



Watlington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 on Zoom

Present:

Strategy Members:

Andrew McAuley (AM) - Chairman
Matt Reid (MR) – Vice-Chair
Ian Hill (IH)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)

Co-opted Member:

Gill Bindoff (GB)

21/21 Election of Chair

Matt Reid proposed Andrew McAuley and Ian Hill seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Andrew McAuley be elected as Chairman.

22/21 Apologies for Absence

Richard Dorney-Savage, Margaret Noon. Tim Horton.

23/21 Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved: That this be deferred to the next meeting.

24/21 Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 23rd March 2021 which were received by Council on the 11th May 2021 be signed as a correct record.

25/21 Matters Arising

Terms of Reference (Minute 10/21 refers) – AM stated that this had been discussed at the last meeting and as regards the frequency of meeting it had been agreed to keep them quarterly which does give time between meeting to get things done. TJ said she had concerns that things would get put on the back burner and AM tasked himself to push people into completing their tasks.

26/21 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

27/21 Strategic Plan- AM (attached)

Confirmation of the Strategic Plan (SP), review of priorities and to allocate a lead person or group to each activity.

It was noted the Major Projects/CIL Group (MP/C) are doing a lot of work for the Strategy Committee. At some point the MP/C work will need to be absorbed into this committee. AM said that he thought this point would come once a shortlist of projects has been identified. Once the Strategic Master Plan is up and running it will then be reviewed annually. IH said that he was worried about some items having overlap with other committees and it should be clear which committee oversees which project. Once projects are up and running there will need to be clear governance and all projects will go through a common process. AM said that the priorities, High, Medium and Low will also be reviewed.

GB reported that the current list of projects and objectives was based on objectives from the main

Neighbourhood Plan and which is under review at the moment and therefore some tweaking to the SP and discussion on this will be needed.

SB said that he is currently working on Sports Facilities in the Town and he has taken on C05 c and d and CO6 and broadband. SB had also sent through a Recreation Ground Master Plan brief.

AM said he has updated the SP and allocated some lead persons/group and he will send this to KT to circulate to all members.

It was noted that the review would be done at the December meeting as September would probably be too soon.

28/21 Update on Current Actions if any

1. **CCT** – IH reported that at the moment no progress can be made as until a decision is made on the Planning Application for 10 Davenport Place as OCC have given the owner a deadline of 31/7/2021 to accept the lease. IH has a meeting with Philip Pinney on Saturday to update him on this issue. After the 31/7/2021 OCC will then engage with WPC again. FvM has been contacted regarding this. This had not been communicated to WPC until the recent meeting. MR said that this was a complete reversal to what we had previously been told and was a shock. If the planning permission is not granted WPC will push forward to get CCT sorted out.

2. **Watlington Parish Council Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan** – TJ

This had been circulated to all members. TJ said that Tom Robinson has done a great job of updating the plan on behalf of WPC CAAB (Climate Action Advisory Board) which would be reviewed annually, and she has asked that this now be accepted.

SB had put in a counter argument to this, sent to all members prior to the meeting.

SB stated that SODC objective is to be zero carbon by 2030 and we also need to achieve this. He agreed that we do have a Climate Emergency and WPC need to take serious actions on how we can do this. The WCAG plan sets objectives that the Parish Council do not have the means to do it. A lot of the issues in the plan would not reduce emissions in Watlington. WPC should be concentrating on things that would make a bigger difference such as improving housing heat loss, electric charging points etc and not include things that do not make a difference to emissions such as plastic recycling etc. The CAAB can promote other smaller projects. RB said that he agreed with this approach. It was agreed that SB be co-opted onto CAAB to help work with the plan.

AM had a look at SODC's link, but it does not say much on how Town and Parish Councils can achieve their aims and they need to be focused on all Councils to be able to achieve their goals.

SB said that WCAG can be concentrating on their objectives and the WPC plan which would concentrate on reducing emissions could run in parallel.

After discussion it was agreed that the WPC Climate Action Plan should only concentrate on the issues on reducing emissions. SB to help WCAG to produce a Plan for WPC and an Action Plan for WCAG which would run in parallel. It was noted that WCAG are the public face.

Resolved: That WPC take this issue seriously as it is a key issue as to how we get to zero emissions by 2030. That we thank WCAG for their work on producing a draft and SB and TJ to work with them on a revised draft for consideration at the July Full Council meeting which:

- a Is limited to actions required to achieve carbon reduction targets
- b Make the baseline and targets more explicit
- c Uses the correct baseline: The net CO2 equivalent (i.e. allowing for existing sequestration by land use) is 13.4 kt CO2e pa.
- d Includes annual targets for reduction showing how they will achieve the net zero by 2030
- e Includes a process for measuring (or estimating) progress towards the target
- f Includes a CO2e reduction target by year for each action so that the contribution to meeting net zero by 2030 can be evaluated.
- g Prioritises the actions in terms of impact
- h Indicates likely timeframes for each project
- i Indicate which projects WCAG would be willing to take a leading role on

3. **CIL and Major Projects Group** – SB stated that the project scope document should be completed by

the 1/7/2021 and he will email it to all Councillors when it is ready. He hoped that the shortlist of projects could be approved at Full Council in September. There will be a meeting of this group in August.

29/21 Items for Discussion

1. **Project Approval Process**

SB had produced this document and presented it to the committee. It has 7 processes from gathering of ideas to the project review. AM thanked SB for an excellent paper and after discussion the following was agreed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council approve the Project Approval Process

30/21 Consultations/ Policies

There were none.

31/21 Correspondence

Adam King – Communications Manager England's Economic Heartland/East West Rail Consortium.
Transport Connectivity Consultation

Resolved: That TJ be tasked with completing this consultation.

32/21 Any Other Business

Lighting on new housing site on Britwell Road- Red Kite Views – A resident has been in contact about the bright lights that are now switched on at this site. There have also been a lot of comments on the Town Facebook page. The Clerk is in contact with Bloor and will update Councillors when a response is received. GB had also contacted Emma Bowerman at SODC regarding this as she did not think that the lighting plan had been approved. It was noted that the Environmental Report with the AECOM map has some details about the Edge Road lighting.

33/21 Items for future meeting:

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM