

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 20 March 2019**

Present Councillor P Anstey (Chairman)
Councillors D Jones, Mrs G Sanders, Mrs M Wakeman and Mrs A White.

In Attendance Councillor S Abbott
J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

P&A 60/18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Miss T Alberga, Ms L Bray, C Fuller, N Pocock and Miss C Woodward.

P&A 61/18 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

P&A 62/18 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

P&A 63/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee meeting held on 30 January 2019

There were none.

P&A 64/18 Public Realm Update (*Minute P&A 50/18 and others*)

- i. Public Realm Strategy.

The Committee received an update on efforts to progress the Public Realm Strategy. On 8 February Councillor S Abbott, Councillor Mrs R Hopkinson, the Chief Executive and the Head of Technical Services met with members of Wiltshire Council's Economic Development and Planning Team.

After giving an overview of the public realm work to date, the Town Council representatives explained that two projects had been identified to take forward and that a quote from a consultant to manage the work had been obtained. The quote had proved prohibitively high and the Town Council wished to ask Wiltshire Council if there was a more cost-effective way of taking forward the work; using the skills and resources of Wiltshire Council (funded by the Town Council) to deliver the projects. The Economic Development and Planning Team explained that Wiltshire Council is doing less and less contract delivery and most often use Atkins to manage projects. The team tend to work on projects up to the design stage, working out what skills are needed to take projects forward. They did, however, agree to play the role of the

'critical friend', stating that they could look through the Town Council's designs/plans to see if they described clearly what the Council is trying to achieve, whether the plans fit within the wider context of the Town and making sure the Town Council gets value for money and the biggest impact from the available funds.

Subsequent to the meeting Town Council staff have been in regular contact with the Economic Development and Planning Team and have sent through the stage 1, 2 & 3 designs as well as the 2015 Visitor Survey and the Benchmarking Survey. Detailed comments were expected shortly.

The Economic Development and Planning Team advised that it would be worth meeting Wiltshire Council's Sustainable Transport Team, to see if they could manage projects on the Town Council's behalf or to advise how they take highways projects forward. A meeting with the Sustainable Transport Team was scheduled for 15 April 2019.

Resolved

To note the update on the Public Realm Strategy.

ii. Cross Keys Improvements.

At the Property and Amenities Committee on 30 January 2019, members approved a plan to install coloured pavements, a dry-stone wall, planting and a space for public art at the Cross Keys junction. Following the approval of this plan, the Traffic and Network Management team produced two options for the coloured surfacing: Option 1 based on the Town Council's plan was estimated to cost £18,500 and Option 2, a more modest scheme, was estimated to cost £10,100. The Committee was asked which option it supported and to confirm that the Town Council was willing to fund the works.

Wiltshire Council's contractor had raised a concern about tree roots damaging the foundations of the proposed dry-stone wall. It was pointed out that the tree did not have a Preservation Order on it and could be removed as part of the project. The Committee were asked how they wished to proceed with this element.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether the Town Council should opt for more modest coloured paving and invest funds elsewhere or go for the larger scheme and seek to make a big impact;
- Whether the proposed resin-bonded material will stand up to vehicles crossing, specifically at the entrance to the allotments and flats;
- How long the coloured surface would last;
- That the colour of the pavements would be buff, reminiscent of Bath stone; and
- The possibility of installing less intrusive foundations for the dry-stone wall.

Resolved

- i) To select Option 1 (the more extensive scheme) for the coloured pavements and to confirm that the Town Council is willing to fund this element of the works (estimated £18,500).

- ii) To ask Wiltshire Council if the resin-bonded material would stand up to vehicles crossing at the entrance to the allotments and flats and if there needs to be a gap in the coloured paving. The Town Council's preference would be to have the entrances resin-bonded.
- iii) To inform Wiltshire Council that the Town Council does not wish to see the tree removed.
- iv) That the Head of Technical Services investigates whether a less intrusive/more malleable material can be used for the foundations.
- v) To delegate to the Head of Technical Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, to approve spend of up to £3,000 on dry-stone wall footings.

