



Watlington Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Kristina Tynan
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Minutes of the 'Remote' Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7pm on Zoom

Present:

Councillors:

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

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

In Attendance:

Tom Bindoff

01/21 Apologies for Absence
Alex Basden

02/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2020 which were accepted by Council on the 8/12 /2020 to be agreed as a correct record
There was one change agreed, Minute 113/20 item v, to add the words 'SODC said' to the first sentence.

Resolved: That with change noted above, these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman when it is possible to do so.

03/21 Declarations of Interest
There were none notified.

04/21 Matters arising
There were none other than agenda items.

05/21 Tasks in progress and new tasks

a. Pyrton Lane improvements – Following the OCC suggestion an invitation to tender for preparation of suitable engineering drawings has been prepared and sent out. Need to evaluate responses when they come in. (task 8 – TH) – We have received one quote and are waiting for two more.

b. Dogs on the playing fields – new dog bin contractor has been appointed and collection frequency has been increased to weekly. Decision on new bin locations to be made in January (task 19 – IH) - IH reported that with weekly emptying of dog bins there is now no issue with any bins overflowing.

c. SIDs – It is hoped that these will shortly be delivered. Locations have been agreed and OCC will install five posts within the next month. (task 20 – IH).

d. Bicycle racks – Area in Hill Road car park has been prepared and quotes for cycle racks have been received and circulated to members. Need to decide on rack -see attached quotes. (task 53 – TJ/KW)

Resolved: That racks for 10 bikes be order from Cyclohoop and that IH/RB and the Clerk arrange the best way for its installation.

e. **Prospect Place** – proposal for safety improvements (task 56 – IH) Decision on what action, if any, to take (see attached paper from IH)

Resolved: That the suggestions in the paper are agreed and that the signs be ordered following approval from OCC if they will not install them.

f. **Lady Mogg garden** – Two benches will be ordered. (task 11 – TJ) -KT said that she has put this on hold due to Covid 19, but they will be ordered at an appropriate time.

g. **Telephone Box in Car Park** – Repairs needed and report (task 58 – TH) – TH has been investigating this and is obtaining a cost for an essential restoration of this box as it is an eyesore at the moment. We will at some point have to agree how we wish to use it.

h. **20 mph limit throughout town** (task 23 – TH) – OCC have responded to our letter and have suggested we take this up with our County Councillor (email 12/1/2021)- IH will do this.

i. **Grass Cutting Tender for 2021/2022** – Need to review current contractors before new season (task -29)- It was noted that the grass cutting regime will start at beginning of April with our current contractors TLGO.

Resolved: That we put an agenda item on for the July meeting to agree any items to be added to the tender document and have a re-tender for a contract to start from April 2022. This will need to be sent to contractors in September 2021.

The Clerk reported that Tracey Bilcliffe our Gardener is leaving and has recommended a replacement. He has met with IH, RB and the Clerk and would be happy to take on the work at the same price.

Resolved: That we contract Donald Cousins to take over from Tracey and the gardening work will also be re-tendered for April 2022.

j. **Flooding in Car Park** – Prevention of flooding and inadequate drainage (task 59 – RB) – RB said that the ground clearance has been done and there are no flooding issues at present. However, the drain to the entrance of the car park is blocked and KT to speak to Bob to see if he can clear it.

k. **Report on public toilet vandalism** - recent episodes of damage in the public toilets have been brought under control – consider whether further measures are needed (new – JW)- There was much discussion on this and a few options were agreed to look at; CCTV, automatic switching off lights for a specific time frame. KT has alerted our PCSO's to the problem which has recently gone away. KT also put up a post on the Facebook Page on the vandalism issues when they started happening. JW said that she is also concerned that groups are meeting up in this location especially at 4am with the current Covid 19 restrictions. JW was thanked for all her work with the public conveniences.

06/21 Other tasks (only if any change to report)

a. **Air Quality funding available** – Letter from SODC not yet followed up (new – IH) -IH to do.

b. **Flytipping and littering** – look into feasibility of regular skips in town for large items disposal (new – SB) -not discussed

c. **Business Use of Rec** – Decision on whether a charge is needed deferred until COVID restrictions lifted (task 37 – RB) – Not deemed appropriate to discuss at this time.

d. **Comet Bus** – Service to be restarted with Chalgrove after COVID restrictions are relaxed (new – IH)-

e. **Signs for recreation ground** (task 51 IH) – The ones that the Sport Club have requested, Ian is re-drafting. It was agreed that the signs for the half pipe, bowl and recreation area are ordered and put up. IH and TH to confirm the wording with KT.

f. **Pedestrian crossing Pyrton Lane** (task 26 IH) – KW to send a plan to IH and KT and OCC to be sent it and asked for comments.

- g. **High Street pedestrian improvements** – awaiting response from OCC (task 52 - IH) -It was noted that this scheme was not eligible for the Active Travel Grant.
- h. **Christmas Common road improvements** (task 18– IH) – It was noted that we have received a letter in correspondence on the dreadful state of the roads and verges with stumps now being put on the road itself which narrows the road and could be dangerous especially in the dark, as in some places it would be difficult for large vehicles to be able to pass each other. TH said he had sent an email to OCC on this, but it had been ignored. It was agreed that IH and TH further send a proposal to OCC on this. It was noted that a new officer has been appointed at OCC who would be dealing with this issue.
- i. **I-play** (task 17 – TH)- no update
- j. **Mansle Gardens** – maintenance and hedges – RB stated that this area is looking very neglected and the whole area including the benches could do with some work. It was agreed that RB and TJ discuss this and draft up proposals for the short term and the long term. KT to check when the hedges in this area are due to be cut.
- k. **Brass Victorian Hydrant** – A resident wishes to give this to the Town – KT to ask for a photo of it which she will to send to Member but the initial thought was that it is a nice idea to install it somewhere in Watlington and possibly in the paddock area.

