



Minutes of the 'Remote' Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 22nd October 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

In Attendance:

Steve Bolingbroke

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

Members of the Public:

Rae Young (dog issues), Lucinda Shaw (Prospect Place and Church Meadows traffic issue)

98/20 Apologies for Absence
Alex Basden.

99/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September 2020 which were accepted by Council on the 13/9/2020 to be agreed as a correct record
One change was agreed Minute 91/20, Item 8 to be changed from 'KW said that there is one...to "KW suggested there be one...'
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.

100/20 Declarations of Interest

TJ declared an interest in item 9, correspondence letter 3 as she is a member of Watlington in Bloom.
KW declared an interest in Item 5q as he is Chairman of the WTFC.

101/20 Matters arising

There were no matters arising other than agenda items.

102/20 Tasks in progress and new tasks

- a. **Dogs on the playing fields** – report from dog patrol (task 19 – IH) – JW had sent out the latest report and said that this will be the final report as it now known where the problem areas are and keeping a spreadsheet is not necessary and is very onerous. The Dog Group team will continue to pick up dog fouling and litter. JW said that the litter is the main problem at the moment. KW agreed saying that the shelters when locked are often used as litter bins. RY said that the Dog Group is a tightknit group of about 5-6 people, and they have a rota for Saturdays. The problems seem to have levelled out on the Sports Field at the moment. The approach to Love Lane is bad for dog fouling. KW thanked the team for all their efforts especially RY and JW. RY asked that rather than having the 'dog on leads on the

Sports Field' issue reviewed every 6 months could this be done annually which will give the team.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That dogs on leads on the Sports Field issue be reviewed in October 2021 and that the status quo remains.

- b. **Half-pipe** – Works completed. Plywood needs to be painted (task 45 – TH) – The Art group have been asked if they could do a painting project with some of the young people on this. The primer at least needs to be done before the winter. TH thanked RB who played a significant role on oversight of this project. He said that the repairs should last for another 5 years at least. TH stated that he may be requesting a ladder at this location at a future meeting. The painting issue to be delegated to IH/RB and KT to organise. It was also agreed to put a new notice on rules of the half-pipe up. TH/KT will look at the wording and arrange.
- c. **Bicycle racks** – investigate use of land at Hill Road car park & report of cycle racks (task 53 – TJ/KW) – It was noted that there are bicycle racks outside the Library (by the bins) and so there is no need to install some in the Paddock. IH will ask the Library if the bins can be moved elsewhere so the cycle racks are able to be used. IH is doing a specification of the work that would be needed in the car park to install the racks and then the Clerk will obtain some quotes.
- d. **Dog Bins** – KT reported that scoopdottydog will now empty the dog bins. SODC have been notified that the contract has been cancelled. It was agreed for now that all the current bins are emptied. RB suggested that numbers be put on all the bins so that it is easy to locate them, and the Clerk will arrange for this to be done. It was agreed that at the January meeting we look to do a survey monkey questionnaire which could ask residents opinions on bins and other issues.
- e. **SIDs** – These need to be ordered (task 20 – IH) – KT will organise this. It was agreed that Watlington should have 5 posts installed.
- f. **Lady Mogg garden** – decision on recycled plastic benches (task 11 – TJ) – It was agreed that one all brown bench be ordered. KT will organise this.
- g. **High Street pedestrian improvements** – awaiting response from OCC (task 52 – IH) IH reported that Steve Harrod has been chasing up Officers for a reply to our letter but no response from them yet.
- h. **Air Quality funding available** – *Deferred to the next meeting*
- i. **Comet Bus** – Discussion on when to start up this service. IH will contact Chalgrove PC regarding this. Spring 2021 was suggested as a start-up time.
- j. **Grass Cutting Tender for 2021/2022** – Discussion (task 29 – IH)
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we continue the contract with The Landscape Group Oxford for another year which would end in March 2022.
- k. **Telephone Box in Car Park** – Discussion on what it should be used for. A number of suggestions have been given. TH is working on this and will produce a paper in due course. It was noted that repairs are also needed, and TH is looking into this also.
- l. **Budget 2021/2022** – Initial discussion (All members were sent the budget update for 2020/2021 with the Full Council papers)- A brief discussion took place on this and it will be a major item for the next meeting. Members to give suggestions prior to the meeting.
- m. **Flooding in Car Park** – RB had brought up this issue. Our caretaker has done some clearance of the affected area. It was noted that a working party would be useful.

