



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 8pm In the Community Office

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Bob West (BW)  
Tom Bindoff (TB)  
Ian Hill (IH)  
Terry Jackson (TJ)  
Fergus Lapage (FL)  
Tony Williamson (TW)

**Co-opted Member:**

Jenny Wilkinson (JW)

**Officer:**

Kristina Tynan (KT)

**Members of the Public:**

Peter Logan – Footpath 13, Caelia Pereira – Johnsons Alley Hedge

100/18 Apologies for Absence

Roger Beattie.

101/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 which were accepted by Council on the 9/10/2018 to be agreed as a correct record

Minute 92/18 Footpaths 3a should read 'OCC' not 'TOE', Minute 93/18 2c should read 'thought' not 'through', Minute 93 3a should read 'had sent' not 'has sent'

**Resolved:** That with the 3 amendments as shown above, these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

102/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

103/18 Matters arising

There were none other than agenda items.

104/18 Update on Outstanding /Completed Issues

1. **Removal of white line at the Town Hall** – No update. KT to ask Jon Beale
2. **Junction 6 Noticeboards** – Tony Williamson will clean these.
3. **Table Tennis table for Rec** – A grant from the CC Fund is being applied for.
4. **Cherry Tree in Paddock** – Awaiting comments from CwT
5. **Planting of a tree for Armistice** – Martin Gammie's suggestion was in the paddock.

6. **Twenty is Plenty signs** – IH is working on map of potential locations. However, he has not been able to find out who to contact at OCC to obtain these. KT said she would check.

7. **Parking at bottom of Love Lane between Schools and Chequers** – Residents to be leafleted. JW offered to deliver and collect these as she is a co-opted Member and has no vote in any decision.

8. **New Bollards in High Street and Shirburn Street** – KT has chased up OCC

9. **Swans Way** – KT has asked for update from OCC as they said they would update us at the end of September and have not.

10. **Kissing Gate with disabled access**- Response from Watlington Public Charities expected by the meeting.

11. **I-Play** –Work was commissioned in July 2018- Update RB

105/18 Review of the Committees Terms of Reference After discussion the terms of reference were agreed.  
**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That the Terms of Reference for the Operations be approved.

106/18 1. Highway/Footpath/Tree Issues  
No issues raised.

## 2. Highways

a) **Progress report on High Street parking** -IH reported that a meeting had taken place with OCC Officers, representatives from Thames Travel, our PCSO and some Councillors and the Clerk. Thames Travel had also brought a bus to show what the problems are in relation to the bus. After discussion the parking on the pavement was measured out and marked. Within a few days this had been marked by the street lining team and IH said that it seems to be working well. The bays at the top of the High Street will be marked out within the next week.

b) **Proposed disabled car park bay outside the Library** – IH said that he is not sure where this is at, as went to an OCC Committee to approve and they deferred it.

c) **Pyrton Lane Improvements** – IH to update after latest the meeting

IH reported that OCC have stated that they would not give consent for any improvements unless these were wanted by a number of people. The Residents Steering Group have drafted a plan and there are 9 actions that need to be surveyed. The Committee had been given the draft Survey to approve. OCC had also stated that this exercise would be best conducted by the Parish Council and not the Residents Group as it would have more credibility. IH asked for the committee's approval to approve the survey content and to agree this would be done by the Parish Council.

Liz Harris had asked to speak on this issue prior to the meeting and Peter Logan –Chairman of the Residents Steering Group was also present.

Liz Harris spoke at length (copy held in the office), stating that bias has been cited as the reason why it should not be the Residents Group who conducted the survey. She also said that the residents whose properties back onto Pyrton Lane should not be surveyed. She also said that Councillors who live on Brook Street, Couching Street and Shirburn Street should not be involved in this issue as WPC have opposed SODC's traffic calming proposal for AQMA by removing parking spaces on Couching Street. She was told that WPC agreed with the report commissioned by OCC's comments, which is not in favour of removing the spaces, as the modelling suggested that this would not improve Air Quality air quality at the Town Hall. She also stated that there is no legal requirement for a survey. She mentioned the survey done by a resident

in Howe Hill to improve this area and said that WPC did not conduct this.

LH stated that WPC should not morally conduct this survey and any Councillor who live on the above streets should remove themselves from meetings which discuss air quality mitigation. She further went on to state that as regards the Archstone application, there is no mitigation quoted in WPC's response to this.

