



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 8pm In the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

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

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

IH presided over the meeting until Election of Chairman

54/19 Election of Chairman

Roger Beattie proposed Ian Hill, and this was seconded by Keith Woolfson. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Ian be elected unanimously.

55/19 Apologies for Absence

Bonnie Williams.

56/19 Election of Vice-Chairman

Ian Hill proposed Roger Beattie and Alex Basden seconded. Tim Horton proposed himself and Terry Jackson seconded. There were no other nominations.

A vote was then taken:

Roger Beattie: 3 votes, Tim Horton 2 votes

Resolved: That Roger Beattie be elected as Vice-Chairman

57/19 Co-option onto Committee

Resolved: That Bob West and Jenny Wilkinson be co-opted onto the Committee

58/19 Review of Terms of Reference

Discussion took place on these and a number of changes were agreed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the attached reviewed Terms of Reference be agreed.

59/19 Discussion of changing the Day the Operations Meetings are held.

Resolved: That from September Operation Meetings be moved from Wednesday to Tuesday evenings.

60/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th April 2019 which were accepted by Council on the 7/5/2019 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.

61/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

62/19 Matters arising

IVO Women's Cycle Race (53/19 refers)- IH reported that this is happening on the 12th June and there will be a rolling road closure. It will be coming through Watlington at about 10.50am.

63/18 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

See attached Current Operation Action Spreadsheet

64/19 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. Highways

a) **Pyrton Lane Improvements** –There is a meeting scheduled with Lee Turner (OCC) and representatives from Pyrton Lane Friday 17th May at 10am in the Parish Office. TH and TJ said they would attend this meeting.

b) **Christmas Common**

1. **Verges and Traffic Calming** – Vanessa Buckley (OCC) has provided the following update

'As Christmas Common is within the Chilterns AONB, I have had to liaise with them as an organisation. This is something that was overlooked, and we absolutely cannot start any work without their agreement as kerbing through the village can be seen as urbanisation. I have been very clear about why this is needed as well as liaising with them on materials, but no decisions or agreements have been made at present. They are aware that this scheme has your full support and that the parish and residents are extremely keen to get this work underway. Unfortunately, it looks like this may drag on longer than was first anticipated, but please be assured that I have not forgotten about this and absolutely will not give up until an agreement is made'

It was agreed that the Clerk contact the Chilterns AONB to see when they will be giving their response to VB.

2. **Outreach Meeting** will be held on Monday 8th June in the Fox and Hounds, Christmas Common. KT to check that Steve Harrod and Vanessa Buckley from OCC will be attending. Anna Badcock has also been invited.

c) **Other Highway Issues**

TH said that previously OCC assessed all roads and gave them a HAMP rating. The Clerk to find out if they still do this and to ask for the report on Watlington roads.

2. Footpaths

a) **Footpath 13** – A new specification has been given. Quotes have been requested. TOE Application form has been re-done. Just awaiting 2nd quote. Application needs to be submitted by 6th June. Peter Logan/KT are dealing with this.

b) **Pilgrims Footpath** (footpath parallel to Couching Street and Watcombe Road – TH said that a lot of the properties are not cutting their overhanging hedges/trees etc that are covering the footpath.

It was agreed that TH draft a letter which can then be sent to the residents backing onto this footpath.

3. **Tree/Hedge Issues.**

a) **Sports Field Trees on the Shirburn Roadside** – Roger Beattie said he had some concerns about these trees as they are looking very bare. It was agreed that we ask Martin Gammie about these.

b) **Rowan Tree in Paddock Children's Play Area** – This seems to be surviving following the poison capsules that were put in the trunk. However, we need to keep a close eye on this tree.

65/19 Open Spaces

1. Grass Cutting

KT reported that when grass cutting takes place the areas are being checked. Grass cutting takes place every two weeks. However, there was a problem when the two-week cut did not happen and therefore it was a month

before the next cut which led to it not being cut as neat as it should be. There have been some initial teething problems with a few areas being missed. The contract will continue to be monitored.

2. Recreation Ground /Sports Field/Pavilion

1. **Grass Cutting around the perimeter of the Sports Field** – One resident had written to us asking us not to cut the hedge by the football netting as it should be kept long for insects etc. However, it needs to be kept clear behind the net so that if footballs go over, they can be retrieved otherwise it would be impossible to get them due to overgrowth and nettles. The hedge would also then grow through the net which is not a good idea.

