



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Thursday 19th September 2019 at 8pm In the Community Office

Present:

Councillors: Ian Hill (IH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Tim Horton (TH)
Alex Basden (AB)
Keith Woolfson (KW) – 8.10pm

Co-opted Member: Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

Officer: Kristina Tynan (KT)

Members of the Public: 4

109/19 Apologies for Absence

Terry Jackson, Bob West.

110/19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th July 2019 which were accepted by Council on the 10/9/2019 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.

111/19 Chairman's remarks

IH stated that at the last meeting the committee did not manage to get through the whole agenda and he asked that the members keep discussions succinct at this meeting.

112/19 Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 5 – Pyrton Lane – IH said that further to a complaint about him being involved with Pyrton Lane he has said he will take no part in discussion on this item and will leave the room although he does not have a pecuniary interest.

113/19 Matters arising

RHS Judging –The winners will be announced shortly.

114/19 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

Actions Spreadsheet – this has been updated – attached to these minutes

Items discussed

1. New Car Park Signs (Spreadsheet No 12)

The cost of these were discussed. One quotation has been received.

It was agreed that the Sign with the Car Park Order needs to be put up is the priority to install. To obtain two more quotes.

Two signs on the road will need to have OCC permission and the Clerk will write to OCC regarding these.

The other signs for the car park would be our decision as to whether to install them. It was agreed to put some

money in the budget for next year.

2. Hill Road Speed (Spreadsheet No 15)

Resolved: That we arrange an OCC speed survey for Hill Road. Need to agree the best position to put these in.

3. Car Park (Spreadsheet No 13)

Re-marking of parking spaces including the new 2-hour spaces.

KT to seek quotes

KT

Permanent Toilet at the Rec (Spreadsheet No 33)

TH stated that he has been doing some research on these and thinks that there could be a good short-term solution. It was agreed that TH/KW bring back some information and approximate costs to the next meeting.

TH/KW

Fingerpost for the Ridgeway (Spreadsheet No 25)

An email from Sarah Wright regarding costings was discussed.

Resolved: That we put in an application to the District Councillors Fund for money towards this.

Barrier at the end of Church Street (Spreadsheet No 31)

TH proposed that we replace the broken metal barrier with a brick and flint wall.

TH/KW to discuss this and to get an estimate of approx. cost.

TH/KW

MUGA (Spreadsheet No1)

RB said that the cost of this will be in the region of £20,000. He and NS have put in a pre-application form to Sport England to assess the feasibility of the scheme.

Teddy Noticeboard (Spreadsheet No 2)

RB said that this is coming along and will hopefully be completed soon

Dog Bins in the Town (Spreadsheet No 36)– consideration of new bins

TH and KW are dealing with this. KT will send the current dog bin map to TH

KT

IH asked that all members to action their projects and any updates to be sent to the Clerk

Roger Beattie chaired the next item and Ian Hill left the room

Meeting on Pyrton Lane 17th May with residents (Spreadsheet No 8)– The report was noted.

Some residents had asked to speak on this issue which they duly did.

The resident's concerns are that the Parish Council have not confirmed to OCC that they will guarantee the funding of the scheme which if all elements were to happen would cost £27,000 and that they want the traffic measures immediately installed. They would also like to have some speed checks done at the worst traffic times (8-9am and 4-6pm)

They did state that the Edge Road may at some point be built but before this, if housing starts to be built, Pyrton Lane will end up with a lot more traffic. They were also concerned that in the Archstone application there is mitigation for Couching Street but not Pyrton Lane. WPC are aware of this and want to achieve an outcome for Pyrton Lane.

It was noted that there is some money for Watlington Traffic Calming schemes and there is some CIL funding. It was stated that WPC have two traffic schemes at present, this one and the one at Christmas Common which was raised by concerned residents 5 years ago. WPC are still awaiting a costed scheme from OCC. TH said that there is very little money which is our personal money to use, our money is allocated within the budget and some money is in earmarked funds. There is no money allocated within the WPC budget for the Pyrton Scheme although there is some money that is in our influence but not under our control from the Windmill Piece development.

TH said that since he has been involved with Pyrton Lane he has attended two meeting with some residents, and a few were at the meeting with Lee Turner. He said that he understood that residents would prefer to see physical changes over the 20mph.

TH stated that the WPC position regarding the developments is that the Edge Road should be built before any housing is built. He also said that as regards 20mph in Pyrton Lane, WPC are looking into this for the whole of the town.

Resolved: to contact Lee Turner to confirm the total amount he needs committing from WPC and the exact amount that is available from the Britwell Road traffic calming scheme **TH/KT**

TH and TJ will continue to liaise with the resident's group. TH stated that we have 10 items that are awaiting information from the County Council before they can be progressed and it can be difficult to get prompt answers from OCC.

115/19 Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues

1. Highways

a) **Assessments of Roads in Watlington** – Tim Horton to provide a paper on this – *Deferred to the next meeting.*

b) **HGV's and Trading Standards** – Steve Harrod is trying to organise another operation – This was noted

2. Footpaths

b) **To appoint a Footpath Warden/s** – KT will update at the next meeting.