TB stated that WPC make decisions to support everyone in the town and make decisions that are in all our resident's interests. WPC wants to ensure everyone's safety.

Peter Logan, Chairman of the Residents Steering Group said that he did not agree with Liz Harris's comments.

TW said that at the meeting with OCC and the residents, Jason Sherwood was anxious that the resident's proposals came forward with support of the Parish Council.

Following Liz Harris's accusation, Ian Hill said that he felt that he had no choice but to step down as the representative on this group. It was noted that another representative will need to be appointed. This issue will be on the Strategy Agenda at the October meeting.

It was agreed that the survey would be best done in November otherwise it would probably have to wait until January.

**Vote:** 5 in favour, 1 abstention (IH)

The Chairman finally called the discussion on this to an end due to the amount of time spent on this one item. Therefore, discussion on the survey and who should conduct it and which properties should be surveyed was not resolved.

It was agreed to ask the Strategy Committee to determine the extent that the Survey should cover in regard to which areas should be surveyed.

**[Post Minute Note – Peter Logan has reported that Liz Harris is no longer on the Steering Group]**

d) **Super User** - Training of people to officially identify potholes and repair them - Update  
Bob Thomas has said he would be happy to be part of this. Peter Richardson has also volunteered. We need to find a few more volunteers and a piece will be put in the Watlington Times and the Town Noticeboard. It was noted that this would be a great community initiative

### 3. Footpaths

a) **Footpath 13** – Discussion – Peter Logan was in attendance,  
Peter Logan thanked the committee for allowing him to attend this meeting.  
He had also sent a note prior to the meeting 11/10/2018 which was attached to the agenda and which give his concerns that many people are unable to use this path when it gets muddy, especially the elderly who are worried about falling.

TB said he had spent time with the OCC task supervisor who carried out an inspection on this footpath. There is an impermeable underlayer which does not drain and lead to a layer of mud on the top. Two to three years ago it was graded and cambered slightly. He said this did make a big difference but has not resolved the problem. OCC gave a specification which is to remove the top surface put in 4" stone which will give a drainage layer, and then put the top surface back on. The officer has said that this may work for 10 years. An initial quote for this has been sought from the company that the OCC officer recommended. The works would be in the region of £4,500. OCC have offered £500 towards this. TB said that one question is that is whether this is the best thing to spend public money on.

TW said that he personally thinks the path is worse than previously and the grading has made it worse. It is a very well used path. There could be a value in applying to various sources for a grant for the works.

It was also noted that CIL money will be received shortly and this can be used for improvements to footpaths.

After discussion it was agreed to have a site visit with Peter Logan one afternoon. He will send the Clerk some dates.

#### **b) General Footpath Issues**

No issues raised.

### **107/18 Open Spaces**

#### **1. Recreation Ground /Sports Field/Pavilion**

a) **2 Hedges on Recreation Ground and Sports Field** – Quote attached for discussion.

**Resolved:** That the quote from Owain Devey be accepted for both hedges.

#### **b) Path from Love Lane to the Recreation Ground**

SvP had passed on a request that WPC put in a metal barrier at the Love Lane end of the trackway to stop children running out onto Love Lane. This is unable to be done as it leads to the garages for Love Lane. However, it was suggested that we paint a line saying Stop to see if this would improve things.

#### **2. Paddock**

a) **Performance Space** – BW reported that we have instructed CwT to put in the formal application to SODC for the removal of the trees needed for the performance space. New trees would be planted.

b) **Proposal from TJ that WPC declare itself herbicide and pesticide free** – It had been agreed to trial both methods of dealing with the weeds on Shirburn Street. One area to be weed-killed and one area to be pulled out and regrowth monitored.

#### **3. Other Areas**

a) **Landscape Design for Triangle on Cuxham Road and Benches for this area** – TJ has prices and designs of benches wished for in this area. It was suggested that perhaps people would like to donate these as memorial benches.

TJ has visited this area with Tracey, our gardener. There are leaves on the ground which need to be dealt with as do the brambles that are by the fence line. KT to speak to Tracey about dealing with this area on a regular basis and an approximate cost. The other option would be to arrange a working party to clear up the leaves and pull out the bramble roots. KT to ask Tracey's advice on the best way to deal with the brambles.

b) **Willow Close** – Clearance along hedge -two quotes have been sought to date. TB suggested that this could perhaps be done by a working party. He and TJ will have a look and report back to the next meeting.

### **108/18 Property**

#### **1. Car Park**

a) **Hedge Height at Johnson's Alley** – Caelia Pereira was in attendance.

CP has asked to speak regarding this.

She stated that she would like the committee to agree to the hedge being allowed to grow back to its previous height. She said that when she moved in 2007 the hedge was so high she could not see into the car park from her upstairs windows. However now it is being cut down to about 8ft and her view is now that of the car park. She was informed that the height was determined because of the cost. Anything higher would cost more as specialist equipment would be needed. She stated that she would be willing to contribute the

extra cost so that this would not be borne by the Parish Council. It was noted that we had scheduled this hedge to be cut every two years as the best compromise. It was noted that the next cut would be in 2020 which would be in the term of the new Council and it would be best to come back with a request to be considered about this time next year. It was noted that CP would like the height to be kept at about 11ft.

b) **Moving car park tubs to Couching Street/Brook Street Junction** –TJ and TB will see if these can be moved by themselves. The tubs would need to be emptied first.

## 2. Public Conveniences

No issues needed discussion.

## 3. Parish Office

a) **Carpet for Office** – Update on Quotes – RB was going to ask the companies to itemise the quotes for comparison purposes. It is hoped that we will have these for the next meeting.

## 109/18 Sub-Committees

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

2. **PSFC** – To note the Strategy Committee have asked PSFC to review the terms on subletting of the Sports Field.

## 110/18 General Issues

1. **Volunteering and Volunteer Awards** –Deferred to next meeting.

2. **Litter Bins for recycling in the Town** – TJ has given the clerk the specifications and she has contacted SODC regarding this.

3. **Electric Charging Points in Watlington**- Deferred to next meeting.

4. **Red Kites and how to stop people feeding them**- It was noted that we cannot make a by-law for this.

5. **Bollard damaged in Couching Street** – Correspondence was attached to the agenda. Decision on how to further respond. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk further respond to this stating that this was witnessed and to send them an invoice for the work. This was also advised by the PCSO.

It was also noted that we our PCSO Graham Devey back in Watlington and this is very welcome news.

## 6. **Various issues raised by WBA through Stephanie Van de Pette**

1. *Bin outside K is for Kitchen is falling apart and attracts a lot of wasps. They requested this be removed. A new bin has been installed.*
2. *They expressed concern at the frequency with which the planters and bins outside the shops get peed on by dogs. No one had any ideas what could be done about this*
3. *Access to fire hydrant at the bottom of the High Street – Bob Thomas has marked around this in yellow and since the pavement marking, a keep clear sign has been put where the two parking spaces (which were not in the Traffic Order and put in by mistake by OCC) this should always now be accessible.*
4. Repainting the yellow lines on High Street. The lines are getting very faint on High Street. They requested we speak to OCC about getting them repainted but also that we consider requesting the yellow lines on the Watlington Club side of the road be removed. If parking were to be allowed on the other side of the street (bearing in mind access requirements to properties etc) they felt that

some of the parking / traffic problems might be alleviated. **This was discussed, and it was thought that it would not be a good idea to remove the yellow lines. OCC have been asked to renew lining in Watlington.**

111/18 Budget

1. **Discussion for Budget 2019/2020** – Deferred to the next meeting. It was agreed to put this towards the top of the agenda for the next meeting. KT will email this out to Members prior to the meeting.

2. **Consideration to giving a contribution to the Beacon Festival for compostables etc**

**Recommendation to Finance Committee:** That they consider this issue at their next meeting.

112/18 Correspondence

1. **Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service** – Deferred to next meeting. Paper was attached to September's papers.

2. **OCC – Do we want more salt this year** – It was agreed that we do not need any salt this year.

3. **AccesAble** – Creation of a detailed Access Guide for the Town – It was agreed that we are happy to meet with them.

4. **Christmas Tree Site for collection of Trees** – the Church Warden has agreed that they can be put in the car park at St Leonards again this year. TW said that it may not be quite in the same place as the building of the site may have started.

113/18 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

Noticeboard for Children's Play Area

114/18 Any Other Business

**Christmas Eve Carols** – TJ asked if this is held on the High Street then should there be a road closure in place. KT will speak to the organisers regarding this.

**Mason's Wood** – It was noted that the metal barriers are still up, and no tree works have taken place. It was agreed that another letter needs to be sent to them. IH/KT to draft.

**Information Map Boards** – TJ said that these are out of date. It was noted that these were put up by having a grant from 'Hidden Britain'. They were very expensive. Agreed this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10PM**