



Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee Held in the Community Office at 8pm on Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Present:

Councillors:

Matt Reid (MR)
Ian Hill (IH)
Tim Horton (TH)
Nick Hancock (NH)
Terry Jackson (TJ)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

Members of the Public: 1

Matt Reid chaired the meeting as the Chair and Vice-Chair had given their apologies

101/19 Apologies for Absence

Andrew McAuley, Rob Smith

102/19 Minutes

Resolved: It was agreed to approve the minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 28th May 2019 which were received by Council on the 11th June 2019 and these were signed by the Chair of the Meeting as a correct record.

103/19 Matters Arising

1. **Traffic sensitive streets consultation** - This consultation has been sent.

2. **Expressway Action Group Meeting** – Nick Hancock has sent a note out on this meeting which was attached to the agenda. This was noted. NH said that the meeting was very well run and had good speakers. They stated that if this was to go ahead that it could be an environmental disaster and would never be finished.

3. **CCT briefing meeting for councillors** – It was noted that NH did not take part in this briefing as he is a member of FOWL. IH reported that Greg Stacey (OCC) has raised the issue of 10 Davenport Place and the intention to put in a planning application for a 2nd house with regard to the current access agreement to this property. This could potentially delay the transfer as the agreement with OCC and WPC will need to be redrafted and will need to ensure that the share of the profit over the access in the long term needs to be embedded as this land belonged to OCC and not to the CCT. It was agreed that IH chase this with OCC and get a resolution on this issue, so the transfer is not delayed any further.

WPC do not know what amount of money will come over with the transfer so it is unknown what we will be able to do to 33 High Street and what grants and support we would be able to obtain. The issue of whether we could not get any additional grants etc and what could be done is also unknown. WPC need to be respectful of FOWL's interests if regard to what works could be

achieved to make some outline progress including an exploration of costings. TH asked that when the next meeting takes place it is minuted and also Council should look at the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) again.

104/19 Declaration of Interests

There were none notified.

105/19 Chair's Report

MR said that as he is standing in as Chair as SvP and AM have sent their apologies he has no report to give.

106/19 Communications Action Plan

It was agreed that Matt Reid, Tim Horton, Ian Hill and Keith Woolfson to meet up and update this document. The 14th/15th August were suggested as potential meeting dates.

107/19 Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Board

NPAB and Strategy 3 Hour seminar – The NPAB to propose suitable dates and advise Strategy Members. The NPAB will be meeting in August (Date TBC). The NPAB will prepare the information for the seminar. Regarding the planning applications on sites B and C, the NPAB will also consider this at the meeting in August.

108/19 Ox-Cam Expressway

Motion from Nick Hancock. [This is an expansion of the Motion agreed by Full Council in March 2019]

1. *That Watlington Parish Council (WPC) opposes the construction of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, and the associated house building, as the scheme will:*

- *increase air pollution in areas which are already subject to air quality management actions*
- *increase the weight of traffic on routes passing through Watlington to gain access to the Expressway*
- *place additional strain on local infrastructure and services beyond the immediate vicinity of the Expressway route.*

2. *That WPC notes that this concentration of development in the South East of England runs contrary to the government's objective of developing the economic power of the Midlands and North of England.*

It was noted that the north of England does not have a similar scheme and the Government are pushing for the Ox-Cam Expressway but ignoring everywhere else. It emphasises how disjointed things are. The 'Oxfordshire Industrial Strategy' has just been published which clearly shows they want to expand the economic growth within Oxfordshire.

Amended Motion: Proposer: Nick Hancock. Seconder: Tim Horton.

Unanimously in Favour

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

1. That Watlington Parish Council (WPC) opposes the construction of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, and the associated house building

2. The scheme will:

- increase air pollution in areas which are already subject to air quality management actions
- increase the weight of traffic on routes passing through Watlington to gain access the Expressway
- place additional strain on local infrastructure and services beyond the immediate vicinity of the Expressway route.

3. That WPC notes that this concentration of development in the South East of England runs contrary to the government's objective of developing the economic power of the Midlands and

North of England.

4. If they have this money the Government should enhance communications by modernising and extending the railway between Oxford and Cambridge.

5. WPC are concerned about the lack of democracy.

It was noted that SODC have taken a position of being against the Ox-Cam Expressway (SODC Email dated 22/7/2019).

It was noted that BBOWT had taken up a legal dispute to the Government on the grounds that the Government failed to assess the environmental impact of its plans before choosing its preferred corridor of land for the development. However, the High Court ruled against BBOWT.