3. Tree/Hedge Issues

a) **Tree Survey** – last survey done 3 years ago. - KT has asked CwT for a quote -this has not been received to date. **KT**

116/19 Open Spaces

1. **Grass Cutting Contract**

Resolved: That IH, KW and the Clerk have a meeting to draft a new contract. This needs to happen as soon as possible. **IH/KW/KT**

2. Recreation Ground /Sports Field/Pavilion

a) **Dogs on Leads in Sports Field** (Spreadsheet No 19)

– A resident's group has been set up. We await information from them. It was noted that they will be sending us a report shortly. KT reported that there has been a big improvement in the recreation ground. What the group are doing seems to very effective. We do need to have a meeting with them.

c) **Business using Recreation Ground with no payment** – Deferred to the next meeting.

3. Paddock

a) **Discussion of Performance Space** (Spreadsheet No 3)

There is some confusion by residents regarding this. There will be an information stand at the Town Hall on this issue on the 21st September. This will be reported on at the next meeting. It was noted that in the original planning application there was approval for a band stand.

There was an objection letter in the Watlington Times, and we need to respond formally to the Watlington Times. TH will draft this. **TH**

Cost for the Scheme

Resolved: that the Tenders go out for this work. TH/KT will deal with this **TH/KT**

TH will investigate funding opportunities for this scheme.

Removal and Replanting of Tree for the Stage

KT will ask our Tree Contractor for quotes for this work. **KT**

There will be a launch event when it is installed.

4. Other Areas

a) **Little Orchard** – TH to update on Action from Full Council – No update

TH

117/19 Initial Discussion on Budget 2020/2021

It was noted that there are several projects which will need some money allocating to them, and it was agreed that IH and TH put together an initial list which can then be discussed further at the next meeting.

IH/TH

118/19 Property

1. Car Park

a) **Laid Hedge at Car Park** – when does this need re-laying – KT has spoken to Nigel Adams and we are awaiting a date for him to do these works.

2. Public Conveniences

a) **Floor Treatment**- *Deferred to the next meeting*

3. Parish Office

a) **Hedge behind Office** – Quote has been received for cutting back this overgrowth

119/19 Sub-Committees

1. **Allotments** – Meeting 16/9/2019

The minutes were not available.

2. **PSFC** -There has been no meeting

120/19 General Issues

1. **Street Lighting issues and Dark Skies** – TH reported that he has some notes on this. He stated that not a single parish has addressed this issue and he will prepare a paper for the next meeting.

2. **Stall at Xmas Fair** – This Committee does not wish to have a stall but to ask the other committees if they wish to have

3. **Eco Fair** – Do we wish to participate in this – It was noted that Amber Chainey is involved in this.

4. **Suggestions from the Climate Action Group (CAG)**

a. Blind water tasting stall at the town hall with some well-known bottled waters and tap water

b. Tree Planting – WPC should do more themselves around the town but also it was proposed to plant a wood somewhere – perhaps the Fleet Meadow? (although this could also be a useful space for renewable energy.)

c. Plant a tree month where every household is given a tree to plant or a voucher for a tree to plant. Small gardens would want a small tree/shrub.

d) That we purchase some seaweed and offer it to local cattle farmers for a trial.

Points a- d were deferred to the next meeting.

e) **Consideration of a Drinking Fountain in the Town** – It was thought that this was a good idea and TH will liaise with TJ to find out more information and bring back to the next meeting.

TJ/TH

5. **Hanging of Artwork in the Parish Office** – RB asked if we would be happy to hang artists work in the main room. It was thought that this was a good idea.

6. **District Councillor Grant is now open** – Should we request a grant. Agreed to do this above for a sign at the Town Hall for the Ridgeway

121/19 Correspondence

1. **Mrs Pereira** - Asking for hedge to be cut higher than Council have asked for. **The committee agreed that our current policy on the cutting Johnson's Hedge remains in place which is to cut it to 8/9ft.**

2. **SODC** – Waste Tour – JW was due to attend one but it was cancelled due to small numbers. - **Noted**
3. **J Wood** – Asking for permission to draft a sign to deter young people using the small paddock play area. It was agreed to put up a sign stating that this area is for under 10-year olds only. **KT**
4. **Sarah Wright** – she has emailed Paul Harris re disused railway lines. – **Noted**
5. **Yvonne Dean** – Dog Mess on Footpaths – asking if there are any measures in place. We are not responsible for OCC footpaths she will need to contact OCC.
6. **WBA /Louise Stile** – Line Painting needed in the town and asking for a yellow box at the Town Hall – **Noted**
7. **N Thomas** – Smoking in small children’s play area **Noted**
8. **Simon Moore** – rat problem in the car park – **This has been sorted out be our Pest Consultant. The problem is that people are putting food and bird seed down in this location.**
9. **Smurf-fit** – Sign at the Rec with logo and session information. It was agreed that this is not allowed.
10. **Watlington Concert Band** – Christmas Eve Carol Service - Asking for WPC help. They are asking us to lead on this event.
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That we lead on this event and liaise closely with Watlington Concert Band.
TH will speak to the Band regarding this.
11. **Innovation and Sustainability Grants** – Information was emailed out. It was thought that the Sustainability Grant was worth looking into. **TH**
12. **SSE Grant** – our application for an electrical vehicle was refused – **Noted**
13. **OCC – Deddington Open Day event** – All Councillors have been emailed this information. – **Noted**

122/19 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

None raised.

123/19 Any Other Business

SkateFest at Watlington Bowl – RB reported that this was a fabulous event organised by the Skateboards and led by Dixie.

Football Container in the Recreation Ground Car Park – KW reported that this is being installed.

THERE BEING OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM