



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 19th June 2019 at 8pm In the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

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

Co-opted Members:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW) and Bob West (BW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

In Attendance:

Sarah Wright – OCC Ridgeway Officer

Members of the Public:

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72/19 Apologies for Absence

Alex Basden.

73/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th May 2019 which were accepted by Council on the 11/6/2019 to be agreed as a correct record

Women's Cycle Race (Minute 62/19 refers)- It was agreed to change 'IVO' to 'OVO'.

Resolved: That these minutes with the change noted above were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

74/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

75/19 Matters arising

Planters on Hill Road – These have been made by Bob and are now in place and planted.

RHS Judging – They will be in Watlington on Monday 8th July at 11am

Community Payback Team and Clearing the Hill Road Car Park – KT has sent an email to Julia Spargo.

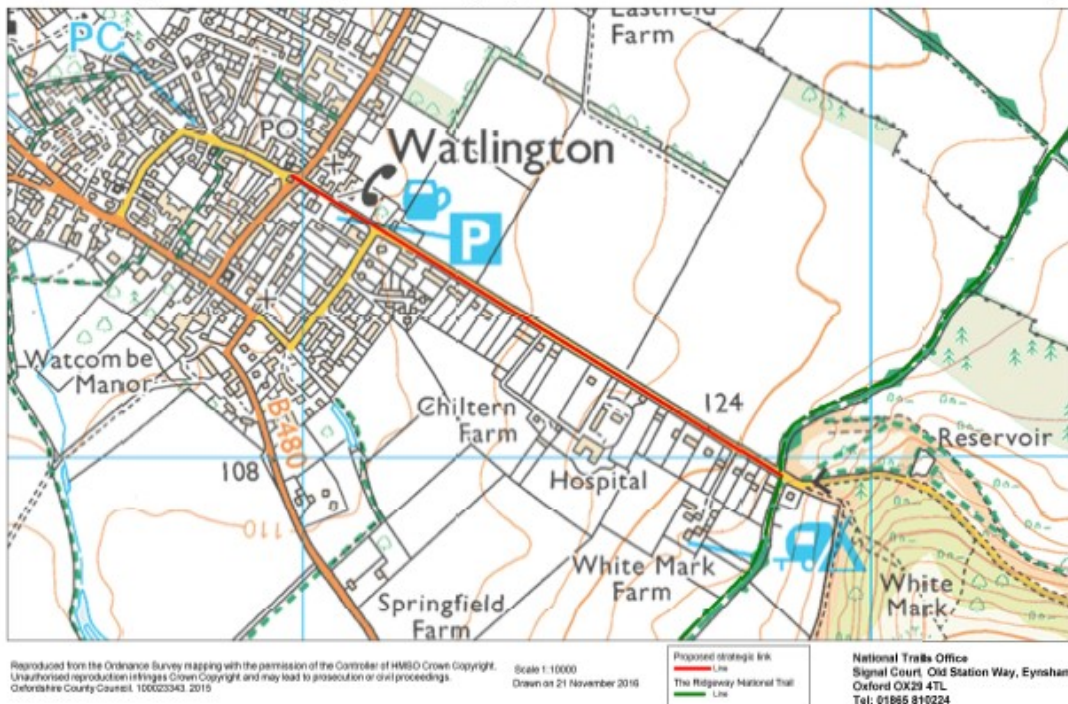
SODC Waste Tour – JW to attend one of these.

Waste Bins and Recycling Bins – Awaiting response from SODC.

76/19 Sign on the Ridgeway –**Sarah Wright** (SW) (OCC Ridgeway Officer)

SW said that she has been the Officer for 4 years. The Ridgeway is 87 miles long and goes through 6 Local Authority areas. It makes it easier to walk and cycle and ride between settlements. There is an easy strategic link on Hill Road, Watlington and this is a recommended route to take users into the centre and welcome them at Watlington. TH said that Watlington is also the home to the Watlington Hoard which is held in the Library and attracts a lot of visitors. This would be part of the Phase 1 Proposed Strategic link between Watlington and The Ridgeway.

See map over the page.



SW said that Watlington is a gateway town with visitor's welcome. There needs to be a sign pointing people to the centre and it can either be matched to existing Ridgeway ones or a new one could be created. It could have photos on it also. It will show pictorially what is available in Watlington. TH said that we prefer to call it The Icknield Way.

TH stated that a lot of visitors use it from Junction 6 and a sign could be put in the bus stop showing people how to access the route as we would not want to encourage anyone to use the B4009. SW said this could be a Strategic Link Project as part of a phase 2. It was noted that people get to J6 via day return bus tickets from London and Oxford.



However, part of the route is on National Trust Land. It was noted that Paul Harris who is on the Local Access Forum identifies opportunities to improve the rights of way network and SW will take this up with him. He is responsible for upgrading and creating new footpaths.

