



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7pm on Zoom

This meeting was held on Zoom due to the icy weather conditions rather than meeting in person.

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill (IH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Rob Smith (RS)

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

In Attendance:

Helen Jones – WPC Gardener

Members of the Public:

1- Graham Pitman for Agenda Item 7a

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

01/23 Apologies

Alex Basden, Tim Horton.

02/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2022 which were received by Council on 13/12/22 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.

03/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

04/23 Co-option onto the Committee

IH will contact Matt Hoyle to see if he is interested.

05/23 Matters arising

There were none other than agenda items.

06/23 Operation Budget

1. With the new financial management arrangements we now need to monitor spend against our budget – IH reported that we still have some money we can spend. The budget figures until the end of December were noted.

07/23 Main agenda items

See attached note from Jon Beale on tasks 18, 26,70,73,83.

- a) Task 18 **Christmas Common Residents have asked for a permanent SID** – It was noted that all Christmas Common residents are in favour of this. There has been a CIL payment for Christmas Common given to WPC.

Resolved: That we put in project proposal for CIL Funding for this SID to the Finance Committee . IH to do this.

IH also reported that Cuxham are giving up their 1/3rd allocation for the SID, which is shared by them, Swyncombe and Watlington as they are getting one of their own. They will therefore given up there share for the SID and have asked for a payment of £375 by each parish to take this over.

Resolved: That we pay £375 and will now have a 50% share of the SID.

Howe Hill and Greenfield have asked that they be included in the SID Schedule. It was noted that we would need poles and solar panels. IH will cost up the solar panels. KT will ask Jon Beale, OCC for poles to be put in appropriate locations in these two area.

b) Task 30 Mansle garden improvements – Helen Jones

HJ had provided a planting proposal for this area which was agreed. She has nearly completed weeding the new hedge. She has started digging out the beds by the wall boundary and has started mulching these. New planting will be put in, but these will need minimum maintenance. Regarding the new hedging she proposed waiting until spring to see what comes up and then replace areas where necessary.

Resolved: That all were agreed with the planting proposal plan.

RS/IH will attend to the gap in the hedge when the weather improves.

c) Task 66 Footpath across Brook Street. Survey of hedges obstructing footpaths has been carried out by RS/IH and residents are being written to. **RS/ IH** will do another inspection.

d) Task 73 Footpath across Brook Street. Prepare a proposal for the crossing and send to OCC Highways -**IH** met with JB to discuss this. JB suggested an informal crossing as a full crossing with beacons likely to be very expensive. The best place for crossing is east of Davenport Place (pavements too narrow to west, drains limit choice of location, dropped kerbs for crossing) crossing roughly in line with footpath. Cost probably around £6,000.

e) Task 90 Car Park at Rec – discussion on resurfacing and new markings (requested by WTFC) – An initial quotation had been received for the existing layout. KT has sent them photos of the current surface. We need to ask for some surface dressing to be put on. RB/IH to let KT know.

e) Task 25 Sign for Town Hall fingerpost – This has been ordered.

f) Task 91 Car Park re-organisation of Area– KT to write to Grundon as emails bounce back.

g) Task 83 Cuxham Road roundabout. This is always being damaged by heavy vehicles negotiating the junction. JB's suggestion is that we would be unable to get it reduced in size because of the underground services but IH said we could consider strong edging with obstructions on the inner edge and a raised area inside treated in the same way as Lady Mogg's garden. To see if our Caretaker and Gardener are able to do anything here. JB has suggested a rubber bollard but it was agreed not to install one.

h) Overhanging Trees from the Rec over the road to the garages – IH and our Gardener will deal with these.

08/23 Suggestions from Walkabout Meeting

i) Task 79 Parish Office painting. Some of the woodwork of the building needs repainting as paint is peeling off- *Our Caretaker has said he would do this in the Spring.*

j) Task 80 Paddock footpaths. Grass is starting to grow over the footpaths and needs cutting back – *Our gardener and caretaker will do this.*

k) Task 84 Brookside entrance. This was planted out with distinctive trees as a focal point. It has become overgrown with other shrubs and trees crowding the original trees. Needs to be cleared up and surrounding beds replanted – *Volunteer Group needed.*

- l) **Task 86 Marlbrook parking- Consideration of installing bollards-** It was agreed to install 4. RS to send a sketch showing height and location to the Clerk.
- m) **Task 87 Mansle garden.** Need to get bin base on footpath repaired by SODC and consider moving dog bin to new location. KT to write to SODC about the H&S. The one by the Church to also be reported.
- n) **Task 88 Damage to Shirburn Road verges.** The contractors for the Beechcroft development have destroyed the roadside verges, with the probable loss of the daffodils planted there some years ago. Approach Beechcroft for replacement. Also, some of the trees on verge have been cut back on only the roadside leaving the trees unbalanced.- *A letter has been sent to the developers and they have replied.* A further letter to be sent.
- o) **Task 91 Tree in Paddock** – branches overhanging residents property – This work has been commissioned. DTC will send a tree work order to SODC for approval. The resident will supply wood to repair the bench in the paddock area.

09/23 Progress reports as needed

Sun Shelters for the Rec – The Office will look into options.

Timer for light in the Rec – RB said that Neil Campbell had given a quote of approx £100 for this and it was agreed that we commission him to do this.

10/23 Watlington Parish Council CCTV Policy – RS/IH to provide amendments to this.

Deferred to the next meeting.

11/23 Correspondence

Letter 316 - Freddie Van Meirlo – Howe Hill SID – Discussed above.

Letter 311 – Graham Pitman SIDC for Task 18 and 2 other letters- Discussed above.

Letter 305 – Beechcroft re verges

Letter 304 -OCC – 20mph Campaign

All correspondence was noted.

12/23 Any Other Business

Car blocking bus at Gorwell – This was put up on Facebook and the bus had to wait for 40 minutes for the driver who had parked on yellow lines and blocked the road to come back and move it. It was agreed to put a yellow cone in this location for the time being.

Items for Future Meetings

Task 92 Purchase of a street sweeper -TH – March 2023