

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 4 December 2019**

Present Councillor G Sanders (Chair)
Councillors T Alberga, P Anstey, L Bray, R Le-Var, M Wakeman, A White

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

P&A 34/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor N Farmer.

P&A 35/19 Public Question Time and Petitions

Representations were received from a resident in relation to Agenda Item 9 - *Twenty mph zones in Corsham:*

He asked the Committee to support 20mph zones to improve the public realm and the way that the town would feel. Initiatives to encourage more people to walk and cycle over the last 20 years had been unsuccessful largely due to road safety concerns. 20mph zones would reduce peak speeds and make the public realm more inviting to pedestrians and cyclists. He added that he would like all roads in Corsham to be subject to 20mph limits, but if this could not be delivered, starting with the main arterial roads would have the biggest impact.

P&A 36/19 Declarations of Interest

Councillor M Wakeman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 16 - *Property and Amenities Draft Budget Proposals and Fees and Charges*, as an allotment tenant.

Councillor G Sanders declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 13 - *Public Meeting on Flooding in Corsham*. She is employed by Wessex Water and has colleagues who may be taking part in the meeting.

P&A 37/19 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee meeting held on 4 September 2019

There were none.

P&A 38/19 Public Realm Update (*Minute P&A 22/19 and others*):

i. Cross Keys Improvements.

The Committee received an update on the public realm project at the Cross Keys junction:

The Selection Panel had interviewed five artists and selected Jane Rickards' 'Peace Feathers' design. The design references the town's quarrying and stone-working heritage by reimagining a 'plug and feathers'; a technique for splitting large blocks of quarried stone.

Following the Selection Panel meeting, Town Council staff had contacted Wiltshire Council's Planning Department and established that consent from the Planning Authority would not be required. Listed Building Consent would however be necessary for the proposed low dry-stone wall. The Town Council also needed consent from the Highways Department before proceeding with the installation of the public art.

A site visit with Wiltshire's local Highways Engineer took place in late August, with a view to obtaining consent from the Highways Authority. The Highways Engineer was broadly supportive of the Town Council's scheme, but he would need to discuss it with his senior colleagues before giving written permission to proceed.

ii. Public Realm Strategy. To receive an update on efforts to develop the Public Realm Strategy.

The Chief Executive and Head of Technical Services met with Atkins' Senior Engineer in September to enquire whether Atkins would be able to carry out some urban design work for the Town Council. Specifically, this would be to pull together some of the ideas for Newlands Road and links through to the Martingate Centre into a coherent plan and, to manage delivery of public realm projects. A discussion took place which touched on numerous ideas for the Newlands Road area including 20mph, the use of setts to demark the town centre, re-designing the public toilets, planters, bus stop seating, re-designing car parks and coach parking. Atkins' Senior Engineer was interested in the work but pointed out that any works Atkins undertake for the Town Council would have to be carried out under their contract with Wiltshire Council. He advised writing to Wiltshire Council's Head of Sustainable Transport about this possibility.

The Town Council received a response from Wiltshire Council in late October which stated that the prospect of Atkins carrying out works for the Town Council through their Wiltshire Council contract 'throws up a few difficulties, but maybe not insurmountable'. The Head of Sustainable Transport would be meeting with Town Council staff to discuss the matter further.

P&A 39/19 Requests for Highway Improvements and Traffic Surveys (*Minute P&A 23/19 and others*)

- i. Corner of Post Office Lane and Newlands Road Roundabout. Request for signage to reduce speed/stop/give way.

Resolved: Not to support the request at this time, as the area was due to be considered as part of the Public Realm Strategy.

- ii. Lacock Road. Request to re-surface footpath and to reduce speed limit to 30 or 40mph from Westrop (by Welcome to Corsham sign) to the existing 30mph speed limit.

It was reported that the footpath was scheduled to be repaired in the first week of January.

Resolved: Not to support the request for a 30mph or 40mph speed limit as the area does not meet criteria for a lower limit.

- iii. Cross Keys Road. Request for a 20mph speed limit and traffic calming.

It was noted that the area had been added to the list of 20mph areas under consideration by the Town Council. It was also noted that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been positioned at this location in the past.

Resolved: Not to support the request at this time, but to position the SID at this site soon.

- iv. Folly Farm, A4. Request for signage warning motorists of entrance and that vehicles may be turning onto the road.

