



Minutes of the 'Remote' Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 18th March 2021 at 7pm on Zoom

Present:

Councillors:

Ian Hill (IH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Terry Jackson (TJ) (part off)
Tim Horton (TH))
Alex Basden (AB)
Rob Smith (RS)

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

21/21 Apologies for Absence

There were none

22/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th February 2021 which were accepted by Council on the 9/3/2021 to be agreed as a correct record

One change was agreed, Minute15/ f, Mansle Gardens – 'That Jackie Gaff will prepare a design and plan'. TJ said that she had not said this. It was agreed to remove this reference.

Resolved: That with the amendment 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.

23/21 Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

24/21 Matters arising

25/21 Tasks in progress and new tasks

- a. **Pyrtton Lane improvements** – Revised quote has been received from Glanville – need to review last month's decision (task 8 – TH)

Resolved: That we accept this quote subject to clarification from Lee Turner that the OCC Section 106 money is available for this.

- b. **Dogs on the playing fields/ Recreation Ground Signs** – report on meeting with sports clubs and dog walker's representative. (task 19 – IH).

The following sign was agreed following a previous meeting with WCC and the Dog Walkers groups (Sign shown at the end of these minutes). It was also agreed to add 'No Drones'. KW will seek some quotations and come back with potential sizes for the next meeting so that a recommendation can be made to Council.

- c. **SIDs** – These have been delivered and are operational in Cuxham. Poles for our signs have been delayed yet again. (task 20 – IH). Jon Beale hopes that we should have them in April. A resident has written in asking if there could be a pole on Shirburn Road. This location had been considered but as

the police do regular speed checks if was not agreed as a priority location. However, this will be kept on the list for the future in we install more poles. Cuxham Parish Council have put their SID up and reported that it seems to decrease speed by 3-4 miles per hour. Cuxham did a control week where they measure the speeds before switching the device on. IH will ask for a report from Cuxham at the end of the month about data when it is switched on a when it is off and will put a report into the Watlington Times.

d. **Grass Cutting Tender for 2021/2022** – Set up group to review this (task -29)

Resolved: That the group comprises of IH, RB, RS and the Clerk

e. **Mansle Gardens** – Plan for future maintenance of the garden needs to be agreed, in conjunction with WCAG (task 30 – – TJ/RB)

KT reported that she had been communicating with Jackie Gaff who would be happy to meet and come up with a long-term design for this area. The local residents would also be involved at an appropriate time. JG also said that she had safety concerns about only one exit, and this will also be looked at. KT to ask TVP for a comment on safety. Regarding the hedges, RB will speak to Nigel Adams and ask for a quote for works needed. It was noted that one resident thinks the hedge should remain even though we have a report to say it is now mostly ivy keeping it up.

f. **Paddock Pathway** - Review quote for remedial work on the path (task 46 – RB) – KT circulated the ‘old’ quote and RB and IH to meet with Chris Collins to discuss this and that the material used would be Breedon. RB reported that grass seed had been put down last year by the trees by the path but is has not taken. He will look at turfing options.

g. **Paddock Lighting** (new) – Some of these are not working and need repair (1 quote has been received)

KT to obtain more details. It was noted that if the performance space is put in the electrical boxes may need to be moved and this needs to be considered in any works done.

h. **Little Orchard** – following decision not to support footpath application, need to decide how best to approach new owner on replacement of present temporary fencing and his future plans for the area (task 49 – IH)

Resolved: That IH and KT discuss a way forward on this and bring back to the next meeting.

i. **Bicycle racks** – Park rack for Hill Road car park has been delivered. We are waiting for concrete slab to be laid. (task 53 – TJ/KW) This should be done before the next meeting. It was noted that we have received a SODC Air Quality Grant for this.

j. **Prospect Place** – Signs

Resolved: That the signs are ordered and then installed (task 56 – IH)

k. **Comet bus** – Do we restart the contract when it is possible to – probably April? (task 57 – IH)
IH reported that they are taking bookings for outings but have not re-started the bus service. We will need to discuss this with Chalgrove PC.

Resolved: That we resume the service when it allowed to start.

l. **Telephone Box in Car Park** – Quote for refurbishment have been received – need to agree source of funding and whether to go ahead (task 58 – TH).

TH had sent out a paper on this prior to the meeting. There was no discussion on the use as this will be a topic for a future meeting.

Resolved: That TH prepare a paper to be sent to the Finance Committee on this issue.

m. **Flooding in Car Park** – Prevention of flooding and inadequate drainage – review quote (task 59 – RB) = This has been cleared by Adam Clissold. At present there are no problems. It was noted that this needs to have quarterly cleaning on the car park edges. RB and KT will deal with this.

n. **Report on public toilet vandalism** - further episodes of damage in the public toilets have made need for some type of CCTV monitor (new – JW)

JW reported that there had been no problems recently. Our caretaker has put up some extra signage and is looking to repair and paint the disabled door.

o. **Brook Street trench repair** – this is long overdue what action do we take (new – TJ)
This item was deferred. We will need to see if we can get a dialogue with OCC.

p. **Rowan Tree** – Need a decision on where to plant rowan tree (new – TJ)

Resolved: That we plant it where the dead cherry tree is and get the stump removed. KT will check this with TJ.

q. **Brook Street planting** – What to do with the dead cherry tree on Brook St. – cut right down and drill out stump or just cut small branches and plant a climbing plant up it. (new – TJ)
See item p above.

r. **National Trust Car Parking Charges** – (TH)

There was much discussion on this, and it was agreed that the charging is too high at £3 for over one hour. This is also a matter of concern for local residents who are unable to walk all the way up there. It was noted that there is parking on both sides of the road Hill Road nearly to Christmas Common which is a safety concern. TH stated that the land was given to the National Trust by Oliver Brett who saw it as a gift to Watlington and by the National Trust charging this is not in keeping with his wishes. **Resolved:** That a letter be sent to the National Trust raising our concerns and that this be copied to OCC. A letter also to be sent to OCC on Highways on the safety issues. TH and RS to draft this.

s. **Soldier Silhouettes for Remembrance Day** – TH will send out note on this to Finance.

26/21 Other tasks (only if any change to report)

- a. **Replacement of bins in town centre** (task 7 – TJ) – It was noted that some dog bins can overflow, and it was agreed to investigate new and some larger bins. The two bins that could do with being bigger are the ones by the Chequers and the one by Ridgeway. IH/KT to look into this and there can hopefully be a recommendation for the next meeting.
- b. **Lady Mogg garden** – Two benches have been ordered. (task 11 – TJ) – these will be installed once received.
- c. **I-play** (task 17 – TH) - TH will arrange a meeting with Playdale – TH/IH and KT to be present.
- d. **Christmas Common road improvements** (task 18 – IH) – Waiting for a reply from OCC
- e. **Half-pipe** – Plywood needs to be painted (task 45 – TH) – RB will look at this and report to KT.
- f. **20 mph limit throughout town** – have contacted SH – county wide scheme is being discussed (task 23 – IH)

g. **Pedestrian crossing Pyrton Lane** (task 26 - KW)

It was noted that we have previously asked in OCC would put in a red box in this location, but they no longer use red boxes. The plan of the crossing that had been sent by KW looked at two possible locations and it was thought the one higher up from Cuxham Road would be the best location. It was noted that the pavement would need widening and there was some visibility and water concerns.

It was unclear if there was any money from the Britwell Road Site allocated for works here. TH suggested that a scheme could use Section 106 or CIL money.

[Post Minute Note: There is no developer funding for this in the discharge of conditions for the Britwell WAT A site.)

Resolved: That we ask OCC if a pedestrian crossing would be possible in this location and ask for their comments.

- h. **Business Use of Rec** – Decision on whether a charge is needed deferred until COVID restrictions lifted (task 37 – RB)

- i. **Full tree survey** – waiting for report from Martin Gammie (task38 – RB) – TH sent an email today to Martin Gammie stating that we need our original survey. The proposed survey on all Watlington Trees would be a separate project with the NPAB.
- j. **Cycle routes in town** – proposals (KW and TJ) – Not yet received a proposal. This issue will be with the Transport Group for discussion.

27/21 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)

Progress reports for any other tasks should be circulated in advance where there is something to report. They will be discussed where wider committee input is needed

***Operations updated spreadsheet is attached**

28/21 Subcommittees

- 1. **Allotments** – No issues raised for discussion.

- 2. **PSFC** – 22/2/2021 – Minutes attached.

a. **Maintenance Works Schedule for Pavilion** (NEW Task – Discussion of commissioning of this) TH said that this issue came up under the budget discussion in Finance when discussing ways to bolster funds for the Pavilion. This was done for the town hall as a QS exercise and gave potential costs over varying time frames as to what may need replacing and an estimated cost and this has been a useful paper to see what monies should be set aside.

Resolved: That we find 3 quotes for doing this. TH will prepare a note for the Finance Committee.

29/21 Correspondence

- 1. Tulu Toilets – Do we wish to have these in the summer?

Resolved: That we put a porta loo for the summer holiday. KT will obtain a quote.

- 2. M Wastell – Asking if there could be a pole for a SID on Shirburn Road (No 39)- Discussed above.

- 3. Hugh Hunston – Mansle Gardens (No 38)- Noted in relevant Agenda Item above.

- 4. Neil Harris, National Trust – To let us know they are removing the Welcome to Watlington – noticeboard at the NT Car Park at the top of Hill Road – It was noted that this was put up in 2012 and it is not in a good condition. Discussion took place on whether we need to put up a new one. The one at the NT Car Park, Hill Road Car Park and in the Lewknor Bus Shelter were put up as there was a grant available to promote tourism. It was thought that perhaps they could be renewed and that the businesses in town may like to contribute to them. *Agreed to discuss at the next meeting.*

30/21 Any Other Business

Stand Alone Youth Building Facility – RB reported that he and Richard Dorney Savage are leading on this and asked that it be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Sign Washing Equipment – This is now available to borrow from OCC and IH and RS said they would be happy to clean signs in Watlington. They will co-ordinate some dates and KT can then order it.

HGV's to the Bloor Site – We have had numerous reports of vehicles not using the designated route to this site and reports are being sent to Bloor. It was noted that there was a Trading Standards operation in the Town today and they caught quite a few offenders. KT said that Rachel Gill is doing the work on this and liaising with residents and Bloor. It was thought appropriate that she writes to Planning Enforcement at SODC on this.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.50pm



**Watlington
Cricket Ground**

Welcome to Watlington Sports Ground



**Watlington Town
Football Ground**

Watlington Cricket Club and Watlington Town Football Club welcome respectful and responsible visitors

- Please respect our playing facilities and equipment
- No unauthorised camping, fires, golf, horses or motor vehicles on any part of the Sports Ground
- Please keep bicycles or other wheeled transport to the perimeter of the Sports Ground
- Please keep dogs on leads and use the perimeter of the Sports Ground
- Please do not throw balls or sticks for dogs anywhere on Cricket Ground or Football Ground
- Do not allow dogs anywhere near the Cricket Square
- Use of the Sports Ground is at your own risk, we accept no responsibility for any loss, damage or injury

Watlington Sports Ground is privately owned land. It is rented and maintained by the Cricket Club and Football Club for their activities.

Please use the public Recreation Ground on the other side of the Sports Pavilion for any other activities.



CCTV IN OPERATION
Any dog fouling, vandalism or littering
will be reported

