



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 8pm In the Community Office

There was a site visit to the bottom of High Street and Verge Area opposite the Chequers prior to the meeting.

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Bob West (BW)  
Ian Hill (IH)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)  
Tony Williamson (TW)  
Roger Beattie (RB)  
Fergus Lapage (FL)

**Co-opted Member:**

Jenny Wilkinson

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan

75/18 Apologies for Absence

Tom Bindoff.

76/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June May 2018 which were accepted by Council on the 10/7/2018 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.

77/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

78/18 Matters arising

There were none other than agenda items.

79/18 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

1. **Cobbles by Public Conveniences clearing out** – Done – BW gave thanks to Jenny Wilkinson and Chris Howse for their sterling work.
2. **Removal of white line at the Town Hall** – No update but it is hoped it will be done soon.
3. **Refurbishing of the Public Conveniences** – this work has now been completed.
5. **Porta Loo for Rec** – To arrange one for the summer from TuLu – Roger Beattie to do
6. **Paddock Lights** – Fixed
7. **Junction 6 Noticeboards** – Tony Williamson has cleaned up the London bus stop one and he needs to do more to the one on the Oxford bus stop as soap and water was not good enough.
8. **Community Payback Team** – We are unable to have the team for a few months.

## 80/18 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

### 1. Trees

Nothing to report. Some tree issues are addressed further down the agenda.

### 2. Highways

a) **Fire Hydrants Watlington** – KT reported that Rachel Gill has contacted the Fire Service but as yet has not had a response.

### 3. Footpaths

a) **Footpath 13** – No Update

b) **General Footpath Issues** –

1. Swans Section of Ridgeway – We have had complaints from a number of residents about the 5 openings Mr Copas has put in the ridgeway hedges. KT reported that in the District Council dedication agreement, it was agreed that 3 x 2 metre gaps and 2x 4 metre gaps are put in place to allow access to the new bridleway. However, the residents still think that where he has put them is a health and safety concern. OCC have asked SODC to look into this issue.

## 81/18 Open Spaces

### 1. Recreation Ground /Sports Field/Pavilion

a) **I-Play** –Quote for total refurbishment /repair etc- Decision to be made. RB said that the quotation is with a warranty of two years with some parts having a 5-year warranty.

A vote was taken on whether to fix this piece of equipment: 5 in favour, 1 against

**Resolved:** That we spend £3543.96 on getting the I-Play fixed and note that this should incur no further costs for the next two years.

b) **MUGA Proposal for Recreation Ground** –RB said that the Planning Application is on hold as SODC require further information.

c) **Table Tennis table for Rec** – RB to update. Should we apply to OCC Councillor Priority Fund or District Councillor Fund? RB and KT were delegated to discuss and apply for the most appropriate one.

d) **Canopy for small children's area** – RB said that the sails have been ordered and Dixie will install as soon as possible. RB and BW to liaise with him.

e) **Fence by Recreation Ground and Allotments** – Young People are climbing over -RB will speak to Tom Bindoff to see if there is a way to stop them doing this.

f) **Consideration of Toilets, Youth Club Room and Conservatory to be added to Pavilion building** – RB asked for the Committees permission to start discussions with young people and also the Sports Club to get their views on this. This was given.

g) **Cutting of scrub by the football net** –email from Jane Beard was attached to the agenda. This was noted.

### 2. Paddock

a) **Performance Space** – BW said that to date David Parker has drawn up the design and specifications for no fee. However, if we wish to take this further he has quoted a charge of £500.

**Resolved:** That we spend £500 with David Parker if we can get permission to take down one tree.

BW and KT will meet Martin Gammie and ask him to report on this. Permission would need to be given

by SODC.

b) **Canopy or flag over main picnic tables** - request for these. It was agreed that this would be inappropriate in this location. If the performance space goes ahead there would be a space with cover.

c) **Mrs Wagstaff** – Cherry Tree in Paddock – KT said that Martin Gammie will look at this tree when he visits the paddock.

d) **Teddys Play Area**, moving parts on the fence– TJ said that this is on-going.

### 3. Other Areas

a) **Landscape Design for Triangle on Cuxham Road** – This work has now been commissioned. A deposit has been paid and it was agreed to pay the final payment once the work has been completed.

b) **Willow Close** – Clearance along hedge- KT will obtain some quotes for this work.

c) **Car Parking on the Green at Marlbrook**– KT had sent out flyers asking residents to not drive or park on the green as there are children who play there. However, it is still an issue. To be an agenda item for the next meeting.

## 82/18 Property

1. **Car Park** - The hedges have now been cut by Owain Devey. One resident has a problem with the height of the hedge and has asked to come and speak to the Operations Committee in September.

2. **Public Conveniences** – No issues.

### 3. **Parish Office**

a) **Carpet for Office** – Quotes are being sought for this. Still awaiting one more.

## 83/18 General Issues

1. **Neilsen's Global Day** – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018. This did not take place and it was noted it was unfortunate that we were not told in advance of this.

2. **Volunteering and Volunteer Awards** –Deferred to September meeting.

3. **Task Force** – JW said that they are now meeting on the first Sunday of the month, 11-1pm. She has had quite a few people helping with tasks. They have been concentrating on tasks for the RHS inspection. An article has gone into the Watlington Times asking for volunteers.

4. **Parking at bottom of Love Lane between Schools and Chequers** – following earlier site visit. OCC have commented that the Parish could consider timber posts or fencing to alleviate the problem. BW stated that one problem is that not all the properties have drive ways. It was agreed to write to residents asking for suggestions to the problem of parking and destroying the verges and to invite them to a meeting. To ask Jon Beale for his comments from a safety point of view.

5. **New Bollards in High Street and Shirburn Street** – see attached from OCC.

6. **Parking on High Street** – Discussion following site visit – Operations have been delegated from FC to make a decision and send a letter to OCC.

Following discussion, it was agreed to send a letter to OCC on the basis of the text below:

It was agreed that changes in the parking are needed but it was recognised that changing the parking anywhere will require a formal public consultation which will need to be carried out by the County Council and is likely to take months. As a short term fix it was agreed to ask if it would be possible for the existing parking area to be extended a short distance (40cm) into the pavement onto the opposite side of the road by marking this extension on the pavement. This will at best be a short-term solution but will give a bit of extra room for the buses and other large vehicles. It was also agreed to ask if the white keep clear area at Farmhouse Mews could be extended.

**7. Litter Bins in the Town** – TJ -Deferred to September Meeting.

**8. Summary of Budgets the Operations Committee will be responsible for** – The information given by the Clerk was noted. Actual Spend on items will be available for the September meeting.

**9. Red Kites and how to stop people feeding them-** Deferred to September meeting.

**10. Training of people to officially identify potholes** – article was attached to the agenda. -TW had brought this to the committee's attention. However, it was noted that this is only being trialled in some areas. It was noted that it would be useful to have some people who could identify the potholes and report to OCC. It was agreed to ask OCC if it could be trialled in Watlington also.

FL asked if we should look into the idea of OCC devolving responsibility for mending potholes to the Parish Council.

It was noted that OCC have been given extra money for road maintenance and potholes.

#### 84/18 Correspondence

1. Footpath General Issue -See attached email from Mark Draisey – he has been responded to.

#### 85/18 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

Noticeboard for Children's Play Area

Tree Replacement Scheme -Autumn

Kissing Gate with disabled access – Project 2019 (TB)

Plus items referred above.

#### 86/18. Any Other Business

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.22PM**