



Watlington Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Kristina Tynan
Watlington Parish Council
1 Old School Place
Watlington
OXON OX49 5QH

Tel: 01491 613867 Email: wpc@watlington-oxon-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 21st October 2021 at 7pm on Zoom

Present:

Councillors:

Roger Beattie (RB) – Vice-Chairman
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Rob Smith (RS)
Tim Horton (TH)
Alex Basden (AB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

72/21 Apologies for Absence
Ian Hill, Jenny Wilkinson.

73/21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd September 2021 which were accepted by Council on the 12/10/2021 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.

74/21 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

75/21 Matters arising
Watlington Garage (Minute 71/21 refers) – KT to find out more information.

76/21 Resignation
Keith Woolfson has resigned from the council and so also from this committee. His input has been valuable, especially on issues concerning the sports fields and pedestrian paths. He was the assigned leader of only task, the pedestrian crossing at Pyrton Lane. IH will take over this project.

Roger Beattie asked that we formally write to thank Keith Woolfson for all his work whilst on the Operations Committee

77/21 Tasks in progress and new tasks
Task 17 Malfunction of I-Play at Rec.
Two options for the replacement for the *i-play* have been offered by Playdale. Residents opinions on which items to include are being sought via the Watlington Times and Facebook etc. There was a public consultation held by TH, KT and Rachel Gill on 16th Oct at the Rec which went very well. RG will analyse the results, and these will be reported back at the November meeting.

Task 23 20mph speed limit for whole town

Cuxham has been selected as a trial site for 20mph in rural areas, while a separate County action is looking at more widespread introduction of 20 mph. FvM reported at Full Council that there has been progress on county wide introduction, and that Watlington would be in the first tranche. We should wait to see how this develops before trying to progress a Watlington specific application.

Task 20 Speed checks in town

SID poles have been installed and should be operational soon. We have five poles, three solar panels and one SID with a third usage of a second SID. We have now agreed purchase of another SID, with one extra solar panel which will give us power for all five poles and two and a third devices to use. We have all that is needed to install the panels we have and are waiting on the availability of the person who will install them.

We have two further poles coming from OCC, but with no idea of when they will be delivered. This will give us a pole on all the roads into the town, but we will need to order two additional solar panels for the new poles. Do we do it now, or wait to see when the poles will arrive?

Resolved: That we order them when we know when the poles will be coming.

Task 30 Mansle garden improvements

A working group of RB, IH, JW, TJ, Nigel Mogg, Keith Jackson and Don Cousins has been discussing the options. We have commissioned a contractor to remove and replant the hedge on the east side of the garden. It looks as though a mix of beech (both green and purple) and privet with some hawthorn in the less accessible parts of the garden will be the cheapest and most attractive option.

We need to agree to take this choice now so that the work can be done in November/December. Work on the footpaths is a lot more expensive than we had expected and has been deferred till next year if we can get a budget for it.

Resolved: To plant a mixture of 2 types of beech, privet, hazel and a non-prickly berberis (Berberis thunbergii 'Thornless') and that it be planted further away from the footpath on the garden side.

Task 51 New signs for recreation ground IH

The sports club have requested new signs at the rec and provided drafts of what they would like. Sign layouts have been agreed with sports clubs with 1 large sign but an undecided number of small signs. **We need a decision from Ops on how many smaller signs and where they should be located.**

There is some disagreement over the size for the smaller signs - we proposed A3 size, but the football club believe that will be too small because of the amount of text.

It was agreed that this be deferred to the next meeting.

Task 67 Allotment hedge (new task – leader to be allocated)

The hedge between the allotments and the Rec is getting very big, and it has been suggested that we lay hedge, reducing both height and width. We need to talk to Nigel Adams on feasibility and cost.

RB and TH have both spoken to Nigel Adams regarding this. TH said that the hedge may need to be left to grow more before it can be laid. It was noted that the grass cutters are not cutting right to the hedge lines and KT has sent an email on this to them. TJ said that the hedge survey has identified this as A5, and it is one of the best hedges in the parish. The hedge height is 2.1 m for most of its length.

Adam Clissold is looking at flailing/strimming the overgrowth in the rec.

Task 8 Pyrton Lane improvements

We are expecting a plan for submission to OCC Highways for approval by the end of the year and a public consultation to be launched on the same timescale. If all goes well, they should be able to start work in the spring. For the present we only need to have an eye on progress to make sure this project does not stall at this stage.

Task 18 Christmas Common improvements

It has been agreed that we should talk to OCC about the proposal for sunken kerbs and bollards. There has been no further action over the past two months – progress is urgently needed.

Task 42 Trees in the Parish

Martin Gammie's report on WPC trees has been received with a suggestion that some tasks could be done by volunteers. We need to discuss this with WCAG and WEG to see what is possible, and to come up with a schedule of available volunteer tasks. We are still awaiting the tender documents from CwT. TH and KT have both chased up MG.

It was noted that CWT report identifies what works can be done by volunteers and KT will shortlist these jobs and give to TJ who will speak with the green team.

Budget 2022/23 – TH said we need to be looking at this and has put together a list of suggestions. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

78/21 Other tasks - Operations updated spreadsheet was attached to the agenda.
Trim Trail – some wood needs to be replaced.

Fence at Rec -Quote needed for repairing broken rotten posts.

Drinking Fountain – TJ said that a fountain was going to be installed in the pavilion but this has not yet been done due to Covid. She asked about putting one in at the Paddock. KT said that this would need to wait for better weather as they cannot be used if there is a frost as it would burst the pipes.

Task 58 Telephone Box in Hill Road Car Park – TH said that he has had a conversation with Jaine McCormack regarding developing this as a Visual Art Space and he will report further on this when some ideas have been looked at. TH has also had some exchange with SODC as regards money from Site A Arts Contribution and potential funding.

Task 31 – Barrier at Church Street – TH has written to OCC asking for their comments on this.

Task 25 - Sign at the Town Hall – TH is looking into this and KT to send him the original quote.

79/21 Subcommittees
1. **Allotments** – The new water upgrade is due to be commissioned and the new Co-Chairs have been very busy and have been speaking to plot holders about reducing plots and using water butts.

2. **PSFC**

a) **Permanent Marking of Rec Car Park** – KT has spoken to David Parker about a quote for a specification of marking out the car park.

80/21 Correspondence
There was no correspondence for discussion.

81/21 Any Other Business
Following the resignation of Keith Woolfson, it was agreed to appeal for another member to join the
the Operations Committee.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.08PM