



# Watlington Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 at 8pm In the Community Office

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Ian Hill (IH)  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Alex Basden (AB)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)  
Diana Ludlow (SL)  
Keith Woolfson (KW)  
Tim Horton

**Co-opted Member:**

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan (KT)

01/20 Apologies for Absence  
There were none.

02/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 which were accepted by Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 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.

03/20 Declarations of Interest  
There were none notified.

04/20 Matters arising  
There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

05/20 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues - See attached spreadsheet. (will be emailed out)

- 1. Installation of a sprung gate at the Love Lane/Trackway Entrance** – The work has nearly been completed there are a few issues that need to be rectified on the gate.
- 2. Clearing of ditch on Trackway to Rec** – The work has been done.
- 3. Footpath 13.** (Spreadsheet 39)- Work should be started end of Jan/beginning of Feb.
- 4. Christmas Carols Christmas Eve** – This event was very successful, and the road closure was a good idea.
- 5. MUGA** – RB reported that the land must be registered before grants can be applied for.
- 6. Pyrton Lane /Christmas Common – Traffic Calming** - Letter sent to OCC – awaiting a reply
- 7. Christmas Common Traffic Calming** – A meeting will be arranged with some of the local Christmas Common residents and a questionnaire for residents will be prepared, as there is a fair amount of division.
- 8. Christmas Tree Recycling** – The location at the Recreation Ground worked well.
- 9. Paddock entrance by Library** – The contractor has said that he will reinstate the ground once the weather is drier and the area is less muddy.

06/20 Major Items

1. **20mph for Watlington** – Area to be looked at. (Spreadsheet 23)

This has been approved by Full Council. IH has read through the 20mph Research Study Headline Report (Atkins, AECOM and UCL) which studied areas of 20mph to show how effective they are and what they achieved. The conclusion was that most residents and pedestrians did not notice the change and it did not solve the speed problems. Signs had some effect as they were different from the 30mph ones and worked quite effectively. There are other effects such as health etc not just the speed reduction on which the report focussed. The NP has a strong message on 20mph, and we need to get on board with this. We need to have speed surveys done for all the streets that have not been measured. IH will send out a list of roads/streets that we do have data for. TH will be the lead person on this and a meeting with Lee Turner will be arranged.

2. **Discussion of dog fouling mitigation measures.** (Spreadsheet 19)

It was thought that dog fouling in town has got worse. The Dog Group are still doing their patrols in the sports field on weekend mornings. It was noted that some people have the wrong impression of the group as one lady who allowed her dog to foul stated that there was a group in town that picked up dog fouling. This is clearly not the case and it is the owner's problem. It was agreed that a piece be put in the Watlington Times. Rae Young was designing a sign and KT will chase him up. We have the bin stickers from SODC and IH is putting them on bins in the town which state that dog waste can be put in them. The damaged dog bin by Cuxham Triangle will be replaced with a black bin. To ask Rae if the group would like to have a meeting with WPC representatives.

3. **Tree and Tree Preservation Maps** – RB/IH (Spreadsheet 38 & 42)

IH said he has a list of protected trees but there are not many on it and there are some trees that should be protected which are not. Also, they do not seem to stay on the register for long only about 6 months. It was agreed to email the Forestry Officer and ask for a list of protected trees in Watlington. TH said that the Conservation Map shows lots of trees including ones in private ownership and that the Parish Council have set money aside for a Conservation Re-appraisal study and we should make sure that trees and their value are a specific part of the brief. IH will look at the Conservation Map and will report back to the next meeting.

4. **Debrillator for Howe/Hill/ Christmas Common/Hill Road Car Park** – We have had an offer that if we install one, we have had an offer to provide another.

Discussion took place on this and the following was agreed:

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That as we have no money in this or next years budget to purchase a defibrillator that we do not accept this offer at this moment in time.

07/20 Minor Items

1. **Cuxham Triangle** –Bench for this area design and materials to be agreed. (Spreadsheet 11)-TJ has sent out designs.

KT reported that the Moggs are happy to give us a donation for a bench. It was agreed that we purchase a plastic recycled bench. That the second bench needed be paid for from the Operations budget.

*[Post Minute Note: We can get our plastic bottle collection (Art Weeks and Climate Change Group) made into a plastic bench]*

2. **I Play and possible new piece of equipment** –Discussion (Spreadsheet 17) – Deferred to the next meeting.

3. **Speed Indicator Device** – Discussion (Spreadsheet 20)

It was noted that we can have a third share in one and WPC would like to also have their own. We would need to have poles and solar panels purchased for each location that we wish to use so that only the speed unit would need to be moved. It would be ideal to have a least 3 or 4 locations. IH will cost up the options.

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That we purchase one SID and one third of another SID and we ask that the Finance Committee to investigate paying for these with CIL money subject to their clarification and approval.

4. **Playground Safety Report** – RB/BT and KT have been through this and will organise works needed. The zip wire area needs to have more wood chip and this will be done in the spring. Some swing seats also need replacing.

5. **Performance Space** – TH reported that there is a lot of activity on this. He was hoping to have 4 quotes in but only has one. However, there is now another company interested in quoting. It is clear that we would need to seek external grants and one quote would not look good. Hopefully the second quote will be available for the next meeting. TH is putting together a list of possible grant sources. The issue of storage will also be looked at.

08/20 Progress Reports (if necessary)

**Hill Road Car park** (Spreadsheet 13) – We need to order the car park order sign.

**Recycling bins** (Spreadsheet 7) – KT has met with the SODC bin person and he is advising at present that they are not putting in recycling bins as they are constantly contaminated by people putting in the wrong materials. He is reviewing the bins in Watlington in April 2020.

**Notice board for Paddock** (Spreadsheet 6) – This needs to be ordered.

09/20 Sub-Committees

1. **Allotments** – There has been no meeting.

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

10/20 General Issues for discussion

1. **Discussion of a Compost Bin in Paddock** – RB said that he thought this would be a good idea. To further discuss at the next meeting.

2. **Kissing Gate to Sports Field** – RB suggested that we remove the kissing gate and deal with the surface area. It was agreed that RB to get quotes for slabs/mats etc

3. **Church Path from Church Street to the Church** – IH reported that the corner is being made good and has been re-seeded. TH stated that this footpath is only for access to the two houses and the electric sub-station (this was the wish of OCC and they specified the width between the posts in 1989) WPC supported this then and we should continue to do so. It is classified as a BOAT. The footpath should be brought back to its original width as it has widened over the years. It is thought that this should be in WPC's minutes from 1988/89. TH will also look for more information on this.

4. **Flooding on Gorwell and Hill Road** – The drains in Gorwell have been cleared and it was agreed that we ask that the drains in Hill Road be done.

5. **Trees for the Parish** – TJ stated that 33 people brought trees in Tree Week in December 2019. We are able to get free trees from the Woodland Trust. She suggested that Fleet Meadow (by West Meadow) would be a good area to put in hedge line planting. TJ will contact the Watlington Support Fund who own this land.

6. **BT Phone Box in Hill Road Car Park** – What should we use it for – Deferred to the next meeting.

11/20 Confidential Item: EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC for Agenda Item 12

**Resolved:** *That in the view that this item is part of a tender process and that a contract will be awarded, with the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw for the next item (12)*  
Under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as defined in Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

12/20 Grass cutting contract – (Spreadsheet 29) – To recommend a Grass Cutting Contractor to Full Council from 1 April 2020.

We have received 4 tenders and a comparison document was sent to Members.

Following discussion in confidential session:

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That the grass cutting contract be given to The Landscape Group Oxford for one year subject to a full review in October.

It was noted that we will arrange to have a meeting with them if this recommendation is accepted to discuss the changes in the tender etc. IH, KW and KT to meet with them.

13/20 Correspondence

1. **OCC** – Application for Definitive Map Modification Order: Addition of a public footpath between the Nettlebed-Henley Road and Hollandridge Lane, Christmas Common – Notice of Determination – **Noted**
2. **OCC** – Notice of Modification Order Section 53 (2) (b) – Footpath No 36 Modification Order 2019-**Noted.**

14/20 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

Assessments of Roads in Watlington –TH  
Dark Skies – February Meeting  
Church Lane Barrier

15/20 Any Other Business

**Footpath between Couching Street and Watcombe Road (Pilgrims Cottage)** – TH said that this has not had any attention and the residents have been written to asking them to clear it, most of them are elderly. He asked that WPC arrange clearance of this and then annual attention. KT will obtain a quote from our hedge contractor.

**Rubbish on the road to the Industrial Estate** – JW said that this road is in a dreadful state and that she will speak to the Industrial Estate regarding this. It is thought that it comes from the lorry drivers who throw their rubbish out. It was suggested that perhaps a bin and sign in this area may help matters.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM**