



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held at 7pm on Tuesday 28th June 2022 on Zoom
This is a 'A' Meeting**

Present:

Strategy Members:

Andrew McAuley (AM) - Chairman
Steve Bolingbroke (SB) - Vice-Chair
Matt Reid (MR)
Margaret Noon (MN)

Co-opted

Gill Bindoff (GB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

45/22 Apologies for Absence
Terry Jackson.

46/22 Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 31st May 2022 which were received by Council on the 14th June 2022 be signed as a correct record.

47/22 Matters Arising/Actions pending

Traffic 2030 options – SB reported that there is a meeting with OCC officers (Community and Place) on Thursday to discuss options. There will be meetings with WBA, local organisations and residents held at the appropriate time. SB said that a friend of his who is a retired traffic engineer will be coming to Watlington for the day and is happy to give comments pro bono.

48/22 Declaration of Interests

There were none notified.

49/22 Review of Strategic Plan – AM

AM had sent out the latest version of this. It was noted that it would be difficult to review this whilst the NPAB are reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.

50/22 Consultations

1. Joint Local Plan of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse to 2041

They are also consulting on other supporting documents alongside the Joint Local Plan Issues consultation - these are:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report
- Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology
- Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document

It was noted that the NPAB looked at this and it was thought that there was insufficient detail to make a response as the reports were very general. There will be more opportunities to make responses when the proposals come forward with more detail.

51/22 The future of the Strategy Committee – AM/SB

AM stated that he thinks that the Council's committee structure needs to be reviewed as there are too many committees for the number of councillors we have at the moment, 10 out of a possible 14. He said that some of the work of this committee could easily be taken on by other committees and by Full Council. Full Council should be responsible for the Strategic Plan. The Plan would be administered by a working group comprising the Parish Chairman, Vice-Chair and chairs of the committees and NPAB. Major Projects would go to the Finance Committee.

It was also thought that the PSFC and Allotments should report directly to Full Council.

MN said she had concerns about the monitoring process and it was thought that there could be a working group set up who would monitor of the NPAB and Strategic Plan.

It was noted that any paperwork given out of any issue should be succinct and more cohesive.

Having one less committee meeting per month would make Council more appealing to new councillors and would hopefully lead to more actions and less discussion.

SB reported that the Operations Committee run minor projects and have their own action list. He also said that Watlington has some really powerful organisations, Watlington Club, WBA, FOWL, WCAG for example and the parish council could be the ringmaster to helping them get things achieved and also connect us with our community.

It was resolved by the Strategy Committee to RECOMMEND to September Full Council that:

The strategy committee is dissolved and that its responsibilities are reassigned to Full Council, the Finance Committee and NPAB as follows:

Full Council

- Parish Council Strategic Plan (PCSP).
- At the start of a new council period produce a PCSP, including priorities for the next four years, in line with the objectives of the Watlington Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP).
- Set up a working group (Parish Chairman, Vice-Chair and chairs of the committees and NPAB) to monitor and review the progress PCSP twice per year (May and October).
- Update the PCSP as required.
- Assign work to committees as required by PCSP and as ad hoc tasks/projects arise.
- Coordination and submission of consultation responses where appropriate.

Finance Committee

- Scrutinise all proposals for major projects in accordance with the approved Parish procedure to ensure they meet due diligence requirements.
- Recommend to Full council those projects that are deemed suitable to be considered for Parish funding from CIL or other sources.
- Monitor progress of all approved projects.
- Maintain register of reserve projects.
- Periodically, refresh the list of active major projects by selecting from the reserve list and/or calling for new projects and running a prioritisation process with recommended changes going to Full Council for approval
- Keep under review the project approval and management process and make recommendations on changes to Full Council.
- Maintain the Major Project dashboard.

NPAB

- Monitoring the implementation of the Watlington Neighbourhood Development Plan.

BACKGROUND

- WPC committee structure not fit for purpose, does not aid timely decision making.
- It is cumbersome with too much repetition within committees.

- WPC is not a large organisation and has limited support staff.
- Need to keep number of committees to absolute minimum.
- Structure needs to be flexible and responsive.
- Needs to appeal to younger generation used to modern business processes and faster decision timelines.
- Needs to enable well informed debate and decision making.

52/22 WPC Strategies

1. **Review of Sports Strategy Action** – This is being progressed.

2. **Review of Climate Action Plan Actions**- SB stated that the most pressing item is to decarbonise the parish office. It was noted that Energy Solutions Oxfordshire had prepared an Energy Assessment report on the Town Hall which was funded by the UK Community Renewal Fund. Parish Councils can request one assessment per year, and it was agreed that the Clerk apply for this to be done on the parish office. It was noted that SODC are spending some Climate Action money on picking up litter and SB has formally asked them how much carbon reduction this will achieve.

53/33 Major Project Status – if any update to report

EV Project – SB reported that we received 7 tenders which are being assessed at the moment and it is hoped that we are in a position to put a recommendation to Full Council in July.

MUGA – We have requested 3 quotations and have received two to date. It was noted that on the Planning Application the applicant is Watlington Parish Council.

54/22 Any Other Business

Locality Grant for 33 High Street – GB reported that two out of the three surveys have been completed and asked for confirmation that the third can now be commissioned. The grant and work are part of the NP process. These were approved by Full Council. The surveys are relevant whoever the trustees are. The last piece of work needed is architect’s drawings of a few different uses for number 33. SB said that parish council have a limited set of powers and asked which power will be used to do this work. It was agreed that the final report can now be commissioned.

Post Minute Note

Neighbourhood planning – England	Power to act as the lead body for the establishment of a neighbourhood development order or a neighbourhood development plan	Town and County Planning Act 1990, s.61F(1),(2) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, s.38C(2)
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One year Lease from CCT 33 High Street to Watlington Parish Council – SB asked if we have had clarification from the lawyers on whether we have a power to do this. MR has asked them this question. It was noted that we could use S137 but there is limited money available. MR said that there should be no cost to the parish council and therefore no funds will be used. MR will send the Conservation Officers report on the building to GB.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40PM