



Watlington Parish Council

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Minutes of the 'Remote' meeting via Zoom of the Strategy Committee held at 7pm on Tuesday 23rd March 2021

Present:

Strategy Members:

Andrew McAuley (AM) - Chairman
Matt Reid (MR) – Vice-Chair
Ian Hill (IH)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Tim Horton (TH)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)
Richard Dorney-Savage (RDS)

Co-opted Members:

Gill Bindoff (GB)

In Attendance:

Margaret Noon (MN), Keith Jackson (KJ)

07/21 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

08/21 Minutes

MR queried what Rhian Woods had said. The Clerk has checked the recording and it is accurate.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 17th February 2021 which were received by Council on the 9th March 2021 were agreed and will be signed at an appropriate time.

07/21 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

08/21 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

09/21 Chairman's Remarks

AM stated that the agenda is very full with some issues that will need a lot of discussion and asked that members be brief and concise with comments.

10/21 Terms of Reference

These were agreed in August 2020 and will be reviewed again in May 2021. The NPAB reports to the Strategy Committee but works closely with the Planning Committee.

11/21 Strategic Plan- AM (this was attached to the agenda)

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

AM stated that many of the line items in the Strategic Plan have been assessed as priority one however, no individual or committee has taken ownership of the item and therefore, the items are not being progressed or reported on. It is important, given the size of the council and our capacity, that all priority items/projects are 'owned'. AM asked that committee members look at the Strategic Plan and make recommendations as to which person, group or committee could take ownership of or lead on items/projects. Councillors were to email AM with their recommendations. MR asked that the assessment of ICC buildings be added to the Strategic Plan with a view that they are categorised as assets of community value. He will lead on this and assess their value for the community should ICC move from Watlington. GB stated that many of the items are covered within the scope of the NPAB and the committee needs to ensure that there is no duplication of work. AM said that SB is drawing together a data base of known projects with costings. This will be discussed in detail at agenda item 10.

12/21 Review of aims and objectives of the WNDP - GB (Paperwork on this was attached to the agenda)

GB stated that this is a first draft and had sent out with a covering note from Tony Powell in advance of this meeting. Since the publication of the WNDP in 2018, WPC has declared a climate emergency and the revised version of the aims and objectives seeks to incorporate this declaration in terms of decreasing the emission of greenhouse gases and contributing to nature recovery within our parish. It also seeks to ensure that the community is prepared and can cope with local challenges that may present post Covid. GB asked that any comments on the document be sent to her via KT. Once the final version of the aims and objectives has been approved by Full Council it will go to public consultation. It was noted that that the NP was a Community led plan but that the Parish Council has a special responsibility and needs to meet its legal obligations. GB confirmed that the NPAB will coordinate the Plan's review however, the Parish Council has legal oversight and accountability. GB stated that there are already a number of individuals and community groups involved in the review and more will be involved as the various policies re-examined. It was noted that that the NPAB is made up of 4 councillors and 6 non- councillors. Two new non-councillor members have been recruited however, there remains one councillor vacancy.

After much discussion a vote was taken on whether to approve the first draft of the review of aims and objectives.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Council approve the first draft of the NPAB review of aims and objectives

13/21 WPC Climate Action Advisory Board recommendations and Climate Action Strategy and Plan-
(These were attached to the agenda)

TJ stated that WPC had already declared a climate emergency in line with both the national government and other local government organisations. However, SODC have now also declared an ecological emergency. She felt that that WPC should also do so in order to better define its objectives in terms of both the climate and environment. These declarations should be reflected in the Council's Climate Action Strategy and Plan. The WPC 12-point Climate Action Plan was noted. SB asked if there was clear evidence and correlating data regarding an ecological emergency that backs the plan. TH stated that overall, this a very helpful paper but thought that there is duplication with some work already being done in the Operations Committee. It was noted that the Climate Action Plan had no costings against the individual actions. It was felt that this was important in order to be able to assess the priority and viability of the proposed actions. It was also felt that greater clarification was required regarding what can actually be achieved by WPC and what the impact of the individual actions would be. It was noted that SODC has set a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 however, WPC needs to understand what its contribution to the target is expected to be and how any required actions are to be funded. It was felt that a further review of the Climate Action Strategy and Plan was required. AM said that a special meeting of the Strategy Committee could be called to discuss this issue as a stand-alone item before the next Strategy Meeting in June if required.

Resolved: That TJ review the document in light of the comments made above and that it is then brought back to committee. TH, SB and MR said they would be willing to help TJ with the review.

14/21 Update on Current Actions if any

A. **CCT** - Nothing to report

B. **CIL Projects** - SB – Update by SB

SB has made a Major Project Dashboard showing a summary of sources and uses of funds for major projects, this was sent to Members prior to the meeting. He also stated that he plans to use this dashboard to track potential and approved projects so that it can be easily seen how the funds (CIL and Section 106) will be spent. He asked if there were further projects that have not yet been included to send the information to him. It was noted, for example, that the SID project had already had CIL funding allocated to it. He thought it would be useful if deadlines were used for project phases, such as the submission of the business case, as this would help with prioritisation and funding allocation. There will be a meeting of the CIL and Major Projects Working Group soon to take this forward. SB will lead the working group.

C. **Third Reading Bridge** – TH said that he has done some work toward this but was unsure if there would be much effect for Watlington and said he does not wish to progress this further. TH said he will put a brief together for Full Council as it is important to see what extent Watlington should be involved.

15/21 Items for Discussion

A. **AECOM proposal** -this report was emailed to all Members.

MR stated that broadly there are no surprises within the AECOM OAR, and he has spoken to Colin Ludlow who agreed that this was in line with everything discussed with OCC. He said that as regards Site A and B, connectivity is as good as we can hope for. OCC have given us three weeks to respond with comments, but it is not a statutory consultation. The next step would be the submission of a full planning application sometime in the summer. The public would be able to comment at that stage. There is an urgent need to have further discussions with OCC regarding how the edge road will connect to the Britwell Road. AM said that OCC have not contacted the landowner (John Mearns, Red Lion Farm, Britwell Salome) whose land abuts both the Britwell Road and the edge road. MR asked that all Councillors give their comments on the proposed route of the edge road to him so a combined response can be sent. GB stated that the NPAB had held a meeting to discuss the OAR and the proposed route of the edge road. The conclusion was that the route, as indicated, largely met the objectives of the WNDP. The main issue remaining was to understand how the new school playing field would be integrated with the existing playing field. The NPAB welcomed the introduction of the school bus drop off loop however, it felt that clarification was required on whether any school buses would continue to use the Love Lane entrance. There was also concern expressed as to how the public footpath that runs along the ICC boundary would be re-routed and whether it would be upgraded to a bridleway as part of the active travel green routes. GB will forward the NPAB comments to MR. It was noted that WPC still does not have a view from ICC. MR said that there will be a meeting on the 7th April of the Interface Committee to discuss the route through PYR 2 in detail as well as the use of the land north of the edge road in Pyrton Parish.

After discussion it was:

Resolved:

- a) to raise matters with urgency with OCC as regards the sweep of the edge road to joining Britwell Road.
- b) to raise the footway at the junction of Pyrton Lane to achieve access to Site C.
- c) to seek earliest estimate of requirement about what land for PYR will be available and if there may be additional land with regard to PYR 2.

B. Motion for Recommendation to Full Council to Support the Climate and Ecological

Emergency Bill – TJ – paper attached

Council notes that:

- i. This council has already declared a climate emergency.
- iii. There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”)—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:
 - a. requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures;
 - b. ensures that all the UK’s consumption emissions are accounted for;
 - c. includes emissions from aviation and shipping;
 - d. protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;
 - e. restores and regenerates the UK’s depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO₂ and their resistance to climate heating;
 - f. sets up an independent Citizens’ Assembly, representative of the UK’s population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.

Council therefore resolves to:

- a) **Support** the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;
- b) **Inform the local media** of this decision;
- c) **Write an open letter to John Howell MP** (shared with our residents through local media) urging him to sign up to support the Bill; and
- d) **Write to the CEE Bill Alliance** (campaign@ceebill.uk) and the CEE Bill Alliance Oxfordshire (ceebillalliance.oxford@gmail.com), the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support.

There was much discussion on this issue, and it was:

Resolved: To defer this item and put on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting.

16/21 Consultations/ Policies

Flag Flying Policy – to agree this policy.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council adopt this policy.

17/21 Correspondence

1. **OCCA Oxfordshire Chilterns Community Action** – Asking us to support the Parliamentary Petition raised to protect our Green Belt and Farmland – see attached email.

[Petition: Prioritise brownfield development in law to protect our green belt and farmland](#)

2. **Bioabundance** – Asking if WPC would consider joining Bioabundance and possibly making a donation towards fundraising for their legal challenge of the SODC local plan

Resolved: That Full Council discuss the above two issues.

18/21 Membership of Committee

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL: That Margaret Noon becomes a member of the Strategy Committee.

19/21 Any Other Business

AECOM Appendices – GB asked if we have received these and it was note that we have not. OCC will be contacted to see if these can be made available to WPC.

20/21 Items to future meeting:

Watlington Fund

New Committee/Sub Committee called Information Management Committee

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9PM