



Watlington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 20th February 2020 at 8pm In the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill (IH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Tim Horton (TH)

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

16/20 Apologies for Absence
Keith Woolfson, Alex Basden.

17/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2020 which were accepted by Council on the 11/2/2020 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.

18/20 Declarations of Interest
There were none notified.

19/20 Matters arising
There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

20/20 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues – spreadsheet attached
1. **Installation of a sprung gate at the Love Lane/Trackway Entrance.** (Spreadsheet 43) –completed

2. **Footpath 13.** (Spreadsheet 39)- Work completed by our Contractor. TOE have sent someone out to look at and they are concerned that the specification for works is not accurate. KT said that there have been a number of different quotes and specifications which need to be looked at. TH and IH will meet on Monday to go through the application and the final specification used. **TH/IH**

TH said that this has been a long process as the first application to TOE was refused. This project was started by a Councillor who no longer is on the Council and we must ensure that a current Councillor is always directly engaged with projects.

3. **MUGA** – update RB (Spreadsheet 1)- No update. IH and KT are working on the registration of the land.

4. **Pyrton Lane /Christmas Common – Traffic Calming** – (Spreadsheet 8) There will be a meeting with Lee Turner (IH, TH) on 20th March.

5. **Christmas Common Traffic Calming** (Spreadsheet 18) – A meeting is currently being arranged with some Christmas Common residents prior to a survey being sent. **IH/KT**

6. **Paddock entrance by Library** – The contractors have said they will make good the entrance in better weather. However we now have a quote for improving the grassed area under the trees and a quote for repairing and making the entrance better it was agreed that we ask if the contractor would be willing to make a contribution to works instead of having to come back and repair it.

Resolved:

1. That we accept the quote from A Clissold for the re-grassing and levelling the problem area

2 That we accept the quote from Collinggroundworks Ltd for 26m² of raising the path to stop flooding with 13m of new timber to one side. MOT Type 1 aggregate will be built level and self-binding gravel to finish.

The total cost of Item 1 and 2 will be the region of £1300.00.

RB/KT

7. **Performance Space** (Spreadsheet 3) – TH reported that he is trying to get another quotation for the canopy, and he hopes that this can then be a major discussion item for the next meeting. There may be some slight variation to the design, and he may need to speak to a Planning Officer at SODC.

8. **Dog fouling mitigation measures.** (Spreadsheet 19)- IH has put the SODC stickers which state dog bags can be put in the normal rubbish bins. KT to ask SODC for some more stickers. IH has produced a map showing all bin locations. IH will check that the broken bin on Cuxham Road has been removed.

9. **Speed Indicator Device**– (Spreadsheet 20) – The costs are being given to Finance for consideration. They will discuss this at their meeting on the 5th March.

10. **Kissing Gate to Sports Field** (Spreadsheet 44)– A quote from Collingswood has been received to remove the kissing gate.

Resolved: That this quote be accepted.

Cost in the region of £100.

11. **Flooding on Gorwell and Hill Road** – OCC have been asked to clear drains in Hill Road. The drains on Church Street outside the Moggs are blocked. KT has reported these.

12. **Notice board for Paddock**- (Spreadsheet 6) – This has been ordered and we are awaiting delivery.

13. **Recycling bins**- (Spreadsheet 7)- KT to arrange a meeting with the SODC Officer in charge of bins in the Town in March.

14. **Grass Cutting Contract 2020** (Spreadsheet 6)– KT to arrange a meeting with the Contractor appointed.

21/20 Major Items

1. **20mph for Watlington** – Area to be looked at. (Spreadsheet 23) – IH had produced a map which is attached to these minutes. The map shows 20mph for the centre of town and the central area (minimum area). It was agreed to push for the whole town to be 20mph and if this is not possible to look at making the centre 20mph. To include Brook Street between Couching Street and Gorwell and bit up Shirburn Street to Love Lane. KT to see if OCC have the new twenty is plenty stickers.

Resolved: To contact Lee Turner (OCC) and see if the meeting arranged can include this issue also.

2. **Debrillator for Howe/Hill/ Christmas Common/Hill Road Car Park** –the Recommendation from Full Council was deferred and the Operations Committee to re-consider this.

Discussion took place on this and it was agreed to ask our First Responder, the Watlington Practice and the Ambulance Service if they have any opinion on this.

3. **Dark Skies** – paper by Tim Horton was attached to the Agenda (held on file in the office)

TH said that he had been asked by the committee to explore two related matters with the Lighting team in Oxfordshire. The issues were: the possibilities of reducing power usage in

conformity with Watlington's Climate Change' position and the matter of 'white' light on new LED' instalments. TH explained that the new LED lights that will be used on replacement bulbs and new developments will have a 3000-kelvin output and the LED lights should assume a hue not dissimilar to that given out by sodium.

Discussion took place on the following points 1-4 and it was:

Resolved that:

1. The committee do not investigate the desirability of seeking a (limited) nighttime turn off.
2. That we support efforts made to reduce power usage for lighting across the County by 20% by writing to OCC to support the transition from sodium to LED lights.
3. That regarding lights that we think are exceptionally bright in the Town by flagging the with OCC.
4. That we advise WCAG of our intentions above.

22/20 Minor Items

1. Proposal for a 'A Big Lunch in Watlington – letter from N Shafer.

This will be held in June 2020. They are hoping to have it on the High Street and has asked that this be run by the Council and supported by WCAG and ArtWeeks and any other interested groups TH said that the Art Weeks may have a road closure in May and KT said that she would find out if this is happening and thought that two High Street closures in two consecutive months was too many. It was agreed that in principle the Big Lunch is a good idea but to ask if the Paddock could be considered as a location and which has the benefit of being able to easily put up marquees if the weather was not good.

2. Tree and Tree Preservation Maps – (Spreadsheet 38 & 42)- IH is working on these.

3. Cuxham Triangle (Spreadsheet 11) –Two recycled plastic curved benches for this area have been agreed. We have funding for one of them.

Resolved: That we use the plastic bottles from the recycling from Art Weeks to make these benches.

4.. I Play and possible new piece of equipment –Discussion (Spreadsheet 17) - The idea of having several musical instruments instead of the I-Play was considered a good option and prices to be looked at. However, we do need to finalise what we do about the I-Play and TH will contact Playdale. To further discuss this at the next meeting.

Commented [KT1]:

5. Footpath between Couching Street and Watcombe Road – 2 quotes have been received for the clearance of this path.

It was noted that this path does not belong to anyone and it is the resident's responsibility to keep their area clear. However, a lot of the residents are elderly and the hedges etc are very overgrown, so it is near impossible to get through. It was also noted that the path from Brook Street to West Meadow is very overgrown (Quote to be sought). After discussion the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Parish Council take on responsibility for the footpath from Brook Street to West Meadow and the footpath between Watcombe Road and Couching Street (Pilgrims Path).

6. Parking and Oxford Mail Article on parking by Schools – The article was debated and it stated that it was a shame the school had not contacted us regarding this issue and it was agreed to write to the Headteacher asking if they have any proposals that they would like to discuss with us. It was noted that the school used to have a 'walking bus' which stopped a lot of parents having to drive to the school. It was also agreed to write to ICC. TH will draft this letter.

TH/KT

23/20 Progress Reports (if necessary)

1.Hill Road Car Park (Spreadsheet 13) – Need to order signs.

IH/KT

2. **Rubbish by the Industrial Estate** – JW reported that there is a lot of rubbish on the side of the road leading to the estate. She has spoken to one of the companies regarding this and he was unaware of the brown trout in the stream. He is upset that the estate owner does not keep this site clean and tidy and on their poor maintenance of units. JW will do a task force clearance of the area if permission is given from the owner. It was agreed to speak to SODC about this problem and ask for a bin in this location as it is thought most of the rubbish is from the lorry drivers who park up there and is flytipping. KT to contact SODC regarding this issue.

24/20 Sub-Committees

1. **Allotments - 17/2/2020**

Appointment of new committee member

Resolved: That Fergus Lapage becomes a member of the Allotment sub-committee.

2. **PSFC** – No recommendations from the meeting held on 3rd February.

25/20 General Issues for discussion

1. **Compost Bin in Paddock** – RB reported that he has spoken to our Gardner for the Paddock who is not in favour of this. No further action on this.

2. **Church Path from Church Street to the Church** – Tarmac and Path Width and Posts– There was discussion on this and it was thought we need more information. RB will research this issue for the next meeting.

3. **Trees for the Parish** – TJ had asked for the committee to identify sites for new trees
Potential Sites

Verges

Allnut Close entrance

Brook Side/Cuxham Road entrance

Do any of the roundels in Brook Street/Couching street need new trees

Ash trees on Cuxham Road look like they are starting to die.

Plant bushes/shrubs as well as trees.

4. **BT Phone Box in Hill Road Car Park** – What should we use if for.

Suggestions

To host a defibrillator

Put up publicity panels – would need to be locked.

Agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

26/20 Correspondence

There was no correspondence that needed discussion.

27/20 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

Assessments of Roads in Watlington –TH

Porta Loo from Easter to September in the Recreation Ground. KT to bring costs - March

Watlington Hub – cycling, Junction 6 and Safety - March

28/20 Any Other Business

Pavement Co-op and outside Peppermint Lime – TH to draft letter to Vanessa Buckley. **TH**

National Trust Car Park top of Hill Road – TJ said that they are talking about removing our Watlington Information Board. Members to look at the board and consideration to be given to putting up an updated map if the posts are in good order. Costs needed for the next meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM