

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 29 May 2024**

Present Councillor S Abbott (In the Chair)
Councillors N Brakspear, J Brook, J Roberton, G Ward and R Williams

In Attendance J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor S Abbott was elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

P&A 01/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors H Belcher OBE and T Ellis.

P&A 02/24 Public Question Time and Petitions

None received.

P&A 03/24 Declarations of Interest

Councillor S Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11, Noise Complaints – He is a nearby resident.

P&A 04/24 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property & Amenities Committee meeting held on 27 March 2024

It was noted that having a copy of the minutes included in the agenda pack would be a useful addition.

Resolved

To ask for a copy of the minutes in future agenda packs.

P&A 05/24 Public Realm Update (*Minute P&A 74/23 and others*)

The Committee received an update on efforts to construct a drystone wall and plant native hedging along the frontage of Moxhams and Wyvern House. GreenSquareAccord had informed the Town Council that they were content to proceed with the project. An asset search had revealed no services (gas, electricity etc.) that would pose a barrier and pre-application advice had been sought from Wiltshire Council's Planning Department to check that the proposed wall and hedge were within permitted development rights. An agreement between the Town Council and GreenSquareAccord had been drafted that would see the Town Council take responsibility for the management and maintenance of the wall and hedge for five years. It was hoped that the wall would be constructed and the hedge planted in the coming winter.

Issues discussed included:

- That funds for the project would come from the Public Realm capital budget; and
- Communication with residents.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 06/24 Workshop/Welfare Facilities for the Town Council's Grounds Team and Delivery of the Park Place Allotments (*Minute P&A 75/23*)

The Committee received an update on efforts to develop plans for workshop/ welfare facilities and to deliver the Park Place allotments. The Strategic Planning Working Group had met on 1 May to visit the Guide Hut and Arnold House and to discuss the next steps at both the Guide Hut/Arnold House and the Park Place allotments. The Working Group had felt that the next steps at the Guide Hut/Arnold House were to ensure that the project was viable in this location and looked right; to engage with a consultant to produce an outline design and initial cost estimate; to check on the likelihood of securing planning permission via the submission of a pre-application planning form; and to assess whether proposals at this location offered a practical solution that offered a degree of future proofing. Next steps at the Park Place allotments would include drawing up a specification for potential contractors, producing detailed designs of the allotments and delivering the access from Park Lane, fencing and a water supply.

Issues discussed included:

- The possibility of using the same architect who had worked on the Park Lane workshop project.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 07/24 Pockeridge Road Play Areas (*Minute P&A 72/23 and others*)

The Committee received an update on the refurbishment of both play areas. Wicksteed were due to start work at Pockeridge A on 3 June and had estimated that the work here would take three weeks to complete. They would then move on to Pockeridge B, which they estimated would take two weeks to complete.

Issues discussed included:

- That the works should be finished in time for the school holidays; and
- The consultation that took place with residents to both draw up and choose a design for both areas.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 08/24 Update on Local Highway Improvement Group Issues (*Minute P&A 78/23 and others*)

Consideration was given to the following issues:

Hartham Lane, dropped kerbs and new barriers:

Resolved

To approve the proposed dropped kerbs and barriers and to agree to contribute up to £881 towards their installation.

Pickwick Road, bus stop kerbs, footway resurfacing and road marking.

Resolved

To approve the proposed new kerbing, footway resurfacing and road marking and to contribute up to £812 towards their installation.

Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders at Potley Lane, Park Lane, Freestone Way and Pickwick Road.

Resolved

To note the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders and not to raise any objections.

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on some other LHFIG issues pertaining to Corsham:

- The 40mph speed limit on Bradford Road outside the school was now in force. Flashing 20mph advisory signs were scheduled to be installed before the new school year started in September.
- The substantive bid for the Bradford Road footway had been successful. Wiltshire Council's Highway Officers were presently working on designs and works were pencilled in to start in November.
- The proposed bollards outside Londis had been scheduled to be installed in early May. The work was presumed to now be imminent.
- The LHFIG had discussed the request erect a no turning sign at Church Street. The Group felt that there was not an appropriate highway sign and that the cost of the TRO was not worth the small impact that any potential sign might have.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 09/24 Requests for Highway Improvements and Traffic Surveys (*Minute P&A 79/23 and others*)

Consideration was given to the following Highway Improvement Requests:

Coppershell, Gastard. Request to change the background colour on play area signage.

Resolved

To support the request and to send it on to the LHFIG.

Katherine Park. Request for road markings to delineate bus stops at three locations in Katherine Park.

Resolved

To support the request and to send it on to the LHFIG.

Beechfield Road. Request to alter the location of the bus stop outside the Porch Surgery and for road markings.

Resolved

To support the request and to send it on to the LHFIG.

Pound Pill. Request that the bus stop serving the Pound Arts Centre is marked better with a bus stop flag, timetable and road markings.

Resolved

To support the request and to send it on to the LHFIG.

Purleigh Road. Request to reduce speed limit to 20mph.

The Committee noted that the Head of Technical Services had submitted a Traffic Survey Request at this location.

Resolved

To await the results of the Traffic Survey before deciding whether to support the request.

P&A 10/24 Correspondence Regarding a Request for Residents' Parking along Stokes Road

Consideration was given to a request for the introduction of residents' parking along Stokes Road from a local resident along with a response from the Head of Technical Services.

Issues discussed included:

- Previous requests for residents' parking schemes at Priory Street and Station Road;
- The upcoming work to produce a Town Transport Plan and whether this presents an opportunity to consider the viability of a town-wide scheme and to ascertain whether there is demand for such a scheme amongst town centre residents;
- That there is probably a lot more on-street commuter parking than might be supposed;

- The dangers of introducing a scheme without understanding how it is likely to impact on commuter parking and the availability of spaces in car parks (for shoppers and commuters); and
- Recent road rage and congestion incidents along Stokes Road.

Resolved

- 1) To request that the consultant who carries out work on the Town Transport Plan considers the viability/advisability of introducing a town centre residents' parking scheme.
- 2) To consider carrying out a survey of town centre residents, at the same time as the Town Transport Plan work takes place, to ascertain how much support there would be for a residents' parking scheme in the town centre.

P&A 11/24 Noise Complaints – Methuen (Town) Hall

Consideration was given to proposed changes to the terms and conditions for Methuen (Town) Hall bookings. These had been drawn up (and implemented as an interim measure) as a result of noise complaints from town centre residents.

Issues discussed included:

- That it was reasonable to expect some noise in a town centre location from late night establishments such as pubs or restaurants.

Resolved

That the changes to the terms and conditions outlined in the agenda be approved.

P&A 12/24 Update on the Speed Indicator Devices and AutoSpeedWatch (*Minute P&A 65/33 and others*)

Consideration was given to data collected from the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) during their deployment at Valley Road and the A4 in Pickwick.

Issues discussed included:

- That the Town Council was continuing to send details of speeding drivers obtained from the AutoSpeedWatch camera to Wiltshire Police.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 13/24 Traffic Survey Results – Velley Hill, Gastard

Consideration was given to the results of a traffic survey conducted at Velley Hill during April 2024, which had revealed an 85th percentile of 33.6mph. The Town Council had requested the survey in the hope of getting a Speed indicator Device (SID) location approved under Wiltshire Council's new practice note. The Council's two existing sites at Gastard were both within 100m of a speed limit change and as a result, the Police and Crime Commissioner would not be able to use the data to direct enforcement action. According to the practice note, the 85th percentile would

need to be 35mph or more for the location to be approved. The Head of Technical Services would ask the LHFIG to make an exception and consider approving the site at its next meeting.

Resolved

To note the results of the Traffic Survey and to support efforts to get the location approved for the use of a SID.

P&A 14/24 Public Realm – Defects in the Conservation Area (*Minute P&A 66/23*):

Consideration was given to a list of (mostly paving, signage and lighting column) defects in the Corsham Conservation Area which had been submitted to Wiltshire Council. The Head of Technical Services had begun engaging with Wiltshire Highways in an effort to address the defects.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 15/24 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – A4

Consideration was given to a proposed Traffic Regulation Order that would reduce the speed limit to 50mph along part of the A4 at Cross Keys.

Resolved

To note the proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

P&A 16/24 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – Corsham 20mph

Consideration was given to a proposed Traffic Regulation Order to introduce 20mph speed limits in the town centre.

Resolved

To note the proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8.08pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIR

DATE