

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 28 November 2018**

Present Councillor P Anstey (Chairman)
Councillors Miss T Alberga, Ms L Bray, D Jones, Mrs G Sanders,
Mrs M Wakeman and Mrs A White.

In Attendance Councillor S Abbott (Council Chairman)
D J Martin (Chief Executive)
J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

P&A 27/18 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors N Pocock, Miss C Woodward and C Fuller.

P&A 28/18 Public Question Time and Petitions

A member of the public requested that, in respect of *Agenda item 6. Gastard Lane Weight Restriction*, the Town Council supports his request for restrictions to be placed on the lane for safety reasons, following damage caused by large and wide vehicles.

P&A 29/18 Declarations of Interest

To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under Corsham Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Wakeman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 19, the Property and Amenities Draft Budget Proposals and Fees and Charges, as an allotment tenant.

P&A 30/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee meeting held on 26 September 2018

There were none.

P&A 31/18 Reports from representatives appointed to Outside Bodies.

Community Area Transport Group - Councillor Anstey reported that he, along with Councillor Mrs Hopkinson and the Chief Executive, had attended the CATG meeting on 21 November. Several of the issues discussed appear on the agenda for this meeting.

Transcoco (Transition Community Corsham) - Councillor Mrs Sanders stated that she had recently attended a meeting with Transcoco. She reported that the group was very supportive of the '20's Plenty' initiative (to bring in 20mph speed limits).

P&A 32/18 Gastard Lane Weight Restriction (*Minute P&A 8/18*)

The Committee discussed concerns raised by a resident about damage and safety issues along Gastard Lane. The lane, which is very rural in character, had experienced significant damage in recent years from heavy goods vehicles, possibly directed along this route by satellite navigation systems. The narrowness of the lane meant that there were only inches to spare when HGVs used it. The Committee was asked to consider supporting a weight or width restriction along the lane.

Issues discussed included: that a weight restriction request had recently been considered by the CATG. The CATG report stated that the lane did not meet the criteria for a weight limit; the possibility of asking the CATG to consider a width restriction along Gastard Lane; and that the Town Council would probably be asked to contribute 25% of cost of the implementing any Traffic Regulation Order.

Resolved

- i) That the Corsham Community Area Transport Group be asked to consider a width restriction, or other appropriate measure, along Gastard Lane to reduce the risk of damage to property and to improve road safety.
- ii) That, within reason, the Town Council contribute 25% of the cost of introducing a restriction on Gastard Lane, Corsham.

P&A 33/18 Proposal to Introduce 20mph Speed Limit in Corsham

Consideration was given to a proposal from a local resident to introduce a 20mph speed limit in parts of Corsham. The report was due to be submitted to the Corsham Area Board. The Committee was given the opportunity to comment on the report prior to consideration by the Area Board.

Issues discussed included:

- That the proposal accords with the Town Council's Strategic Plan, specifically Objective SH6 and the possible action to 'Address issues of speeding including exploring 20mph areas';
- The experience of nearby places which had brought in 20mph zones including Bath and Biddestone;
- Previous attempts to introduce 20mph areas (along Priory Street and around a school) and the views of residents;
- The importance of gaining community support before going ahead with any scheme. The Department of Transport circular stresses the importance of community support;

- The need to protect pedestrians and cyclists by lowering the speed differential with motorised transport;
- That the 20mph proposal should aim to change the feel of the public space and would tie-in with the Council's public realm strategy; and
- That 20mph zones are supposed to be self-enforcing and help to change people's behaviour.

Resolved

- To write to the Area Board, stating that Corsham Town Council is broadly supportive of efforts to reduce traffic speed in the town.
- To invite Wiltshire Council to discuss the issue further with the Town Council and explore options.
- That Councillor Abbott attends the next meeting of the Corsham Area Board in order to represent the Town Council's position.

P&A 34/18 Cross Keys/A4 Junction

Consideration was given to written representations from a local resident calling for the adoption of a lower speed limit between the Pickwick 30mph zone and the Corsham town boundary along the route of the A4.

Issues discussed included:

- That there had been a number of accidents at this point on the road;
- That the cost of a survey (carried out by Atkins) would be £2,500;
- That the CATG would have to support the issue and the Town Council would need to contribute for the proposal to be taken forward; and
- The Highways' focus on the 85th percentile means that in effect 1 in 6 vehicles is being permitted to speed.

Resolved

- That Corsham Town Council supports this issue going to the CATG.
- That Corsham Town Council makes a financial contribution towards the survey.

P&A 35/18 Public Realm Update

The Committee gave consideration to the notes of the public realm meeting on 5 November. The meeting saw two main outcomes: that IMA Transport Planning be contacted with a view to advancing work on areas 2 and 4 in the Stage 3 designs; and that officers engage with Wiltshire Council about improvements at the Cross Keys junction in order to tie-in with highways works scheduled for 2019/20.

Following that meeting, a representative of IMA had met with Councillors and Officers. The company had subsequently produced a fee proposal for the detailed design and design strategy implementation. This was still under consideration. In addition, following a site visit with the Committee Chairman, the Chief Executive had produced a sketch, highlighting desired amendments to the Cross Keys junction design. Wiltshire Council's Senior Engineer had responded to the plan, indicating that the footway to the north-west corner would be widened, that the area under the Horse Chestnut (south-west corner) could be tarmacked (the kerb is planned to be extended out into the roadway) and made available for use for a public art display or landscaping planters.

Issues discussed included:

- The cost of the IMA proposal;
- Whether the Cross Keys work should be prioritised given that it has to tie-in with Wiltshire Council's 2019-20 highways work; and
- The need to meet with Wiltshire Council officers to discuss what is achievable through the public realm strategy.

