



Watlington Parish Council

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Minutes of the 'Remote' Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 19th November 2020 at 7pm on Zoom

Present:

Councillors:

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

Co-opted Member:

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

108/20 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

109/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd October 2020 which were accepted by Council on the 10/11/2020 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 when it is possible to do so.

110/20 Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

111/20 Matters arising

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

112/20 Tasks in progress and new tasks

- a. **Pyrton Lane improvements** - OCC have suggested that we employ a contractor to finalise the design (task 8 – TH). It was agreed to get some recommendation and quotes to do the design work. It was presumed that this cost would come out of the 106 money which OCC has allocated to this scheme. The Clerk to ask OCC to confirm this.
- b. **Dogs on the playing fields** – report from dog patrol and a resolution has been made by FC. (task 19 – IH) Decision on new locations of dog bins to be made in January

Prospect Place – proposal for safety improvements (task 56 – IH) Decision on what action, if any, to take (IH had sent out a paper). IH said that he had sent an email on this issue to the Countryside Department asking for their comments on his paper and has spoken to a few residents following the letter we circulated on this issue. The Clerk has also requested SODC to install a street sign for Prospect Place. TH stated that Prospect Place is a footpath and is thereby not acknowledged by the 'Manual of Streets'.

The 7 points on IH's paper were discussed. It was agreed:

- that appropriate signage should be put up as soon as possible.
- Residents to try to persuade delivery drivers to park in the church car park.

- To ask that a sign be put up directing drivers to 11 and 12 Church Meadows.
- Further investigation of road surfacing and one or two humps. It was thought that WPC could do this.

c. **Budget 2021/2022** – Initial discussion.

IH reported that he has identified some issues for this budget and there was much discussion on this item. There were several suggestions: replacement of I-Play, steam weeder, planting for street trees, dog bins, improvement of areas. TH said that works will probably be needed to the trees on the sports field on the Shirburn Road end that this would be very expensive. It was thought that asking Finance for a bigger Contingency would be appropriate to be able to move forward with a lot of issues.

d. **Bicycle racks** – investigate use of land at Hill Road car park & report of cycle racks (task 53) RB/IH will seek quotes and it was agreed to have the same cycle racks as at the Town Hall. It was thought that we could have 5-6 which would accommodate 10-12 bikes. We have had a quote for the work (excluding the bike stands which WPC will purchase) and this was agreed.

e. **SIDs** – These have been ordered (task 20 – IH) however they will not ship until the posts have been installed as the warranty begins as soon as shipping takes place. Need to agree location for the five posts.

The main three posts to be put on:

- A - Howe Road
- E1 - Hill Road - North of the Icknield Way / Ridgeway crossing rather than as shown on the map
- F - Christmas Common (south site)

All of these to be located as Jon Beale suggested.

The two reserve posts to be put:

- D - Shirburn Road
- G1 - Christmas Common (north site)

For the Christmas Common north site, it was agreed that we locate it in on Jon Beale's alternative location.

It was noted that there will be a cost associated with moving the devices around the posts and the shared SID to be moved to the other parishes.

f. **Lady Mogg garden** –task 11 – It was agreed to order two benches.

g. **Business Use of Rec** – need a decision on whether a charge is needed (task 37 – RB) – It was agreed that now was not the time to discuss this issue.

h. **Air Quality funding available** – IH said he had looked at this and SODC has £60,000 to support air quality management areas. It was thought perhaps posters/banners and a particle monitor could be suggested. KW asked if we could use it for additional cycle racks. IH will investigate this further.

i. **Comet Bus** – Discussion on when to start up this service (new – IH) – Chalgrove PC have said that they would like to restart this bus to Thame. At present only 6 people can use it (usually 12). The only way this could work would be to have alternate weeks from Watlington and Thame. We should look at restarting in the New Year. IH will contact Comet.

j. **Telephone Box in Car Park** – Repairs needed and report (new – TH) – Not discussed.

k. **Flooding in Car Park** – Prevention of flooding and waste collection (new – RB)- We have had a quote for this work and this was agreed.

- l. **War memorial triangle** – responsibilities for future maintenance of this area (new) There was discussion on who should be responsible for planting and maintenance of the tubs and tree bases. After much discussion it was agreed that WPC be responsible. KT said she would liaise with WiB on suggested planting.
- m. **Flytipping and littering** – to look into feasibility of regular skips in town for large items disposal (new) – The Clerk is finding out information on this but there was a feeling that it was not necessary. SODC do a roadside collection of 3 items for £40 but that it is the same cost to remove 1 item. It would be useful for neighbours to get together and share the cost so that 3 items get removed. It was suggested that we campaign for SODC to reduce this cost. There was a recent SODC prosecution of a man from Birmingham who fly tipped on Pyrton Lane and he has been fined over £7,300.

113/20 Other tasks (only if any change to report)

- n. **Half-pipe – Plywood needs to be painted** (task 45 – TH)- It was noted that this needs to be painted to prevent rotting to the plywood and this has been done by Martin Dix. RB said it looked very good.
- o. **Grass Cutting Tender for 2021/2022** – Full Council agreed to continue with current contractors. (task -29)
- p. **Signs for Sports Field** (task 51 IH) – It was agreed that the best way forward would be for a meeting to be held with representatives from WTFc, WCC, Dog Group. IH and JW will attend. Nicky Smallbone to also be invited as PSFC Chair. *IH will set up this meeting.* TH suggested that the wording should state ‘The Land is leased by the WPC and managed by the Sports Club’.
- q. **Pedestrian crossing Pyrton Lane** (task 26 - IH) – KW reported that the sign has been turned around.
- r. **High Street pedestrian improvements** – awaiting response from OCC (task 52 - IH)
- s. **Cycle routes in town** – proposals (KW and TJ) – This is not easy due to our narrow roads and therefore should be put on hold.
- t. **Various OCC Highways related tasks** (tasks 18, 23 – IH)- No update
- u. **I-play** (task 17 – TH)- No update
- v. **Replacement of litter bins in town centre** (task 7 – TJ)- TJ said that recycle only bins get contaminated and therefore are not useful. However, some black bins need replacing and if these can be reported to the Clerk, she will request this. SODC were to do a bin replacement schedule and KT will get in touch with SODC regarding this in the first instance.
- w. **Replacement fencing behind half-pipe** (task 54 – RB) – RB stated that Nigel Adams will lay this hedge and no fencing will be needed.

***Operations updated spreadsheet is attached**

114/20 Tasks completed or on hold



COMPLETED TASKS AND WILL BE REMOVED OF THE AGENDA

- a) Street naming (task 48 – IH)- Completed
- b) Repainting if car park (task 13 – IH)- Completed
- c) Car Park signage (task 12 – IH)
- d) 30 mph limit on Hill Road (task 15 – TH)
- e) Refurbishment of public conveniences (task 24 – RB/TJ)
- f) Mansle garden improvements (task 30 – TJ)
- g) MUGA proposal (task 1 – RB)

- h) Barrier at end of Church Lane (task 31 – TH)
- i) Electric charge points in Hill Road car park (task 55 – IH)
- j) White Gates – Some have been painted by a volunteer,
- k) White Railings by brook on Cuxham Road – These have been painted by a volunteer

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**

115/20 Subcommittees

1. **Allotments** – No issues for discussion.
2. **PSFC** – No issues for discussion.

116/20 Correspondence

1. HTF – Trailtale – Deferred from last meeting. This is a new app. There are only 70 routes on it for the whole of the UK. Not sure whether there is a charge – It was agreed that we do nothing further on this.

117/20 Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20.53