SW asked if there would be some funding available to help with the sign for the town and a new sign on the fingerpost by the Town Hall which will lead people to the Ridgeway. It was thought that some funding may be available, and this will need to be researched.

77/19 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues
See attached spreadsheet for update on issues.

78/19 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues
1. Highways

a) Pyrtton Lane Improvements

i) **Meeting with Lee Turner** (OCC) and representatives from Pyrtton Lane to be - Update from Meeting held with OCC on 17th May. All options were discussed with Lee Turner and we await a written response from him. KT to contact him.

ii) **Update on improvements to dangerous crossing at Pyrtton Lane/Cuxham Lane** – KW

KW stated that the sign is not facing in the right direction. This needs addressing. It was also suggested that we have a new sign saying pedestrians crossing. OCC will need to give approval for a new sign.

Other suggestions were putting posts across the verge to narrow the channel but IH said that Lee Turner

had said that the refuse lorries would not be able to turn from the Cuxham direction into Pyrton Lane. KT to send an email to Jon Beale and Mark Francis.

b) **Christmas Common** – report from Outreach Meeting on 3/6/2019 – The notes from this meeting will be available for the next meeting. Vanessa Buckley was present and was very keen to get the verge issues progressed. She needs to meet with the Chiltern Conservation Board to agree materials and then can get costings for this scheme.

c) **Other Highway Issues**

1. **Hill Road Car Park** – To ask Bob to re-paint the No-Entry sign.

2. **Hamp Assessments** – It was noted that OCC no longer do these. They only assess roads that are requested to be assessed. TH suggested that we do our own Watlington HAMP assessment by doing a complete survey of road surfaces. He offered to do this report. He also suggested that we keep a record of what OCC achieves before 2021 (when the next Elections take place) and to make Steve Harrod aware of this.

It was agreed that TH do this and report back to the next meeting.

2. Footpaths

a) **Footpath 13** –note from Peter Logan was attached to the agenda.

After our initial funding application was rejected by TOE, we have now had quotes for a new specification as they had advised that this was needed to be in with a chance of funding. A new application to TOE has now been sent in but a decision will not be made until October 2019. At the moment there is also £500 from OCC and £500 from WPC allocated towards this so we have requested ¾ of the funding needed. It was thought it may be helpful to look at other funding sources. It was agreed that Tim Horton and Peter Logan work on this.

b) **To appoint a Footpath Warden/s**

We have had one retired person who has offered to walk the footpaths and report on any problems. It was noted that we do have one resident who does this already. KT will contact the Footpath Officer at OCC to find out information on this.

3. Tree/Hedge Issues

a) **Tree Survey** – last survey done 3 years ago. KT to ask for a quote for doing this from CwT.

b) **Map showing all trees in the Parish** – IH is working on this.

79/19 Open Spaces

1. **Grass Cutting Contract** – It was noted that there are still some teething problems. KT has spoken to Mark Williams and it is hoped that all areas will now be cut to the schedule. IH said that he needed to change the grass cutting map to show that Willow Close needs to be cut right to the end of it.

2. Recreation Ground /Sports Field/Pavilion

a) **Extra Canopies for small children's play area** – RB reported that these will be going up very shortly.

b) **Recreation Ground Car park squaring off** – KW said that this could be made better quite easily, and it was agreed that IH/RB and KW have a site visit. KW to organise this.

b) **Dogs on Leads in Sports Field** – IH to report on the lease with Beechwood. IH said that there is nothing in the lease that would prevent us doing this. There continues to be a problem with dog fouling on the sport pitches.

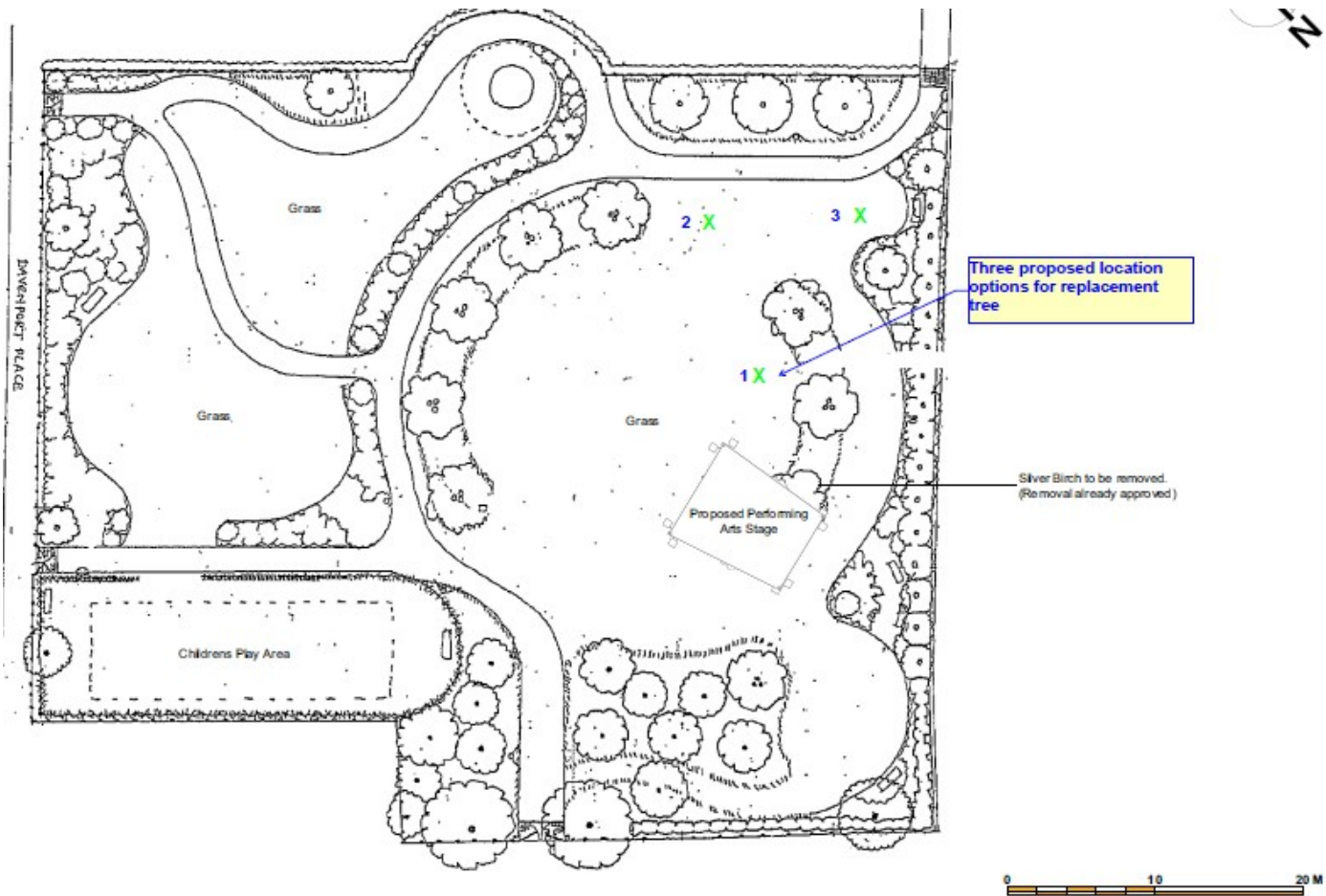
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council agree to making the Sports Field, Dogs on Leads only.

3. Paddock

Performance Space – comments from SODC and Martin Gammie were attached to the agenda.

The location of the new tree was agreed to be put in at the number 2 area.

See plan on next page.



It was noted that now this has got Planning Permission, albeit with several conditions, BW will investigate these and also design options and prices and will bring these back to the next meeting.

4. Other Areas

a) **Triangle Area on Cuxham Road** –Our Gardener is now tending to this area.

b) **Mansle Gardens Improvements**- Not discussed.

90/19 Property

1. Car Park

a) **Laid Hedge** – KT Will contact Nigel Adams to see when these need to be addressed.

2. Public Conveniences

a) **Water Butt** – WiB has won a 250L Water Butt and has asked if it could be set up by the Public Conveniences. It was thought this could lead to vandalism.

3. Parish Office

No issues raised.

91/19 Sub-Committees

1. **Allotments** – No issues raised.

2. **PSFC** – No issues raised.

92/19 General Issues

1. **Food Banks and Community Fridge Larder** – Nothing to report.

2. **Go-Active** – How we can help promote their activities – RB said that there will be a session run by SODC on Thursday 25th July 10-12 to promote this. This will be a free event.

3. **T1 Bus Service** – has a new timetable from 14th July. Several residents have written with their concerns. IH to update. IH said that this service will now be called the No 11. He has put an article into the Watlington Times. He will bring this up with the 5 Parishes Bus Group.

4. **Triangle by Cuxham Road** – agreement to plant with plants that attract insects. This was agreed.

5. **Street Lighting issues and Dark Skies** – TH said that we should seek to get OCC to turn off all streetlights between 12.30am and 5.30am which would give 5 hours of darkness and will also save energy. To also ask that the white lights be replaced with yellow lights. It was agreed that this be an item for the next meeting.

6. **Walkabout Date** – A date will be circulated and this needs to be done before the next meeting.

93/19 Correspondence

There was no correspondence discussed.

94/19 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

Street Lighting issues and Dark Skies – July – TH will prepare a paper for discussion.

95/19 Any Other Business

Budget – to be reviewed at the next meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.00PM