Resolved

To arrange a meeting with Wiltshire Council and Councillors Abbott, Anstey and Hopkinson and Officers to discuss proposals for Cross Keys and the wider public realm strategy.

P&A 36/18 Park Lane Parking Problems (*Minute P&A 21/18*)

The Committee noted Councillor Mrs Sanders's efforts to engage with local residents and the new management company about parking problems along Park Lane. It was felt that although at present the situation was not too bad, the impact of the new development meant that it would be necessary to keep the matter under review.

P&A 37/18 Town Centre Parking Update (*Minute P&A 25/18*)

Councillors noted that a meeting had taken place on 26 November to bring together two threads of strategic plan activity - the town user survey and parking charges. It was agreed that Councillor Alberga would prepare a survey, based on dealing with Objective OB5 (*Measures to enhance the High Street experience*) in the Town Council's Strategic Plan.

P&A 38/18 Community Area Transport Group Issues (*Minute P&A 21/18 and others*)

- i. Corsham Cycle Network - Consideration was given to the estimate for surfacing and drainage work at Spring Lane. The cost had increased from the original, historic estimate of £16,000, to £26,000. The Town Council had previously agreed to contribute £8,000 and was being asked to contribute 50% of the additional cost, which would bring its contribution to £13,000.

Issues discussed included:

- The number of cyclists currently using the path and whether this would increase if the surface was improved;
- The state of the path, drainage, overland flows and maintenance;
- That the path is in the Corsham Area Framework, the Strategic Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan and is first on the Town Council's priority list for cycle paths;
- That momentum might be lost if the Town Council does not go ahead with this section of cycle path; and
- The need to promote the route, possibly with an event.

Resolved

That an extra £5,000 be committed towards the Spring Lane cycle route.

- ii. Issue 6668 – Methuen Arms slip road into public car park. The Committee noted that this area was being reviewed as part of the public realm strategy.
- iii. Issue 6734 - Neston/Chapel Plaister 7.5t weight restriction signing. Consideration was given to the problem of large vehicles going down Jaggards Lane.

Resolved

To support and contribute towards the cost of installation of a weight limit and warning signs on the road from Chapel Plaister to Neston.

P&A 39/18 Neston Primary School, Taking Action on School Journeys

Consideration was given to a Wiltshire Council report which was produced in response to a Taking Action on School Journeys funding application from Neston Primary School. The school had asked for a reduction in the speed limit, refreshing the bus stop markings and the provision of signs to alert drivers to the presence of the school. The report also dealt with concerns raised by the CATG about the narrow width of the footpath.

Issues discussed included:

- The positioning of a sign on the triangle outside the church; and
- That the road is due to be resurfaced this year.

Resolved

- i) To support the proposed safety improvements outside the school, but not the position of the sign at Neston Triangle.
- ii) To remind Wiltshire Council not to refresh the bus stop markings until resurfacing works have been carried out.

P&A 40/18 Bradford Road Metro Count

The Committee noted the results of a traffic speed survey on the Bradford Road. It was pointed out that the speed limit at the site was 40mph and not 50mph as was stated in the survey.

Resolved

To note the results of the survey.

P&A 41/18 Transport Monitoring (*Minute P&A 26/18 and others*)

The Committee noted the latest Transport Monitoring Sheet. It was highlighted that works to construct a permissive path for cyclists and pedestrians at the southern end of Skynet Drive were due to commence in January 2019.

Resolved

To note the Transport Monitoring Sheet.

P&A 42/18 Asset Transfers and Delegation of Services (*Minute P&A 24/18*)

The Committee received an update from the Chief Executive on progress with asset transfers and service delegation. The Committee noted the funds available in the draft budget for 2019/20. Funds had been allocated in this year's budget for grounds maintenance at Katherine Park, however the transfer had not yet taken place due to the workload of Wiltshire Council's legal team. It was understood that Wiltshire Council was recruiting two additional legal staff to assist with service delegation and asset transfers.

P&A 43/18 Mature Poplar Trees at Ladbroke Lane Old Cemetery

Consideration was given to an arboricultural report on the eight mature poplars at Ladbroke Lane Old Cemetery. The tree consultant suspected that decay was present about the crowns of most, if not all, the poplars, which would reduce strength and enhance the risk of stem shedding. He advised felling at least six of the poplars.

Issues discussed included:

- That the two poplars which were not currently being recommended for felling would look out of place if the others were felled; and
- Whether to replace the trees or to allow trees in the hedge (including ash and oak) to grow through.

Resolved

To support the felling of all eight poplars.

P&A 44/18 Tree Planting at Meriton and Beechfield (Minute P&A 18/18)

The Committee received an update on tree planting at Meriton Recreation Ground and Beechfield Nature Area. Members noted that ten rowan, wild cherry and silver birch (thirty trees in total) had been planted thanks to volunteers from Transcoco. The planting scheme had been put together by Councillor Fuller with assistance from the Chief Executive.

A revised planting scheme for Meriton had been devised featuring eleven wild cherry trees around the perimeter of the site. Again, this had been put together by Councillor Fuller and the Chief Executive. The revised scheme has received positive feedback from local residents.

The update was noted.

P&A 45/18 Property & Amenities Draft Budget Proposals and Fees and Charges

Consideration was given to the 2019/20 draft budget. Members noted that the balance of the £105,000 available for the Public Realm strategy this year would be transferred to an earmarked reserve and still be available next year. Members noted that a £20,000 increase in the public realm budget would still keep the overall increase in Council Tax under a 10% increase per property.

Resolved

- i) That the draft budget proposals and service developments for 2019/20 be considered for approval by the Full Council.
- ii) That the recommended fees and charges for 2019/20 be approved.

The meeting began at 7.30pm and ended at 9.09pm. There was one member of the public present at the start of the meeting and none at the end.

CHAIRMAN

DATE