***Operations updated spreadsheet is attached**

07/21 Tasks completed or on hold

On Hold Tasks

- a) Refurbishment of public conveniences (task 24 – RB/TJ)
- b) Mansle garden improvements (task 30 – TJ)
- c) MUGA proposal (task 1 – RB)
- d) Barrier at end of Church Lane (task 31 – TH)
- e) Electric charge points in Hill Road car park (task 55 – IH)
- f) Half-pipe – Plywood needs to be painted (task 45 – TH) - Completed
- g) Replacement of litter bins in town centre (task 7 – TJ)- on HOLD – Awaiting SODC’s survey
- h) **Cycle routes in town** – proposals (KW and TJ)

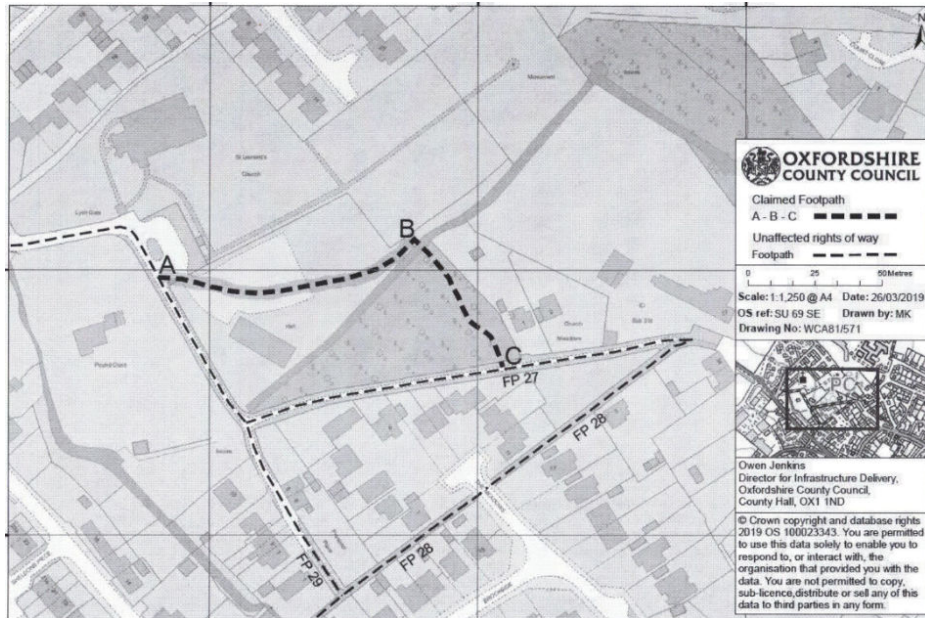
*The Operations updated spreadsheet was attached to the agenda.

08/21 Subcommittees

1. **Allotments** – No issues to discuss.
2. **PSFC** – – No issues to discuss.

09/21 Correspondence (Numbers relate to the Mail in File

9. **Tom Bindoff – Path through Church Land and through Little Orchard** – TB said that he first put in a claim that this should be a defined footpath back in 2014. Now that the 2 houses have been built it was noted that a gate has been installed for use if the footpath is accepted. The Inspector should determine it this year. He stated that it would be very helpful if the Parish Council supported the claim. It has been used by lots of people during the last 25 year and is unique in that the path goes through a stream and wood. It would be a great loss to the community if it was lost. OCC now have a neutral view on it. It was noted that the church part of the footpath has been diverted due to the 2 houses and this works. However, at present the path through Little Orchard cannot be used as it has had metal fencing put around it. TB explained that it would be very important that the patch here should be the original path and should not be diverted. It was also noted that this path would be useful for residents to use following the recent near misses in the Prospect Place Area. A map is shown below of the path. TB has photographs of the path through Little Orchard.



Following much discussion, the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Parish Council support the claim for this footpath to be included on the map of Definitive Rights of Way and would object to any diversion to this path through Little Orchard.

10. **Mav Systems** – ANPR – attached – This has been sent to NPAB

14. **G Pitman** – copy letter re Speeding in Christmas Common – This was noted and discussed above.

16. **Nick Little** – email and photographs obstructions in Christmas Common – This was noted and discussed above.

18. **SODC Climate Action Team** – About funding opportunities and are keen to know what parishes have been doing to address the climate emergency – This has been passed to WCAG. KT will liaise with them and send some information to SODC.

10/21 Any Other Business

Filming on Britwell Hill – It was noted that this will be happening in March. It is in the Parish of Britwell Salome who have no objection to it, and it was agreed that we do not have any particular objections to it.

Tree Management Plan – The plan for the trees on parish owned land has been started and it is hoped to get the report soon. The NPAB have asked for a quote for a plan for all the non-owned parish council's trees and it was agreed that this should be a separate project. TH asked to see the contract that was agreed, and it was noted that perhaps this should be tightened up in future to ensure certain deadlines are met.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.45PM