3. Paddock

a) **Performance Space** – The Planning Application has been submitted. The Planning Committee discussed this application at the meeting last night. Their view was that the plan be accepted but that residents around the paddock should be given some reassurance about the frequency and type of events that would be held there.

b) **Noticeboard for Play Area** – RB said that he has this in hand.

c) **Trim Trail in Recreation Area** – RB reported that one of the pieces has become loose. see photo below. He asked whether we should remove the broken piece or should repair it. It was noted that this piece of equipment is not used for chin up as it there for but for other exercises which has led to the post becoming unstable. Tape has been put around this piece of equipment. It was agreed to ask Chris Collins for a quote for its repair.

4. Other Areas

a) **Triangle on Cuxham Road** –Our Gardener is now tending to this area. KT has spoken to Nigel Mogg about the naming of this area and the possibility of them funding a bench. He is going to speak to his family about this but in principle was in favour of doing this. KT will contact him again. It was noted that it would be useful to have instructions on the trim trail to explain how the equipment should be used.

b) **Willow Close**- Illegal sign on industrial estate. Awaiting response

c) **Green Area at Marlbrook** –Survey results (attached to the end of these minutes) were discussed. There was a strong response against parking on the green, but more ambivalent responses to the issue of play equipment. It was felt that we should await plans for WNDP Site B before taking any action on play equipment.

The status quo therefore remains.

It was agreed to put a piece on this survey in the Watlington Times.

66/19 Property

1. Car Park

a) **Purchase and installation of new/improved highway signs** – Changes have been agreed. These need to be implemented. IH and KT to do this.

b) **Additional 2 hour stay bays to be marked out in Hill Road car park** – 11 new 2 hours spaces were agreed by Full Council. It was agreed that we need to obtain some quotes for re-lining of the whole car park. It was noted that it would need to be done on a Sunday and the car park would need to be closed and have no parked cars in it.

c) **Mud in the Car Park** – Julia Spargo has agreed that this is a task the CPT could do. Awaiting a date from her as to when the team will be coming. We will need to order a skip in. KT will contact JS.

d) **No Entry sign on pole in the Car Park** – KT to deal with.

2. Public Conveniences

a) **Consideration of new hand units** – Full Council gave agreement to purchase 3 new units. BW was to speak with Wallgate regarding a possible discount. Colours need to be chosen and KT and TJ were delegated to choose these.

3. Parish Office

a) **Carpet for Office** – BW, TJ, IH and KT have agreed the carpet type and colour and the work has been commissioned and will be done in August.

67/19 Sub-Committees

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

2. **PSFC**

Dogs on leads on the Sports Field - It was noted that this is private land not public land and therefore we would not need to get a PSPO. It was agreed that putting up dogs on leads signs would a good start. IH/KT will check the lease with Beechwood and this will be discussed again at the next meeting.

68/19 General Issues

1. **Food Banks and Community Fridge Larder** – TJ will provide a paper on this for the next meeting.

3. **Recycling** - KT has requested to join some recycling schemes and is waiting to see if we are successful – We can now recycle KP Products and bread bags– This has been put on the Watlington Parish and Watlington Town Noticeboard.

4. **Sign on the Ridgeway** – KT has invited Sarah Wright to the Operations Meeting in June.

5. **Go-Active** – How we can help promote their activities – RB to provide a paper for the next meeting.

6. **T1 Bus Service** – This will have a new timetable from 14th July 2019. We will lose the first early service into Watlington and which Thames Travel reported no-one had ever used.

7. **Waste Tours for Councillors** – KT has circulated information on dates of these. Councillors to let KT know if they wish to attend one.

69/17 Correspondence

1. **Copy Letter from Mr Orr** – Restore the pond by the Ridgeway – **The project was noted, and Mr Orr is progressing this issue. It was noted that in 1913 there was a brook in this location on the Icknield Way.**

2. **Mrs Meats** – obstruction by cars parking on yellow lines and stopping the T1 getting through. Asking if something could be put at the front of the yellow line. KT has passed onto OCC for comment. It was noted that OCC would not install bollards or tubs in this location.

3. **Mike Edwards** – Christmas Common Traffic Calming – Comments have been put on the Outreach file. KT has responded to him.

4. **Steve Harrod** – copy of email to Trading Standards on HGV reports in Watlington – These comments were noted, and this will be an agenda items for the next meeting.

70/19 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

HGV's in Watlington

Junction 6 – Cleanliness in this area including the bus stops and noticeboards in them.

71/19 Any Other Business

Walkabout – KT to look at a date at the end of June or beginning of July to have this.

Porta Loo in Rec – This has been ordered for the summer holiday.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM

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