It was noted that the request would only benefit one household in the Town.

Resolved: To ask the resident who made the request if they would be willing to fund the 25% town/parish contribution.

- v. Junction of Greenhill and Upper Potley, Neston. Request for traffic safety at the junction.

It was noted that Wiltshire Council had a policy which prevents the use of mirrors as a highway safety measure.

Resolved:

- 1) To write to the resident explaining Wiltshire's policy on mirrors.
- 2) To support the request and to ask Wiltshire Council to consider measures to reduce speed or improve visibility at the junction.

- vi. Bus stop at Freestone Way. Request to improve surface of bus stop.

Resolved: To support the request.

- vii-x. Park Lane between Peel Circus and Hudswell Lane. Traffic Survey Request.
Park Lane. Request to consider widening the road, creating a car park on the grass verge and placing double yellow lines along Park Lane.
Park Lane. Request for speed ramps, ban on MOD parking and sorting out parking along Park Lane.
Park Lane. Traffic Survey Request.

It was noted that the Town Council had earmarked funds towards a new traffic regulation order at Park Lane.

Resolved:

- 1) Not to support the requests at this time, as the Town Council and Community Area Transport Group both planned to wait until the Park Lane development is substantially complete before seeking long-term solutions to parking and road safety issues.
- 2) To consider whether the guidance on setting local speed limits would allow the area between Peel Circus and Hudswell Lane to become a 30mph road.

P&A 40/19 Community Area Transport Group Issues (*Minute P&A 24/19 and others*).

- i. Dropped Kerbs.

Consideration was given to contributing towards a number of CATG dropped kerb projects including seven dropped kerbs between Neston Crescent and Dicketts Road (relating to Community Issue 7244), a dropped kerb at Bethel Road and either a dropped kerb or the repair of the footpath at Moor Barton.

Resolved: To support all of the proposed dropped kerbs and to contribute up to £4,550.

- ii. Update on issues discussed at the November CATG meeting.

The Committee received an update on a number of issues discussed at the most recent CATG meeting, including:

- Works at Skynet Drive would be completed soon after the Bellway Homes work had been finished.
- Works at Spring Lane had been completed.
- The CATG had been informed that the Town Council was receiving a regular number of complaints about parking and road safety along Park Lane.

- The Cross Keys speed limit survey would go ahead now that the lights work had been completed.
- The cost estimate for speed limit assessments was £2,500 (this relates to 20mph).
- Pedestrian safety issues at Pound Pill were now being pursued through the Taking Action on School Journeys Initiative.
- The Highways Improvement Form relating to the Services Cotswold Centre had not be taken forward as the request did not comply with traffic regulations. The Highways Technician stated that she would look to refresh the existing signs and markings.

P&A 41/19 Consultation on the Corsham Cycling Strategy 2020-2026 (*Minute P&A 9/19*)

Consideration was given to the draft consultation document on the Corsham Cycling Strategy 2020-2026.

Issues discussed included:

- When consultation should begin, who to consult and how; and
- The possibility of a small teaser article in the forthcoming newsletter.

Resolved: To approve the draft Consultation Document on the Strategy and to discuss consultation at the next meeting.

P&A 42/19 Twenty mph Zones in Corsham (*Minute P&A 68/18*)

Consideration was given to a list of suggested 20mph zones provided by residents and to representations from residents. It was noted that the Council's Strategic Plan supports and encourages road safety initiatives including '20 is plenty' (Objective SC3).

Issues discussed included:

- Whether moves to introduce 20mph zones should come from the community;
- The need to ensure such initiatives had community support;
- The Department of Transport Guidelines on introducing 20mph zones, the Atkins report for the Department of Transport and Wiltshire Council's policy on 20mph zones;
- How effective 20mph would be in reducing speed;
- That the issue links to the Council's Public Realm Strategy; and
- Other measures to reduce traffic speed.

Resolved:

- 1) To set up a Working Group, comprising of Council staff and Councillors S Abbott, T Alberga and G Sanders, to look in detail at the guidance and policies on introducing 20mph zones and limits, other forms of traffic calming and engage with residents who made suggestions.

- 2) To initially look at introducing a 20mph zone as part of the Public Realm works at Newlands Road.
- 3) To consider a further article on the issue in a forthcoming newsletter.

P&A 43/19 Update on Speed Indicator Device (*Minute P&A 29/19 and others*)

Consideration was given to data obtained from the Speed Indicator Device. Since September the SID has been deployed in the following locations:

Location	Average Speed Incoming	Average Speed Outgoing
Moor Green	22.34	22.75
Gastard	26.38	29.49
Prospect	26.21	31.07
Valley Road	24.82	27.30
Park Lane	25.42	26.80
Furzehill	24.95	28.14

The Data taken from Prospect in August, which showed regular speed above 50mph and three vehicles exceeding 70mph, had been sent to the Police. The Town Council understands that the Roads Policing Unit had been tasked to pay the area some attention.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

P&A 44/19 Transport Monitoring (*Minute P&A 31/19 and others*)

Resolved:

That the Transport Monitoring Sheet be noted.

P&A 45/19 Tree Works at Ladbrook Lane Cemetery (*Minute P&A 43/18*)

The Committee received an update on tree works at the Ladbrook Lane Cemetery. Works to remove the eight poplars and aspens had now been largely completed. Contractors had removed seven trees but had come across a bees' nest in the trunk of one of the Aspens. After taking advice from beekeepers, it was decided that it would be best to leave the tree until the spring when the bees will be easier to move. The tree with the bees had not been identified as high risk in the arboricultural report, so does not present an undue hazard.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

P&A 46/19 Public Meeting on Flooding in Corsham (Minute P&A 54/18)

The Committee received an update on efforts to organise a public meeting on flooding in the town. This had now been confirmed for 4 February 2020 in the Town Hall from 4-8pm. At the Environment Agency's insistence, the format would be a drop-in engagement event rather than a traditional public meeting. A briefing note would be produced ahead of the meeting outlining works that had taken place since the flooding in 2014; planned works, and the flood risk faced by the town. The meeting itself would feature 'market stalls' with representatives from the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, Network Rail and Wiltshire Council. Residents would be able to engage directly with the relevant agencies on specific issues of concern. The Town Council would begin publicity with an article in the upcoming newsletter.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

P&A 47/19 Park Lane Workshop

The Committee received an update on efforts to design the new workshop at Park Lane. Wessex Water had plotted the course of a water main which crosses the site. Although the pipes' presence would restrict what could be constructed, there appeared to be sufficient space at the south-west boundary of the site. The Town Council would begin working with its architect to draw up a revised design.

Issues discussed included:

- As the workshop would potentially feature technology such as green roofs, electric charging points etc, it might be a good idea to visit sites where these have been put in; and
- That the Workshop Group would meet to consider any new design.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

P&A 48/19 Request to Erect a Headstone at the Ladbrook Lane Cemetery.

The Committee considered a request to site headstone which falls outside of the current Cemetery Regulations due to the materials proposed. The request was for a memorial with a cross constructed from corten (weathering) steel, on a stone base. The Council's current cemetery regulations, approved in 2015 state that memorials shall be made of stone (*Reg. 14.(c)*). The proposed memorial met all of the other regulations regarding size and fixings. Corten steel is a durable material and is the same as used to construct The Angel of the North. The applicant's intention was to fit a second cross when a subsequent burial takes place. If approved, the Cemetery Regulations would be amended for consideration at the next meeting.

Resolved

That the Cemetery Regulations be amended as follows: 14. (c) Memorials shall be made of stone, corten (weathering) steel or a combination of both materials.

P&A 49/19 Property and Amenities Draft Budget Proposals and Fees and Charges.

The Chief Executive presented a report on the 2020/21 draft budget. Matters discussed included: the overall budget increase; installation of acoustic panels for the Town Hall; fees and charges, and the possibility of creating a part-time/temporary role to pursue environmental initiatives.

Resolved

- i) That the draft budget proposals and service developments for 2020/21 be agreed for consideration by the Finance and Administration Committee and approval by the Full Council.
- ii) That the recommended fees and charges for 2020/21 be approved.
- iii) That, subject to any necessary planning consents, acoustic panels proposed for the Methuen (Town) Hall be funded from the current year Strategic Plan Capital budget, with funds being transferred accordingly.
- iv) That consideration be given to creating an environmental project role, from existing budgets, including earmarked reserves.

The meeting began at 7.30pm and ended at 9.20pm. There were two members of the public present at the start of the meeting and none at the end.

CHAIRMAN

DATE