



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 17th June 2021 at 7pm on Zoom

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill (IH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Rob Smith (RS)
Alex Basden (AB)
Keith Woolfson (KW)

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

43/21 Apologies for Absence
Tim Horton.

44/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th May 2021 which were accepted by Council on the 8/6/2021 to be agreed as a correct record
One change was agreed (Minute 36 page 14), Dead Cherry tree – TJ stated that this has not yet been felled.
Resolved: That with the change noted above, these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

45/21 Declarations of Interest
There were none notified.

46/21 Matters arising
HGV's in the Town (Minute 36/21 refers)– No response has been received from SODC Planning Enforcement.

47/21 Tasks in progress and new tasks

- a. **Task 8** Pyrton Lane improvements – FC approved going ahead with the scheme with the proviso that we first look at getting the hedges obstructing the footpath cut back (IH)
IH had sent photographs to the committee of the hedges. It was noted that planting and hedges have overgrown on what was a footpath. The residents had said that OCC gave permission for this to be done. KT to check with OCC as to what was there originally. There was also a suggestion of having a temporary option of making Pyrton Lane into a cul-de-sac as a test project, but it was agreed that this would not be a good time to do this. There was much discussion and the supporting arguments to going ahead with the scheme are below:
- Public consultation will be carried out by OCC before construction work is started;
 - The existing footpath, where it is accessible, is too narrow for use by wheel chairs or baby buggies;
 - The existing footpath is incomplete, in that it does not extend all the way to Cuxham Road or the lane through to the church;
 - The long delays in getting this far.

Resolved: At the June 2021 Full Council meeting accepted going ahead with the preparatory work for the changes to Pyrton Lane provided that we first looked at getting rid of the hedges blocking the footpath. In view of the arguments made by residents that hedges help reduce speed by emphasising the narrowness of the lane, the length of time that the hedges have been in place, and the overall inadequacy of the footpath even where it is not obstructed: It is proposed that this committee should go ahead with commissioning the production of the necessary engineering drawings to avoid any further delays to this work.

Hedge Audit for the Town – It was agreed that this would be a helpful thing to do and Pyrton Lane will be part of this wider initiative. RS and IH will carry this out.

- b. **Task 17** Malfunction of I-Play Playdale had offered two solutions and at the last meeting it was agreed to replace the I-play.

TH had sent out a paper with a proposal which was noted. However, it was agreed in the first instance to:

- Find cost for removal from independent contractor
- Prepare short list of preferred replacements (both Playdale and other suppliers)
- Consult throughout parish on items on the short list

It was also noted that we are members of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) which offers good advice.

- c. **Task 19** Dogs on the playing fields - New dog bins at the rec to be considered with some urgency as the bin at the edge of the sports has rusted through. (IH)



IH had prepared a paper on different types of dog bins available. It was agreed that a larger metal bin be put in the Recreation Ground to replace the one with the broken bottom which our caretaker will repair due to the long wait time for the new bin. It was also agreed to monitor the usage of the one by the Ridgeway to see if a larger bin is needed there.

Resolved: To order a Wybone 56 litre Dog Waste Bin in green with lift lid and a new post.

- d. **Task 20** Speed checks in town – Request for SID near the B4010 entrances north and west of the town. Propose that we get one more SID to cover all the speeding areas. (IH)
It was noted that we have received a lot of communication from residents in Britwell Road on the speed issue. After discussion it was agreed that this would be a good idea to have another SID which can be rotated around the town which would then give us 2 1/3rd SIDS. The Clerk to see if OCC would also give us an extra post.

RECOMMENDATION TO FINANCE: That the committee look into the possibility of ordering another SID for Watlington

- e. **Task 29** Grass cutting contract - IH, RB, RS and KT to have a meeting on this in July. IH to organise this.

- f. **Task 30** Mansle garden improvements - meeting assigned various tasks.

- Our Gardener to clear area for planting at foot of garden and plant wildflower, TJ to organise extra planting
- Jackie Gaff preparing overall plan
- Arrange for quotations for the removal of hedge on narrow side if to be replanted in autumn/winter – RB/KT.

- g. **Task 38** Full tree Management Survey – This has been formally accepted and we await the schedule of works.

- Martin Gammie to invite tenders for work
 - WEG (and other groups) to be advised on tasks that could be done. IH will send them a copy of the report.
- h. **Task 51** New signs for recreation ground have been agreed but sports clubs have asked for some rewording (IH)

The signs wording was agreed with the added wording of no unauthorised drones. Another quotation is needed. The large sign will measure 1.5m wide and 1m high.

Resolved: That KW/IH and KT agree on the size of the smaller signs and then the signs can be ordered.

- i. **Task 62 and 63** Robinia pseudoacacia- Decision on where this sapling should be planted. (TJ)
Once Martin Gammie has done his exploratory works and if the Cherry Tree can be ground out it could be planted in this location.
- j. **Task 64** CCTV monitor for public toilet possible systems issued for this meeting – need to agree what to do (IH)
After discussion it was:
Resolved: Agreed to go ahead and order the CCTV monitor. KT & IH select and order the system.
- k. **Task 65** Ballot bin for Watlington – TJ – see link <https://ballotbin.co.uk/>
TJ explained that this is box for cigarette stumps but is fun as people can vote on things. They have two slots and glass fronts. No suitable location was given but ask members to consider this for the next meeting.

l. **Proposal from Terry Jackson WIB:**

1. I would also like to propose that WIB in collaboration with WCAG sets up a bulb planting event in support and promoting the UK's presidency of COP 26.
2. I would like to obtain permission for bulbs to be planted on the mounds in the Rec. These would need not to be mown while the bulbs are growing and at least until they have turned brown. This area could potentially become a wildflower area as well.