- n. **Watlington in Bloom Tubs and Tree bases concerns** – (task 6 – TJ) It was noted that WiB do not have enough time to do these and KT will speak to our Gardener about taking these on. The Cuxham Road triangle roundabout was also briefly discussed.
- o. **Long grass in Paddock** - RB said that in his opinion the long grass should be kept short all year.
- p. **Flytipping and littering** – JW said that this is a real problem and stated that CCTV is needed as people are being brazen about it. We will need to speak to SODC regarding this. It was noted that a long time ago SODC used to have regular skips/lorries in villages so that locals could get rid of items free. SB suggested that WPC pay to have regular skips in the village, and this could be looked at when next years budget is discussed. SB/KW will have a look into this before the next meeting.

103/20 Other tasks (only if any change to report)

- q. **Signs for recreation ground** (task 51 IH) – This has not progressed and IH and JW will consider the last proposal from the Sports Clubs and will bring a recommendation to the next meeting.
- r. **Cycle routes in town** – proposals (KW and TJ) – Not yet received a proposal. KW stated that as the roads are so narrow there is not really room to install dedicated cycle routes.
- s. **Various OCC Highways related tasks** (tasks 8, 18, 23 – IH)- It was agreed that we send OCC a letter asking for updates on these tasks as we have heard nothing since March 2020 on various projects. IH said he has met up with Robert Barber on the Christmas Common issue and the residents will be proposing some measures that can be discussed.
- t. **I-play** (task 17 – TH) – TH said he hoped to have a meeting with Playdale hopefully in November/December. KT will also attend. Regarding the budget we may need to include for a new piece of equipment.
- u. **Replacement of litter bins in town centre** (task 7 – TJ)- No update.

104/20 Tasks completed or on hold

- v. Car Park signage (task 13 – IH)
- w. 30 mph limit on Hill Road (task 15 – TH)
- x. Refurbishment of public conveniences (task 24 – RB/TJ)
- y. Mansle garden improvements (task 30 – TJ)
- z. Barrier at end of Church Lane (task 31 – TH)
- aa. Electric charge points in Hill Road car park (task 55 – IH)
- bb. White Gates – **Some have been painted by a volunteer.**
- cc. White Railings by brook on Cuxham Road – **These have been painted by a volunteer.**

***Operations updated spreadsheet will be sent out by IH after the meeting.**

105/20 Subcommittees

1. **Allotments** – There has been no meeting
2. **PSFC** – There has been no meeting and no issues have been raised for discussion.

106/20 Correspondence

1. **HTF – Trailtale** – *Deferred to the next meeting*
2. **Carole James** – verges on the border between Cuxham and Watlington – It was noted that these verges are ones that are cut by OCC. IH will respond to her. However, it was noted that some verges are dangerous and they need to be reported to OCC. TJ said that verges are being looked at the WCAG and report will be produced in due course.
3. **Di Young** – borders and pots at War Memorial – TJ reported that she has been too busy to attend to these. It was agreed that we ask our Gardener if she could take on the maintenance of the tubs and

tree bases in the town. TJ asked to be involved with deciding what plants are used.

4. Letters from residents re vehicles Prospect Place and the Church Path – This was discussed at FC. Lucinda Shaw gave her comments on this following the letter sent to residents by the Parish Council. She agreed that signage is definitely needed in this area following the near miss of a vehicle and child. Pedestrians should have right of way over vehicles. It was also noted that there needs to be a Prospect Place and Church Meadows street sign as there is not one at present which makes it difficult for delivery drivers and leads to reversing on a very narrow path. The hedge at No 1 Prospect Place is very wide (about 3ft wider than previously) and makes the path very narrow as well as reducing visibility at that corner and with one of the resident driving an electric vehicle there is also an issue that pedestrian cannot hear the car. The clerk will speak to the resident to see if he would be willing to cut the hedge to help with visibility. A mirror on the wall by the Church would also be helpful and WPC will write to the Vicar regarding this. There are some poles in this area which could be used to put up signage. Appropriate signage will be looked at. There was a suggestion to paint signs on the road, but it was agreed that the road surface is too poor. TH suggested that some humps (like the rubber ones in the car park) be put in to slow cars down and thought that the Parish Council could budget for these. It was also noted that delivery drivers get mixed up with Church Meadows and The Meadows (off Brookside) and it was agreed to see if we can ask the Sat Nav companies to ensure that the correct information is given for Sat Navs. It would be very useful to get the residents views.

5. Letters from residents asking us to keep all the dog bins in situ. – These were noted, and this issue was discussed above.

6. Keith Woolfson WTFC - regarding parking at Rec – It was noted that the area he would like to use for parking is in Beechwood Estates ownership and they would need to give permission. KW to draw up a plan for the Recreation Ground car park which could then be marked out to improve parking.

TH said that there should be a meeting with Beechwood Estate and relevant people to discuss various issues. He suggested that this meeting should be attended by IH/KT and himself.

7. M Young – Road narrowing on High Street – This was noted.

107/2020 Any Other Business

Smurfit – RB said that there seems to be a lot of tyres on the recreation ground and they are not being locked up. KT to email her regarding this.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9PM