P&A 65/18 Neston Primary School, Taking Action on School Journeys (*Minute P&A 39/18*)

Consideration was given to two options for advisory 20mph speed restriction signage in Neston. The options were produced in response to the Committee's comments in November about avoiding signage on the Triangle directly outside the Church.

Resolved

To select Option 2, which proposes to place two signs at the southern end of the Triangle, rather than outside the Church.

P&A 66/18 Update on Speed Indicator Device (*Minute P&A 55/18*)

The Committee was given an update on the deployment, siting and information gathered from the Speed Indicator Device (SID).

From 31 January to 6 February the SID was sited on Valley Road pointing in the direction of the Hare and Hounds. The average speed for incoming traffic was 25.28mph and for outgoing traffic it was 27.16mph. The 85th percentiles were 28mph (incoming) and 32mph (outgoing).

From 12 February to 16 February the SID was sited on the A4 in the 30mph area near the bungalows, pointing towards Chippenham. The average speed for incoming traffic was 24.57mph and for outgoing traffic it was 26.69mph. The 85th percentiles were 27mph (incoming) and 34mph (outgoing). It was noted that the batteries ran out very quickly at this site due to the volume of traffic and the display screen being on almost constantly.

From 19 February to 3 March the SID was sited on Park Lane near Chestnut Grange, pointing towards the town centre. It was on silent mode for one week and the display screen was turned on for the second week. The average speed was 28.08 (incoming) when in silent mode and 25.19mph when the display screen was activated. The 85th percentile was 34mph (incoming) on silent mode and 28mph when activated. These

figures suggest that the SID can have a notable impact on driver behaviour (c.3mph reduction).

Issues discussed included:

- That there were a number of alarming top speeds recorded at each location;
- That the SID was currently situated on Velley Hill, Gastard, near the Village Hall; and
- The distribution of approved SID sites and the possibility of finding new locations.

Resolved

- To investigate the possibility of new SID locations at Elley Green, Pickwick Road and Pound Pill.

P&A 67/18 Service Devolution and Asset Transfer Programme (*Minute P&A 52/18*)

The Committee received an update on the Service Devolution and Asset Transfer Programme. Members noted that the Chief Executive had responded to Wiltshire Councillor Richard Clewer's email to town and large parish councils in Wiltshire about the appetite for the delegation of services and assets. Wiltshire Council had been told that Corsham was keen to press ahead with negotiations; that the Town Council knew which services and assets it was interested in taking over, that the Town Council had a budget allocated towards the work. Wiltshire Council was due to publish a schedule in April, with towns/parishes most keen/ready to proceed being given priority.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 68/18 Twenty mph Zones in Corsham (*Minute P&A 56/18*)

Consideration was given to how best to take forward work to introduce 20 mph zones in the town.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether the project should be driven by the Town Council or the community;
- That work on 20 mph zones links to public realm, especially work to bring Newlands Road and Pickwick Road into the town centre. Traffic calming measures and altering the balance between motorists and other users might point towards 20 mph zones;
- The possibility of consulting on 20 mph zones whilst carrying out the town centre/retail survey;
- That the Youth Council or newsletter might be ways of raising the issue among residents; and
- Whether an organisation such as Transcoco would be able to take forward the work.

Resolved

- i. To ask the facilitators of the Youth Council to raise the issue at a future meeting.
- ii. To include the issue in a future newsletter, as part of a piece about the Strategic Plan and road safety.

P&A 69/18 Wiltshire Highway Maintenance, Corsham Area

Consideration was given to the schedule of planned works for the Corsham area 2019-2023.

Issues discussed included:

- The poor state of the B3109 at Rudloe/Westwells Road Roundabout (in Box parish);
- That the bridge over the railway at Potley shakes as HGVs pass over it;
- The poor state of the road at the top end of Park Lane; and
- The poor state of footpaths throughout the town.

