



Watlington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 28th January 2020

Present:

Councillors:

Andrew McAuley (AM) – Vice-Chair
Matt Reid (MR)
Ian Hill (IH)
Tim Horton (TH)
Terry Jackson (TJ)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

Please can all Councillors read any supporting paperwork in advance

- 01/20 Election of Chairman
It was agreed to defer this to the item.
- 02/20 Apologies for Absence
Nick Hancock, Rob Smith (on leave of absence)
- 03/20 Minutes
Resolved: It was agreed to approve the minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 26th November 2019 which were received by Council on the 10th December 2019 and these were signed by the Chairman of the Meeting as a correct record.
- 04/20 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising
- 05/20 Declaration of Interests
There were none notified.
- 06/20 Chair's Remarks
There was no Chair's report.
- 07/20 Strategic Plan
AM thanked everyone for attending the workshop last Saturday (25/2/2020) and he said that he felt that he got as much as possible out of it. There was a good turnout. The layout of the plan has been agreed and the priorities set for the immediate term. AM said that a progress review will be held once a year in October, prior to budget being set. AM will send out information on the workshop for the February Strategy Meeting that can be discussed and hopefully lead to a recommendation for Council. MR stated that some of the policies in the WNDP need modifying. Discussion took place on how much we can put in our NP and it was agreed that as a lot are national legislation, we can put in quite a lot but perhaps cannot be as prescriptive as we may wish to be. However, as there is no SODC Local Plan we cannot review our plan at this stage. The NPAB have asked for direction and clarification on the review of our WNDP. TH said that the legislation is quite clear on what WPC can modify between the 1st and 5th year. The intention had

been to review the plan by July and submit in August. MR suggested that environmental issues should sit above everything else.

08/20 Update on Current Actions

1. **Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)- Broadband** – There will be a Public Meeting held on 30th January at 7pm in the Town Hall. The survey has now ended, and it was stated that there could have been some better questions asked.
2. **Watlington Parish Council Climate Action Plan** – TJ gave out a paper at the meeting. KT reported that Nick Hancock has been putting a plan together picking out achievable objectives. It was agreed that this be further discussed at the February meeting. TJ and NH to liaise on this.
3. **Local Energy Bill and Carbon Hub** – TJ said that she has been in contact with Steve Shaw and they are asking the Council to support them but there is no commitment needed. OALC have also sent us comments. TH said that WPC could examine our own buildings in terms of renewable energy for example putting in solar panels. The Bill is trying to make setting up of renewables easier and more cost-effective TJ to look further at supporting this and whether we should support. TJ to send an email to Strategy Members if she feels there should be a recommendation to Full Council.
4. **CCT** – IH reported that he has nothing concrete but has spoken to Greg Stacey at OCC who stated that he has one thing left to sort out and then will send to us and our Solicitor when it is ready. IH is hopeful that we can expect something soon.

09/20 Items for Discussion

1. **Proposal for a Watlington Fund** – *(Paper held on file at the office)*

TH stated that the paper examines the case for a Watlington Fund and considers two avenues for its establishment a) a new Trust and b) the use of the Oxfordshire Community Fund. It sets out the advantages the OCF route may have over the traditional Trust and seeks a mechanism to explore the second route further and report back to this committee in two or three months. This could also link up with community transport for example.

A new 'Watlington Fund' could be established and under law it could achieve many things:

- a.) The reception of money from regular giving through direct debiting or voluntary payroll giving or one-off gifting from individuals (including through wills)
- b) The disbursement of funds in the manner of other bodies (such as the Watlington Education Foundation)
- c) It might even hold property

A new Trust would need to find money just to be properly set up and to gain Charity Commission status. The trust would need to handle everything to do with the investment of funds, the handling of Gift Aid, the preparation of accounts, together with publicity and the assurance of probity. An alternative 'vehicle' might be to utilise the management of the Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF). This body has a very complete website <https://oxfordshire.org/>. TH stated that he believed this is in the direction of giving certainty in the consistency of good financial and administrative oversight.

