jon Beale 12/12/18** – The paper was noted.

**Brook Street** - KT reported that Black Rock had requested a meeting with OCC regarding repairing the road. OCC did not respond to this request. To ask IH to progress the sinking issue on Brook Street on his return.

**6. Request from Resident re bollards outside 41 Couching Street and to have bins with lids in the car park**

**41 Couching Street** – KT said she had met with Jon Beale to discuss this issue and who took measurements in this area. It would be possible to install a couple of bollards. However, there is still the issue of the railings which have been removed but there is no reference to these in the planning application. It was agreed to ask the Enforcement Officer about this.

**Car Park Bins with Lids** – To pass this request onto SvP for consideration when the Car Park Group next meet.

**7. Grass Cutting around the Sports Field** – RB said that the grass around the edges do not get cut by the contractor and the grass is about 1m high. It could be flailed down on 3 sides for a cost of £85.00. To inform the Sports Clubs of our intention.

**Resolved:** That we flail the three sides at the edge of the Sports Field.

**8. Deep Cleanse in Watlington** – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – 5<sup>th</sup> March – Identification of Areas we wish to have cleaned.

**Resolved:** That TJ and JW draw up a list for KT of areas that they are most concerned with. The list needs to be in priority order.

It was noted that the area around J6 could do with a deep clean, but it would be up to Lewknor Parish to request this.

## 11/19 Correspondence

**1. UK Cycling Events** – Notice of a non-competitive cycling event 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the route goes through our parish.

2. **Wallgate** – cannot give us a service cover can only offer a 1-month breakdown cover – attached. This will be discussed next month.
3. **Use our Public Loos Campaign** – JW and KT will have a look into this.
4. **Mr Golding** – Metal Detecting in the Parish – KT to check which areas he wishes to use.
5. **Jane Beard** – Problems with drains on Hill Road and High Street – It was noted that the drains area a real problem. It was agreed to ask for a meeting with OCC
6. **Hugh Thomson** – email re line by Town Hall – The Clerk has responded to him.

12/19 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation  
Noticeboard for Children's Play Area

13/19 Any Other Business

Berinsfield Community Business – We received an email from Mark Williams who has stated that:

*'After 17 years Soha housing decided before Christmas to put our grounds contract out to tender and we did not win the renewal. This will cause a cash shortfall next month as well as the problem of replacing significant lost income. It has been decided therefore to close the business and we are all being made redundant at the end of the month. The company will remain 'open' to the end of March while we wind it up and to manage the March cuts, if required. I will keep my email and mobile accounts open at least to the end of March to remain in touch with customers.*

*Lee Collins is a Berinsfield resident, has been a long-standing subcontractor to BCB and more recently is a volunteer board member. Lee has delivered some of our parish work and private work and 70-odd Soha gardens a month for us for many years. He will be carrying out our March parish cuts for us as well as providing cover to Soha to the end of March. I hope that you would like him to then take over your contract going forward. The price will be the current BCB price and we plan that I will assist him in the background during the season to organise health & safety accreditation, accounts and quality control.*

It was noted that Devey Tree Care looks after our hedges and we could ask Tracey Bilcliffe to quote for the Paddock Gardening. It was agreed that we have a meeting with Mark Williamson and Lee Collins as soon as possible on the grass cutting contract.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.45PM**