Resolved

- i. That Wiltshire Council be asked to consider prioritising the B3109, the railway bridge at Potley and the top end of Park Lane.
- ii. To consider the state of pavements throughout the town at the next meeting. The Committee would aim to compile a comprehensive list of poor footpaths and present these to Wiltshire Council for action. The Head of Technical Services would contact all Councillors (via email and the Member's Information Sheet) to ask for examples from their locality.

P&A 70/18 Transport Monitoring (*Minute P&A 58/18 and others*)

Consideration was given to the updated Transport Monitoring Sheet.

Issues discussed included:

- Heavy vehicle traffic in the town centre. The Committee noted that Wiltshire Council (S Drinkwater) had not provided an update from the metro-count carried out in the town centre; and
- Consideration was given to a plan produced by Wiltshire Council showing suggested signage for the Spring Lane part of the Cycle Network.

Resolved

- i. To ask Wiltshire Council for an update on the metro count in the town centre.
- ii. That the two larger signs on the Cycle Network Plan be amended to simply say "Park Lane/Katherine Park".
- iii. That an informal Members meeting be organised to discuss and take forward a Cycling Strategy.

P&A 71/18 Community Area Transport Group Issues (Minute P&A 59/19 and others)

Consideration was given to a series of issues arising from the CATG meeting on 13 February 2019.

Issues discussed included:

- Issue 6855 Valley Road - The CATG had asked the Town Council to consider whether there was a solution to pedestrian safety concerns caused by pupils walking on the wrong side of the barrier along Valley Road. The Committee were unable to suggest a solution which would not entail prohibitively expensive works (i.e. widening the embankment);
- Issue 5046 Gastard Lane HGV Concerns - The Committee noted that a site visit had taken place which was attended by Wiltshire Council's Senior Engineer, representatives from the Town Council, the Chair of the CATG and local residents. Wiltshire Council's Senior Engineer would discuss the matter with her colleagues and present findings/solutions at the next CATG meeting;
- Issue 6421 Bradford Road/Stone Close - The Committee noted that the issue was on hold until the Park Lane development was completed; and
- Issue 6734 Neston/Chapel Plaister 7.5t Weight Restriction Signing. The Committee noted that this issue had been moved to the top of the priority list.

Resolved

- i. To write to The Corsham School (Issue 6855) asking if the school can help to educate its pupils in road safety.
- ii. To ask that the Youth Council raises the issue of pedestrian safety at Valley Road at a future meeting.

P&A 72/18 Refurbishment of Public Toilets

Consideration was given to the possibility of refurbishing the public toilets in the Newlands Road car park.

Issues discussed included:

- The possibility of making savings through the installation of waterless urinals and low-flush toilets;
- That the Town Council currently manages the toilets on a licence from the Martingate Centre; and
- The current level of water use.

Resolved

To raise the possibility of extending the licence/lease with the Martingate Centre and to determine if there were any plans for the public toilets or for that part of the car park.

P&A 73/18 Parking Initiatives: Potential Free/Subsidised Parking Schemes (Minute P&A 53/18)

The Committee noted figures produced by Wiltshire Council's Parking Services Manager, which set out estimated annual costs for a number of free/subsidised parking schemes. These were:

First hour free in all car parks:	£73,346.46
Free after 3pm in all car parks:	£16,023.75
Free after 1pm on Saturdays:	£6,613.59

The Committee observed that it was possibly too early to select a scheme as work on a Town User Survey and parking was still underway, led by Councillor Miss T Alberga.

The Committee received a written update on this work. They noted that a focus group undertaken at MOD Corsham on 6 March had highlighted difficulties people had experienced in accessing the town centre including parking difficulties, parking charges, anti-social behaviour, shops closing early and the poor state of the Martingate Centre. It was also noted that a clipboard survey had taken place in the town centre in which some 37 people had been interviewed about their experience of the town. Next steps included a focus group with retailers, a focus group arising from the clipboard survey and the design of a questionnaire. It is anticipated that the findings of this work would be presented in July/August.

Resolved

To note the information on the cost of parking schemes and the written update from Councillor Miss T Alberga.

The meeting began at 7.30pm and ended at 9.03pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE