



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 17th February 2022 at 7pm on Zoom

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill (IH) - Chairman
Roger Beattie (RB) – Vice-Chairman
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Rob Smith (RS)
Tim Horton (TH)
Alex Basden (AB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

11/22 Apologies for Absence

Jenny Wilkinson.

12/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2022 which were accepted by Council on the 8th February 2022 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.

13/22 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

14/22 Matters arising

Car Park Hill Road – TH reported that there is a lot of mud at the Watcombe end and that there are weeds around the telephone box and the central area. He also asked if the Buddleia should be retained. It was noted that the entrance/exit needs some tidying up. It was suggested that we could ask the Task Force (1st Sunday of the Month) whether they may help with this. IH and RB will have a meeting with Adam Clissold regarding whether the Watcombe area could have a barrier to stop the mud from spreading from the verge. Regarding the leylandii hedge, KT to check whether this is in the tree tender document.

15/22 Decision on future operations meetings

There was a discussion on whether to continue on Zoom or have Face to Face committee meetings. It was agreed that the March meeting be Face to Face and a decision on what type of meeting to be held to be looked at again in March.

16/22 Main agenda items

- a. **Task 18 Christmas Common improvements.** Reports are that there is a disagreement between the residents. It was agreed that IH prepare a few options for improvements for discussion at the next meeting. An outreach meeting will be organised at the appropriate time.
- b. **Task 19 Dogs on the playing fields.** Are additional signs/bins required, and if so where? It was agreed to ask the developers to install bins on the new sites as they develop them. IH will write to Bloor (Red Kite View) asking if they would consider doing this.

- c. **Task 49 Footpath 36 / Little orchard.** Ownership of the land has changed again, this time to a local resident. We need meet with them to get an idea of what their plans are. TJ said that she understood that the new owner wishes to install a hedge and remove the fencing. However, she understood that they are not keen on the path which is waiting for a decision from the Planning Inspector. It was thought it best to speak with them once the decision has been made.
- d. **Task 51 New signs for recreation ground.** Quotes for signs at sports field entrance are attached. We need a decision on whether we go ahead with them and how costs should be split WPC and sports clubs. The 3 quotes were noted and after discussion it was agreed to go with the I-design quote. However, we are awaiting a response from WTFC about the amount they are willing to contribute as the original request for these signs came from them. It was also agreed that KT approach FvM to see if he could provide any funding for these.
- e. **Task 68 Repairs to play equipment following inspection.** We have had two quotes for repairs form Playground Facilities Ltd and Playdale based on the Playdale safety report – a reduced list of repairs was attached to the agenda. Need to place order. It was agreed to commission the work from Playground Facilities Ltd which is cheaper, and they can also repair the outdoor fitness equipment item which Playdale cannot. This cost will be in the region of £1200 and will be taken from the Operations budget for this current financial year. Two quotes have been received to repair the roundabout and it was agreed that we commission Playdale to repair this in April. The cost is in the region of £2000.
- f. **Task 6 Removal for flower tubs from the Hill Road car park.** Two have been moved successfully. One remaining - should consider planting something in it. TJ reported that there are bulbs in it which should flower soon.
- g. **Task 8 Pyrton Lane improvements.** Progress report
IH stated that the construction drawings are being done at present and the scheme is still on target for Easter time.
- h. **Task 20 Speed checks in town.** We have now ordered an additional SID and three solar panels as well two further poles. Report of initial speeds from the Christmas Common and Shirburn Road SIDs have been circulated. It has been reported that residents in Christmas Common think it has made a difference and the new SID has arrived. When the weather improves IH will meet with Ollie Brake and arrange for the new one to be put on Howe Road. Cuxham have asked for their share of the shared SID and the one on Shirburn Road will be moved to Cuxham. A schedule of SID moving will be drawn up.
- i. **Task 23 20mph speed limit for whole town.** IH has not had an update on this.
- j. **Task 29 Grass cutting contract.** New contracts have been issued. Donald Cousins has withdrawn his bid so we may need to retender. KT will contact new gardeners for quotes.
- k. **Task 30 Mansle garden improvements.** Need to open a new entrance on the Mason's Wood side. Meeting with residents' group to agree planting for end wall. IH referred to the letter from Mrs Brock who asked for one of the new entrances to be fenced up. It had been agreed that we open a third exit and Adam Clissold to be asked for a price to do this. Mrs Brock will be invited to the next residents meeting. The planting for the end wall will be discussed one we have appointed a new gardener.
- l. **Task 37 Business use of recreation ground and sports fields.** Deferred until MUGA is ready at which time it will be easier to implement a charging scheme. It was agreed to take this task of the agenda until an appropriate time.
- m. **Task 38 Full tree survey.** Martin Gammie is now back at work and has requested tenders from contractors for the key tasks from his report. The full budget for his work has now been

approved by Full Council. We need to check that the dead Cherry tree on Brook Street is part of the works. If not, we need to obtain a quote.

- n. **Task 70 Roundabout onto Cuxham Road** – Condition is very poor. Discussion
TJ reported that Keith J tidied it up as part of the Sunday task however lorries are chewing it all up, kerbs are also broken. It was noted that something more drastic needs to be done. KT to ask OCC for comments on this in the first instance.
- o. **Task 71 Gates on the Public Conveniences**
We have had one written and one verbal quote. KT to obtain a written quote from Bruce Garside. This can then be further discussed at the next meeting. It was noted that we would need to seek approval from SODC.

17/22 Progress reports as needed

All other tasks are listed in the January task sheet distributed with this agenda. The lead for each task should report any developments on that task where they consider it necessary.

Task 61 Brook Street Trench – IH/KT will be writing to OCC and just need to take photos to send with the letter to provide some hard evidence. IH reported that the trench is 24m long and 8cm deep now.

18/22 Subcommittees

1. **Allotments** – There has been no meeting, but a clear up day has been organised.

2. **PSFC** – There has been no meeting.

a) **Permanent Marking of Rec Car Park** – *see attached email from KW*- This was noted, and the car park is now being looked at within the wider scheme of the Recreation Master Plan.

19/22 Correspondence

1. Keith Martindale – **SID on Hill Road**, IH has spoken with him regarding this. He would like one installed by the Spire and Spoke. However, it was thought this was not perhaps the best place. It was agreed to commission OCC to conduct a speed survey so we have evidence about the current speeds. KT/IH will order one.

2. Friends of the Ridgeway – Do we wish to join at £15 pa.

Resolved: That we join this, and the payment will be on the list of payments for the March Full Council meeting.

3. Watlington Footpath 36 Modification Order – Inquiry will be held on Wed 3 August 2022 at County Hall and also as virtual event – It was noted that WPC agreed previously to not send any formal view on this.

20/22 Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.19PM