ACTIONS AGREED:

1. To arrange a meeting with John Howell
2. Send a note to our neighbouring Parish Councils/Meetings on our position on this issue which will be more powerful in support of SODC.

109/19 Strategic Plan

To receive updated strategic plan. To agree priority order and to allocate an owner for each project

Additional Documents

- 2017-2019 WPC Strategic Plan v5.4

The Plan will be looked at when the NPAB and Strategy have their 3-hour seminar.

Edge Road

Gill Bindoff had written a commentary which was evidence based and which was given out at the last NPAB meeting and TH had said that if was fine. TH said that this was not a replacement for his but is useful. It was noted that at Full Council his point 10 had been removed.

A meeting with OCC was held on Friday 17th July, which was attended by MR, IH, TH, AM, TJ and Peter Richardson and OCC Officers, Aron Wisden, Gavin Belcher and our County Councillor, Steve Harrod. It was made clear that they would welcome any technical information that WPC could provide.

IH has put out a note of the meeting. Gavin Belcher has also circulated a note on this meeting. It was agreed to send him IH's note. IH will compare both notes and send any comment to Gavin Belcher. It was also agreed that we need to check the legal opinion and time scales. At the meeting it was asked if WPC could see the technical tender for the alternative route.

The indicative route on our NP is what the community of Watlington voted for so if this was changed at all it would not be what people voted for. The indicative route is safe and has connectivity to different places. It would be safe for people to walk and cycle along. The OCC second option would not fulfil any of these criteria. The NPAB will look at a cycling and walking structure and look at data to produce this.

The meeting held with neighbouring parishes on the 4th July went well (Notes are on file). There will be another meeting set up for October as they each gave an undertaking to give more specific information on some potential schemes. The 20mph scheme for the town is with the Operations Committee.

There will be separate meeting held with Pyrton. It was agreed that MR and IH attend and if needs be, another Councillor/s. It was thought that both Councils should have the same number of representatives attending this meeting. The Clerk to organise this meeting and to have a note taker present.

Transport

Notes from the last 3 Transport Meeting have now been circulated (*note was attached to the agenda and held on file*)

Transport Group Recommendations

1. **That a Charitable company by guarantee** or Ltd by share, be set up with the aid of sound legal advice.

This can either be through the Parish Council or it could be a completely independent entity. That Council put in a budget figure for doing this.

2. **Name & Structure:** CTA advised that this should not be formed specifically as a transport or bus company but that it should have a wide – reaching name that could encompass any number of groups that either exist or spring up to improve Watlington. The majority agreed that an umbrella organisation including existing and emerging community groups would give greater strength and wider skill bases and improved opportunity to bid for a more diverse range of funding. It truly could have wider benefits for the town for it to be an umbrella organisation. The title of the organisation would reflect the common goal to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Watlington

3. **That a meeting be set up with Victoria Land** to include members of the WTG & NPAB to investigate further details of a mini-bus service funded initially by them. We considered whether the bus may be stored at the Care Home but there are concerns that this could result in it being considered ‘their bus’ but could save costs if they did have storage on site for it. That we feed in our thoughts regarding this at an early stage to Victoria Land and to also raise this issue with Pyrton Parish Council.

TH gave an explanation of the above recommendations. After discussion the following was agreed unanimously.

Resolved: That the Transport Group further investigate the above issue in more detail, progress these issues further and then bring back a firm recommendation to the Strategy Committee.

110/19 Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)- Survey of Interest

The NPAB will produce a draft survey for approval to the Full Council meeting in September. They will also need to provide a cost for doing the survey.

111/19 Consultations

SODC Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – Asking for resident’s views on polling stations used for elections to ensure they meet the need of voters

It was agreed that WPC are perfectly happy with the arrangements in Watlington. That we put notices of this review on the Facebook pages.

112/19 Correspondence

OCC – Oxfordshire Plan. Publication of consultation report. This was noted and TH will circulate a note on this.

113/19 Any Other Business

Old Hardware Shop – SvP has been investigating using this for multiple uses. However, it was noted that at present enthusiasm for this has waned due to the amount of rent required.

Performance Space in the Paddock check right place!

MR said that IH and he had met with a resident to discuss this issue as there is a lot of negativity of this from residents around the paddock.

114/19 Items deferred to future meeting:

Community Resilience Plan – Rob Smith – Sept 2019

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.55PM