There was much discussion and it was:

Resolved: That Tim Horton take this forward with a small group and report back on this before April 2020

2. **Site A** - SODC Procedures used to make the decision to withdraw the Council's objections to the planning application on air quality ground. The Strategy Committee is asked to consider these and decide if SODC should be asked to investigate and confirm whether the use of delegated powers was legitimate in this case. (The report is an addendum to these minutes)

AM said that the NPAB consider that SODC has breached its constitution. The details are outlined in the NPAB paper presented to the committee. WPC must consider what actions it wishes to take. A meeting has been sought with SODC officers in order to discuss the details of

the third planning application on Site A. TH said that he considered it quite a breach of protocol. MR asked what the result is that WPC wants. SODC has now issued an addendum to the Ricardo report for Site A. This stand-alone assessment concludes that the development will have no effect on air quality in the AQMA. TH said that as WPC were a Rule 6 party at the first appeal, which is exceptionally unusual in Appeals, we should ask for the Monitoring Officer to comment on whether SODC is in breach of its constitution. This may defer Application 3 for WAT A.

After further discussion the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council ask for comments from the Monitoring Officer at SODC on whether the procedures used by delegated powers were legitimate in this case and to consider whether this was in breach of the SODC Constitution.

The NPAB will put together a draft letter for Full Council to consider.

3. Little Orchard

TH has asked for responsible SODC Planning Officers to come and have a look at this area and also the fence as he feels it is time to raise questions. TH said he thinks the land should also be valued (it has been previously) and investigation should take place on the new footpath at the broad end of the area which is totally inadequate as a footpath.

3. Formation of a new Committee/Sub Committee called Information Management

Committee which would be responsible for policies such as media engagement, data protection, technical specialisms and data management

Resolved: That a working group be put together, under Strategy to put together more information on this and that they report back to Strategy when they have done this.

4. Cycling and Walking: B4009 and M40 hub – Motion from Tim Horton (*Full Paper held in the Office*)

After discussion the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That WPC, mindful of its responsibility over climate emergency and in order to provide for better road and pedestrian safety and improved health, request of the Oxfordshire Highways Authority to make a further review of Junction 6 (M40) especially in regard to walking and cycling to, from and within the area of transitions for the 'Oxford Tube' services.

In particular the Council asks that Officer consideration be given to:

- a) the provision of better 'all-weather' pathways through the underpass and in proximity to parked vehicles, avoiding walking in the roadways themselves
- b) the provision of racking for use by cyclists and covered storage (including the possibility of cycle lockers)
- c) the use of the former railway track for use by walkers and cyclists through a commitment to discussion with landholders and appropriate national and local bodies, such as Sustrans

Accordingly, WPC will seek a) the practical implementation of policies that already have currency in 'Connecting Oxfordshire' (Transport Plan 2015-2031) and b) alterations to those policies that would improve opportunities for cycling and walking along that part of the B4009 'corridor' and the M40 hub.

WPC will notify relevant Parish Councils of the desire to improve local walking and cycling facilities and options, together with:

- 1) Senior Councillors serving the area and the local MP
- 2) the Climate Emergency Committee of SODC
- 3) the 'Oxfordshire Cycle Network' (OCN)
- 4) the Oxfordshire Active and Healthy Travel Steering Group
- 5) the Watlington Climate Change Group, the Ramblers Association, the Chilterns Conservation Board and the local branch of the CPRE.
- 6) relevant bus companies

10/20 Consultations

1. **Consultation on Watlington Primary School pupil numbers for admissions September 2021** – MR said he has spoken to the headteachers of both the Primary School and ICC. After discussion it was agreed that WPC make no comments on this consultation.

2. **Local Plans and the Climate Emergency Consultation** (including Future Homes Consultation) Deadline 7th February 2020. – It was agreed to note this but make no comments. Councillors can send in their own individual comments if they wish to do so.

11/20 Correspondence

1. OCC – For our information – Businesses in Rural Oxfordshire Ultrafast Fibre Delivery – *attached* - **Noted**

2. Local Electricity Bill – OALC response to our question regarding the email from Steve Shaw – attached - **Noted**

12/20 Any Other Business

Items to be notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

13/20 Items to future meeting:

Protocol for marking the death of a senior national figure – February

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50PM