Resolved: That this is agreed but the mounds in the play area are not suitable for this and another area of the recreation ground should be found and agreed by this committee. TJ suggested planting on the mound near the entrance and around the edges would work.

It was noted that this would be at no cost to WPC

48/21 Other tasks (only if any change to report)

- a. **Task 18** Christmas Common improvements – proposal sent to new OCC officer supporting Lee Turner (IH) – IH reported that OCC have now replaced the bollards that were previously installed and the resident to remove the debris. We need to consider if any extra bollards are needed. IH is also looking into other measures.
- b. **Task 1** Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) for the Rec - need to prepare CIL and Major Projects scoping document (RB)
- c. **Task 3** Performance Space in the Paddock - Need to prepare CIL and Major Projects scoping document (TH)
- d. **Task 7** Replacement of litter bins in town centre - still waiting for SODC to decide policy on waste bins (TJ)
- e. **Task 11** Lady Mogg garden in Cuxham Road – KT handling this - benches ordered and a contractor will install them. TJ and KT to meet to agree their location.

- f. **Task 23** 20mph speed limit for whole town – Have asked FvM to chase this up with OCC officers (IH)
- g. **Task 26** Improvements to dangerous crossing at Pyrton Lane/Cuxham Lane – need to develop a scheme for this and get OCC Highways to consider it (KW)
- h. **Task 43** Sprung gate at entrance to Rec from Love Lane – still needs to be replaced (RB)
- i. **Task 46** Paddock pathway and surrounding grass areas have been badly damaged by construction traffic and heavy rain – contract to relay gravel path at entrance has been awarded. Gardener is looking at planting scheme for area under trees (RB). The path work will be done in the next 3 weeks.
- j. **Task 49** Footpath 36 / Little orchard - need to decision first on policy regarding this before Ops involvement (IH) – We are awaiting a decision on this path from the Inspector which is due towards the end of the year.
- k. **Task 57** Comet bus service – service has been restarted but confusion at the depot meant the first two weeks were missed. Chalgrove and Watlington have 3 people each using the service and KT will speak with Jo at Chalgrove at a possible weekly service (6 maximum number on the bus)
- l. **Task 58** Refurbishment of phone box in Hill Road car park – sand blasting of box has been arranged. Volunteer input will then be needed to repaint it. (TH)
TH has sent a paper on this.
Deferred to the next meeting.
- m. **Task 61** Brook Street trench – OCC have been reminded of the problem but no action yet. (TJ)
- n. **Task 65** Footpath Brook St to West Meadow - OCC have said they could carry out remedial work, need to keep chasing (TH)
- o. **Task 46** Paddock garden - New gardener has planted swathes of wildflowers through the and transferred soil from these sites for seeding under the trees.

49/21 Tasks on hold

- a. MUGA proposal (task 1 – RB)
- b. Barrier at end of Church Lane (task 31 – TH)
- c. Electric charge points in Hill Road car park (task 55 – IH)
- d. Business Use of Rec – Decision on whether a charge is needed deferred until COVID restrictions lifted (task 37 – RB)

***Operations updated spreadsheet was attached to the agenda**

50/21 Subcommittees

1. Allotments

RB reported that the gate at the Love Lane end has been replaced and the one at the school end will be attended to. The Allotment holders held a plant sale organised by Kirsty and Josh Ward which was very successful and raised £255 towards the new water upgrade scheme.

2. PSFC

a) Permanent Marking of Rec Car Park

KW said that the posts need to be taken out and realigned as previously discussed. There was a meeting at the Rec yesterday with IH, RB and Steve Bolingbroke who suggested moving the fence nearer to the Pavilion to increase the space for car parking and should give an extra 8ft. KW and RB to

meet Adam Clissold to discuss both these jobs and give us a quote for all the work.

51/21 Correspondence

Letter 74 – Glyn Jones – re Fire Hydrant and Time Capsule – It was thought this was a good idea and we should invite the schools and local organisations to put items into the time capsule.

Letter 71 – Josh Ward – re Wildflower garden in Marlbrook – This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Letter 73 – Clive Matthews – Speed on Britwell Road and SID – This was noted and was discussed above.

Letter 69 – Roddy Orr – Development near Dame Alice Farm – AM is looking at the site. With regard to the pond Mr Orr is speaking to WEG.

Letter 68 – Parking on Yellow Lines – Brook Street – TVP have visited and asked OCC to refresh lines. This has been put on the programme.

52/21 Any Other Business

Footpath to West Meadow from The Goggs – RS stated that this footpath is now massively overgrown. It was noted that this is not a WPC responsibility.

Sports Field – TJ asked if the clubs could find somewhere else to put their grass cuttings as these are just put under the hedgerows which looks really untidy.

Path to West Meadow from Brook Street - It was noted that this needs to be strimmed twice in the Summer.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM