



Watlington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 held on Zoom This was an 'A' Meeting

Present:

Strategy Members:

Andrew McAuley (AM) - Chairman
Matt Reid (MR) – Vice-Chair (left meeting at 8.15pm)
Terry Jackson (TJ)
Roger Beattie (RB)
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)
Margaret Noon (MN)

Co-opted

Gill Bindoff (GB)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

21/22 Apologies for Absence

Tim Horton.

22/22 Minutes

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the Strategy Meeting held on 22nd February 2022 which were received by Council on the 8th March 2022 to be signed as a correct record.

23/22 Matters Arising

There were none other than agenda items.

24/22 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest notified

25/22 Review of Strategic Plan – AM

AM had circulated this before the meeting to Members and he had highlighted in red items that needed updates. AM stated that SB and GB have sent comments and asked that all committee members look at the Strategic Plan in detail and send comments to him.

26/22 Red Team Review

Y1 – MUGA (AM)

A Business Case and financial summary had been sent out prior to the meeting. AM precised the proposal. He said that SODC have approved in principle £75K for this project and that the Parish Council would be asked to commit £108K. He then asked members for their observations.

SB stated that he had 4 major issues:

1. Financial Paper he notes an estimated annual budget cost of £3,370 would be needed for running costs/maintenance/sinking fund which means that it would not make enough to pay for itself. The running costs need to be refined.
2. There is no information on level of fees to be levied.

3. Feedback was required from those groups identified as potential users on how much, if any, use they would make of the facility. Also, there were no usage figures for formal/informal users.
4. Appointment of consultant has not been properly procured.

The above issues need to be resolved before the business case went to Full Council.

TJ asked if crowd funding had been considered.

GB said she was also concerned about lack of detail as this would be a substantial amount of CIL funding. She would like information on how many people would use it formally and informally. At present the basketball court is used a lot by families, teenagers, young people as a social space and this would be lost. There is no estimate of the loss of this space. WPC is undertaking a review of the recreation area and she thought that no decision should be made until this has been done. There is also no estimate of any office time needed. There should also be some assessment on the impact to neighbours as the Skatepark Business Case did as this is a much nearer facility to housing.

AM stated that it would be an online booking method with tokens for electricity and should not need much office time.

MN thought this should be looked at concurrently with other projects in the Rec.

MR said that there are other MUGA facilities that local people use but would much prefer a Watlington one, no need to drive etc and would attract other uses such as youth teams. It is not designed as a football pitch but could be used for training by football.

AM stated that the MUGA would be replacing the current unsafe basketball area surface. It would be alongside the flow park, and these will enhance the facility in terms of community use. The MUGA can be split in two to allow different uses at one time. It would be a much more flexible space. Once the whole area has been re-purposed, we need to look at impact on other projects.

- It was agreed that other MUGA's be contacted regarding hiring charges etc to obtain more information.
- It was noted that this a multi-use area for all and not just football.
- The issue of car parking was mooted which is a town wide issue.
- Our community will grow in size.

AM said that the MUGA group will now look at more detail and thanked everyone for the feedback. The project proposal would be presented to the Strategy Committee again in March.

27/22 WPC Strategies

1. **Review of Sports Strategy Action**

SB reported that TH was writing to ICC re Rugby. Anna Badcock has asked a question at Council and SB has now entered into a dialogue with the relevant person at SODC. He stated that a place would need 30,000 resident to afford a swimming pool. He reported that SODC are developing a new Sports and Recreation Strategy and he went through WPC plans and aspirations with the officer who was very interested in them. A meeting will take place on the Rec with the SODC Cabinet member for community and wellbeing, Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers and AM and SB tomorrow (23/3). She is the Cabinet member who would be responsible for approving the community Grant of £75K for the MUGA. SB also said that there is talk about having a gym in the Watlington Club and he will find out more information.

TJ asked if all had received her email from this afternoon with the suggestion of having a café/platform on top of the flow track. SB asked that she draw up a business case for this but thought the costs would be prohibitive.

2. **Review of Climate Action Plan Actions**

SB said that there are a number of projects within the plan. Full Council approved the EV scheme and an application has been submitted to ORCS for a grant. WCAG has received a grant for £40,000 to

investigate a community energy scheme however, he is not clear what this will look like and he is not sure what land it would require. TJ is looking into decarbonising parish buildings with a view to bringing a proposal later in the year as a major project.

28/22 Under 5's Project – MN spoke on her proposal below:

Intent

- To educate and provide opportunities for the youngest sector of the community to understand and contribute to the protection of the planet.
- In Oxfordshire's Year of Communication and Interaction, to support parents and Early Years educators in recognising and developing effective strategies for language comprehension and a life-long love of reading.

Implementation

- Support and enhance existing activities and practices such as Forest School and Rainbow waste management teaching.
- Develop opportunities for the active participation of children in the relevant WPC Environmental projects such as wildflower planting.
- Provide training and guidance for parents on developing effective strategies for sharing books and developing language and literacy skills.
- Provide suitable resources
- Engage Library staff and parents in the implementation of the strategy

Funding

The project relies mainly on book resources (£250) and practical materials (cost dependent on the environmental projects)

I am therefore requesting financial support of £500 as a start -up,

RECOMMENDATION TO FINANCE COMMITTEE: That the committee look to see if there is any available money to support the one off start up cost.

29/22 Major Project Status – if any update to report

- a. **A1 – Performance Space** – There has not been an update from TH in the last three months.

- b. **S1 – Sports Ground** – nothing to report

- c. **Y2 – Youth Club** - MN said that there has been a meeting with Youth Club, and they are in favour of having an extension to the pavilion which could be developed into a multi- use space. SB will add this to the specification for the Rec Master Plan and will change the brief for the architect. It was thought about 50sqm would be the requirement.
A survey has been devised which will be sent out next week. MN stated that this would be a community facility and not just for the Youth Club and the Youth Club committee preference is something on the recreation ground. It was noted that a mezzanine in the existing pavilion will also be looked at. SB said that this is something that will need discussion at the PSFC meeting.

30/22 Traffic 2030 options

SB said he was very disappointed with the attendance at the workshop on this. However, 4 people attended one of which was our County Councillor, and the Highways department will work up some of the plans. The attendees were very creative and there are now 4/5 for pedestrian/cycleway access from the new developments to the town centre. SB will document these and circulate for initial comments. He said that the MODE 2018 report would be revisited.

31/22 Website Strategy

KT suggested that all members look at the current website. She will look at the website viewing figures. This item to be an agenda item on the next 'A' meeting in September. MR will investigate this and what other things may be useful for a website.

32/22 Any Other Business

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.45PM