



Minutes of the 'Remote' Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 29th April 2020 at 6.30pm by Conference Call

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill (IH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Tim Horton (TH)
Alex Basden (AB)
Keith Woolfson

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

29/20 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

30/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2020 which were accepted by Council on the 10/3/2020 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 when it is possible to do so.

31/20 Declarations of Interest

20mph Zone (Agenda Item 5:3) – It was noted that 3 Councillors present all live within the zones being looked at, but it was deemed that all Councillors had the same interest in this so none were excluded from this item.

National Trust Car Park at the top of Hill Road and Parking on the road (Agenda Item 5:4)- TJ and TH declared an interest in this, TH and TJ are members of the Advisory Committee for the National Trust and TJ is also a Friend of Watlington Hill.

32/20 Matters arising

There were none raised.

33/20 Priority Decisions

1. **Malfunction of I-Play** - Do we continue discussions with Playdale to get the equipment repaired or should we abandon it, or see what we can out of Playdale by way of recompense as well as starting to look at alternatives– Task 17

TH reported that just before the lockdown took place, Playdale had agreed to a meeting. It was agreed to wait until a face to face meeting is possible before further discussion takes place on this. It was noted that if a decision is made to remove it that we have some type of consultation with our young people. The matter of what finances may be available will also be important. **TH**

2. **Speed checks in town** - Full Council has approved the shared SID devices. We need to agree initial locations and a map of proposed sites will be circulated – Task 20

IH had circulated a map showing possible locations

A list of 7 possible locations were identified

1. Christmas Common – agreed this is an important location
2. Britwell Road – site to be further out
3. Cuxham Road
4. Howe Road
5. Shirburn Road
6. Hill Road
7. Brook Street

Resolved: That we ask OCC for permission for all 7 locations and then we would prioritise 3 or 4. **IH/KT**

3. 20mph speed limit for whole town – a map of two possible schemes is attached. Do we go for the smaller town centre area or the full town area so that we can put a firm proposal to OCC – Task 23
IH had produced a map showing 2 zones, one with a small area and one with a larger area. It was noted that OCC would only reduce the speed limit to 20mph if the current speeds are 25mph on average.

Resolved: That we send OCC both zones and ask for their comments, and that we indicate a preference for the larger area.

4. Footpath 13 - We need a decision on remedial action to be carried out - Task 39

IH had provided a report on the background of this issue prior to the meeting.

The revised quote was submitted (10 April 2019) as follows

- Revised quote for Footpath 13 NEW SPEC
- 190 linear metres 1200mm wide to 100mm or 150mm depths
For which the quotes were (100mm) £3420 or (150mm) £4560.

IH explained that Collingswood quote was confirmed by email on 29th with a change from road planings to recycled aggregate as being unchanged, and the work was commissioned for the 100mm depth path.

He stated that looking at this in retrospect it seems that there was a misunderstanding along the way. It looks like the contractor in April was referring to the “new specification” as that provided in February and not the ToE approved specification provided in April, while WPC assumed that he was referring to the ToE spec. The fact the February and 10th April quotes were identical should probably have alerted us to this. It looks to me therefore that we cannot reasonably expect him to make good the difference in materials at his own cost.

If we accept this, we have the options of (A) leaving the path as it is and risk ToE withdrawing their grant leaving us to cover the costs from WPC funds; or (B) getting the changes done to match a reduced ToE specification (agreed verbally in March) of increasing the path depth by laying an extra 50mm on top of the existing surface. The first option could cost us £3420 and leave us with a path that may have a shorter life, the second will need a new quote for the extra work but his earlier quote was for an extra £1,200, leaving us to fund up to about £1000 assuming that ToE will then still give us the full grant of £3560.

After discussion it was agreed that we ask Collingswood Groundworks to submit a new quotation for laying a membrane on the existing surface and then to put aggregate material up to a depth of 50-70mm. It was noted that the edges may be problem and to ask for 3-4 drainage channels into the adjacent stream to be made. The cost of these works would fall to the WPC.
It was noted that the edges of the path would need to be seeded.

Please note photos overleaf.



Footpath 13

left - February immediately after completion

right - late April

Similar positions - the two nearest posts in the February picture are buried in the bush on the right side of the April picture. The new path has matured into the environment very effectively. Two path users I spoke to separately while taking these photographs both agreed that it was a huge improvement over the old mud path.

There was much discussion on this and the mitigation works necessary before the following was agreed:

KT stated that this work could not be undertaken without shutting the footpath which is being well used at the moment for exercise. **IH/KT**

34/20 Other tasks we could progress under social distancing

1. **Two Hour bays in Hill Road Car Park** – We agreed to review parking layout and identify where additional two-hour bays should be located – Task 13. IH/KT/KW to agree proposals then arrange for repainting

2. **Half-pipe repairs** - We need specification and invitation for quotes for work to repair the half pipe - Task 45. TH had sent through a specification for discussion.

Resolved: That we obtain 3 quotes for this work.

TH/RB/KT

3. **Performance Space in Paddock** – Progress report – can we finalise design and get further quotes? – Task 3.

TH reported that the quote we have is from 1 company (but who will also sub-contract with another company as they will be doing different parts of the work). We sought 3 quotes, but this has proved to be impossible. TH therefore suggested that we formally contract with lead company. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That we formally contract Morris and Blunt who will lead on the project subject to WPC obtaining funding. The project will cost in the region of £35K.

TH will campaign for monies towards this project.

TH

35/20 New issues for items not included in the Task List.

National Trust Car Park top of Hill Road Ticket Machine – The Planning Committee referred this issue to Operations to consider the implications of more parking on the road in this location.

It was noted that the National Trust have closed this car park to the public due to COVID 19. IH said that he has been monitoring the number of cars parked in the road in this location. On Easter Sunday there were 18 cars parked on the road and 10 last weekend. TH said he had believed that when the car

park charges begin the money raised would be allocated to the Watlington National Trust area, but he could not see any reference to this in the planning application. TJ stated that this was only a verbal communication. After discussion it was thought that this was not an issue for the Parish Council. However if individuals wish to take this up with the National Trust they are at liberty to do so.

36/20 Sub-Committees

1. **Allotments**

It was noted that this committee was considering these applications as no meetings of the allotment committee had been arranged.

Applications for Structures (These were attached to the Agenda)

1. Robert Rogers – Polytunnel – Plot 47 – **Consent given.**
2. Neil Brown – Green House – Plot 71 – **Consent given.**

2. **PSFC** – Discussed at Full Council last week.

KT reported that she has applied for a grant to SODC for the Pavilion due to the COVID 19 situation as she was notified that the Pavilion would be eligible for this grant by SODC.

37/20 Correspondence

None that needs urgent discussion.

38/20 Any Other Business

Road Verges at Christmas Common – It was noted that Robert Barber was designing an alternative plan. KT will contact him regarding this. **KT**

Two Benches for Cuxham Triangle – We have secured funding for one bench but not the second.

Porta Loo for Recreation Ground – TH said that he thought that we should be supplying somewhere that people can wash their hands during the COVID 19 lockdown (May, June and July). Other Councillors thought not as we should not be encouraging people to stay out in this area as it should only be used for exercise and the playground equipment should not be used. Where possible play equipment has been cordoned off.

It was agreed that as decisions cannot be made under AOB that this issue be put on the May Full Council agenda.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.05PM