

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 26 March 2025**

Present Councillor H Belcher OBE (Vice Chair)
Councillors S Abbott, N Brakspear, J Brook, J Roberton and
G Ward

Present Online: Councillor A Mackie

In Attendance D Martin (Chief Executive)
J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

P&A 69/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor T Ellis.

P&A 70/24 Public Question Time and Petitions

None.

P&A 71/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

**P&A 72/24 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee
meeting held on 22 January 2025**

Minute P&A 64/24 - Update on Local Highway Improvement Group Issues - It was noted that the substantive bid for pedestrian improvements on the A4 had been turned down. The bid had the lowest score of all the proposals considered. The Senior Traffic Engineer had stated that it was difficult to conceive of it obtaining a higher score if it were reworked and submitted the following year.

P&A 73/24 Corsham 20mph Limits (*Minute P&A 16/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to the recently implemented 20mph speed limits in Corsham town centre and to the large number of comments from residents on the matter.

Issues discussed included:

- The history of efforts to implement 20mph speed limits in the town and the fact that what was implemented was very different from what the Town Council recommended;
- That the Town Council had always felt that it would need to revisit the extents of the 20mph limits;

- That Wiltshire Council strictly adhere to national guidelines (average speed of 24mph or less) when assessing roads for 20mph limits; and
- That the terminal points at The Tynings and the High Street Car Park could be seen to encourage motorists to speed up to 30mph in these cul-de-sacs.

Resolved

- 1) To produce a statement outlining the Town Council's involvement in the implementation of 20mph speed limits in the town. The statement should clarify Wiltshire Council's approach to the request, its criteria for implementing 20mph limits and how its implemented scheme differed from what the Town Council put forward.
- 2) To ask the LHFIG to revisit 20mph limits in the town following the large number of comments about the scheme. Specifically, to ask the LHFIG to consider:
 - The Pound Pill terminal point. There had been calls for it to be extended past the school to The Great Western pub area and calls for it to be extended up to the junction with Lypiatt Road. The Town Council would suggest that two metro counts take place here to assess the viability of a short extension or a larger one.
 - Lacock Road. Extending a 20mph limit beyond St Patrick's School.
 - High Street Car Park. Include the short road between Pickwick Road and the High Street Car Park in the 20mph limit.
 - The Tynings. Include this cul-de-sac, by The Corsham School entrance in the 20mph limit.
 - Post Office Lane, High Street, Church Street and Priory Street from the High Street to Newlands Road. Include these areas within the 20mph limits. The Town Council would like any extension here to be mindful to use signage that is proportionate and sensitive to the Conservation Area.
 - Station Road/South Street area. Include all of Station Road, all of South Street, Grove Road, Hastings Road and Pound Mead (up to Furzehill) in the 20mph limits.
 - Pickwick Road. Include Pickwick Road up to just after the zebra crossing near the junction with Beechfield Road, and Beechfield Road and the associated side roads to be included in the assessment.

P&A 74/24 Town Transport Plan (*Minute 251/24, P&A 48/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to the Town Transport Plan which had already been considered by Council and some comments and suggestions had been made. The Chief Executive had asked the consultants, Urban Foresight, to prepare a summary version for public consumption and officers would produce a detailed action plan for consideration at a future meeting.

Issues discussed included:

- The importance of making sure that Wiltshire Council continue to look for funding opportunities for public realm interventions;

- That the section on free parking might be worded too strongly, possibly understating the contribution that free parking might make to the town centre economy; and
- That Urban Foresight's consultation had involved more cycling/walking groups than businesses, which may have skewed the language/findings with regard to free parking.

Resolved

To ask Urban Foresight to take out or amend any sections on free parking that cannot be evidenced or appear unbalanced.

P&A 75/24 Corsham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Consideration was given to the presentation slides from a stakeholder meeting commencing work on the Corsham LCWIP. Town Council officers had already been through the slides, especially the Emerging Network Map, and had put together a series of comments and suggestions for Wiltshire Council and their consultant Atkins Realis. Suggestions included:

- That the route marked C9 (Skynet) should not be marked as a High Vehicle Traffic Route;
- That the High Street should be added as a high employment area;
- That Broadwood school was missing from the map;
- The footpath from Freestone Way, opposite Katherine Park to Pockeridge Drive should be marked, perhaps as C2b;
- The Wiltshire Cycle Way to Biddestone should be added as an inter-settlement route (presently, the road before Chippenham Lane is in a poor state and regularly floods);
- IS3 should be extended towards Atworth and on to Trowbridge;
- The Cross Keys Road should be added as a main active travel route;
- Gastard is missing from the map. An inter-settlement route towards Melksham could also be added.

The Committee was content with the suggestions that were put forward and noted that there would be other opportunities to comment as the work takes place and the plan develops.

Resolved

To respond to the Emerging Network Map by raising the points above.

P&A 76/24 Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Consideration was given to a Wiltshire Council Briefing Note on work to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Wiltshire. The LNRS will consist of a document containing biodiversity priorities and a habitat map which to inform and guide nature recovery across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Resolved

To note the Briefing Note.

P&A 77/24 Update on Local Highway Improvement Group Issues (*Minute P&A 64/24 and others*)

Wiltshire Council's Senior Traffic Engineer had reported that it would not be possible to replace the playground sign at Coppershell with a yellow backed sign. Wiltshire Council only allow yellow-backed signage in certain circumstances, such as terminal points, fast speed zones, built up areas and areas with high accident data.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 78/24 Requests for Highway Improvements and Traffic Surveys (*Minute P&A 65/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to the following Highway Improvement Requests:

- i) Black Path, Request for additional No Cycling signage.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether or not the path should be used by cyclists; and
- What signage is currently in situ.

Resolved:

To defer consideration of the request to the next meeting in order to establish what signage is presently in place.

- ii) Church Rise, Neston – Request for improvement works to footpath.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether Neston Primary School had a School Travel Plan in place. Having a plan in place would potentially give access to additional funding pots.

Resolved:

To send the request on to the LHFIG and to contact Neston Primary School to offer to support them in developing an up-to-date School Travel Plan.

- iii) Katherine Park – Request for traffic calming and speed signage.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether there was excessive speeding at this location;
- The possibility of implementing a 20mph zone in the estate; and
- The possibility of playground signage and whether this would have any impact on speed.

Resolved:

Not to send the request through to the LHFIG.

- iv) Velly Hill, Gastard – Request for traffic calming.

Issues discussed included:

- Previous efforts to address speeds through the village and their effectiveness.

Resolved:

To send the request on to the LHFIG.

- v) Duke Crescent/Copenacre Way – Two requests to re-site bollards.
Issues discussed included:
- The implications for pedestrian safety were the bollards to be moved.

Resolved:

To send the request on to the LHFIG.

P&A 79/24 Waiting Restriction Request

Consideration was given to a Waiting Restriction Request relating to Arnolds Mead.

Issues discussed included:

- That putting down a white line might be more appropriate than a small section of double yellow lines.

Resolved

Not to send the request on to Wiltshire Council, but to point out to the applicant the process for white line marking.

P&A 80/23 Speed Indicator Devices and AutoSpeedWatch (*Minute P&A 66/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to a detailed report which set out how the Town Council's two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and the AutoSpeedWatch unit operate, the data they capture, how they are used and the barriers encountered in their use.

Issues discussed included:

- That the Town Council was hopeful that a new SID site would be approved (under the new practice note) at Elley Green. A recent metro count had revealed that the 85th percentile was well above the 25mph (20mph limit) threshold; and
- That Councillor J Robertson had been advised that reports from the AutoSpeedWatch unit could be shared with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, who could direct enforcement action. Officers were meeting with the NPT in April 2025.

Resolved:

To note the report.

P&A 81/23 Arnold House update on Repairs and Maintenance (*Minute P&A 62/24 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services reported that stone works at Arnold House had been taking place. There had been stone repairs/replacement and repointing on the gable end and two faces of the rear extension had been repointed as well. These works had amounted to £21,980 plus VAT.

It was noted that significant costs were likely to be incurred in the next five years when the Town Council would have to re-roof (timberwork and stone tiling) the building.

Resolved:

To note the update.

P&A 82/23 Update on Tree Work (*Minute P&A 66/24 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services gave a brief update on tree works that had taken place over the winter. The Town Council received its three-year arboricultural report in November 2024. The large amount of recommended work contained in the report was due to the Town Council having taken on a number of areas from Wiltshire Council and the effects of Ash Dieback (*Chalara*). As the arboricultural report was delivered later than anticipated, it had not been possible to get all the recommended work completed in the window before bird nesting started. Around half of the total work had been completed. The Head of Technical Services had prioritised sites that presented the greatest risk. Tree work would resume from September 2025, after bird nesting had come to an end. The work was primarily funded from the earmarked reserve for Service Delegation/Asset Transfer.

Resolved:

To note the update.

P&A 83/23 Update on Park Place Allotments

The Head of Technical Services reported that construction of the Park Place Allotments had been completed and the 14 plots had been allocated to tenants who were all residents of Park Place. Town Council staff had had the opportunity to meet with many of the new tenants, when a small community orchard was planted on the site a few weeks ago. The tenants and other local residents all seemed very happy with the new site. There were one or two small tasks to complete, including signage, putting down a small tarmac strip in the parking bays and putting information on the noticeboard.

Resolved:

To note the update.

P&A 84/23 Update on Bus Shelter Cleaning and Maintenance (*Minute P&A 63/24 and others*)

The Committee noted that a new contractor had recently cleaned all of the glass and polycarbonate bus shelters in the town (including roofs). The Head of Technical Services reported he had noticed the shelters were much improved by the cleaning.

A contractor had been asked to replace the polycarbonate panels at three bus shelters with glass (the three shelters in the worst state had been selected). Glass panels were easier to clean and to remove graffiti from.

Resolved:

To note the update.

P&A 85/23 No.10 Town Bus Saturday Afternoon Services Proposal

Consideration was given to a proposal to undertake a trial to extend the No.10 Bus Service to Saturday afternoons, amounting to four additional services. Corsham Town Council was being asked to provide a 50% subsidy for the trial to take place. It was anticipated that it would cost c.£5,000 and that the trial would last until the end of 2025.

Issues discussed included:

- How we might measure whether the trial had been a success. It was thought that Faresaver would be able to share data as it was not a commercial route. Also, a survey could be done to see how much appetite there was to continue with a Saturday afternoon service; and
- That the extended service might help bring more people to the town centre and support the town centre economy.

Resolved:

To support the trial and to agree fund 50% of the subsidy.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8.57pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIR

DATE