

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

Present Councillor G Sanders (Chair)
Councillors P Anstey, N Farmer and M Wakeman

In Attendance Councillor C Fuller
J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

P&A 18/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors T Alberga, R Le-Var, A White, L Bray and R Taylor.

P&A 19/19 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

P&A 20/19 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

P&A 21/19 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee meeting held on 3 July 2019

There were none.

P&A 22/19 Public Realm Update (*Minute P&A 7/19 and others*)

i. Cross Keys Improvements.

Wiltshire Council's Principal Engineer had been in contact to say that engineering works at the Cross Keys were due to finish on Friday 5 September. The traffic signals would now be put up and further adjustments to optimise their efficiency would take place. There had been a slight delay installing the resin-bonded material on the pavement, due to the contractor facing issues obtaining coloured stone. However, this work was due to commence on 16 September and would be completed out of hours to minimise the impact on traffic flow.

The Head of Technical Services was due to meet a contractor on site to obtain a quote for a dry-stone wall. Wiltshire Council's Planning Department would be contacted to check that no planning permissions were needed. The contractor had stated that he would most likely be able to start the wall in October or November.

The Public Art Brief had been published on 7 August. The deadline for expressions of interest was 6 September. Town Council staff had had at least eleven enquiries from artists and expected expressions of interest to flood in in the last two days.

Issues discussed included:

- The membership of the Shortlisting Committee and the Interview Panel; and
- The maintenance of the public art area.

Resolved:

That Councillor P Anstey be appointed to sit on the Interview Panel.

ii. Public Realm Strategy.

The Head of Technical Services had met with Ringway and Wiltshire Council to discuss works to repair, replace and extend the York stone paving in the High Street.

Ringway had undertaken to replace the numerous tarmac patches (outside Oxfam, Strawberry Fields, Tasty Bites etc) with York stone. They would also look at improving the sub-base under the slabs to ensure greater stability and to improve the chances of the slabs withstanding vehicles mounting the kerb. Ringway and Wiltshire Council had informed the Town Council that they could begin these works shortly and that they would be funded by Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Council's Highways Technician had undertaken to speak to colleagues about sourcing a supply of York stone slabs, with the aim of the Town Council keeping a supply to give to utilities companies and highways teams when carrying out works in the High Street. She would contact the Town Council once she had a price. The Town Council would need to fund this initiative.

Ringway had measured up two areas (outside the Flemish Weaver and on the opposite side of the High Street) with a view to extending the York stone paving further down the High Street. Ringway should provide the Town Council with prices shortly.

Ringway had also undertaken to provide a price for repairing and replacing the slabs at the top end of the High Street (near Moonlight).

Following the Town Council's efforts to identify lighting columns in the Conservation Area which did not conform to guidelines, Atkins has carried out their own review. They had found forty-eight columns or sign units that need to be painted black and nine heritage/ornate units that require touching up. Wiltshire Council had agreed to fund the works from its maintenance budgets. The works were raised in mid-August with a two-month target, but Atkins' Exterior Lighting Consultant had stressed that this could not be guaranteed.

The Chief Executive and Head of Technical Services were due to meet with Atkins' team of urban designers to determine what services they could provide.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

P&A 23/19 Requests for Highways Improvements (*Minute P&A 5/19 and others*)

- i. Request for “Concealed Entrance” signage on the westerly approach to the Services Cotswold Centre.

Resolved:

To support the installation of signage on the proviso that the sign did not impede the footpath and was positioned at least 1.2metres from the kerb.

- ii. Request for a dropped kerb at Bethel Road to allow persons with prams and mobility scooters to access the Katherine Park field.

Resolved

To support the request.

P&A 24/19 Community Area Transport Group Issues (*Minute P&A 11/19 and others*)

Consideration was given to Community Issue 7244 which was submitted by a resident of Neston Crescent, who had experienced difficulties travelling to Corsham along Elley Green and Lypiatt Road on a mobility scooter.

A recent site visit by the Head of Technical Services and Councillor P Anstey had revealed the need for seven dropped kerbs, repairs to the pavement at several locations, the clearance of detritus from the path and the cutting back of vegetation which was encroaching on the footway. A report outlining their findings was considered by the Committee.

The pavement defects had been reported on the My Wiltshire app, the siding back of detritus and control of vegetation had been added to the Parish Steward task list and the Neston Estate had been contacted about cutting back vegetation from the New Grove Farmhouses.

Wiltshire Council’s Senior Engineer had been contacted to see whether she could give any indication of the cost of installing seven dropped kerbs. She was reluctant to estimate a price as there would be many variables, including traffic management, extending the footpath and possible works to the sub-base, but the dropped kerbs themselves would probably not be too expensive. She advised the Town Council to consider whether they agreed in principle to the works. If they did the CATG could then allocate resource to scoping the works and arriving at a cost.

Issues discussed included:

- That the vegetation at New Grove Farmhouses had been cut back to a limited extent;
- That the potential works would benefit a number of parents who took their children to school along this path; and

- The hedge/trees to the immediate west of the New Grove Farmhouses needed cutting with a flail.

Resolved

To support the request going on to the Community Area Transport Group for further consideration.

P&A 25/19 Annual Site Visits (*Minute P&A 7/18*)

Consideration was given to the notes from the Annual Site Visits which took place on 3 June and 15 July 2019.

Resolved

The report from the Annual Site Visits was noted.

P&A 26/19 Wiltshire Council Briefing Note, Substantive Highways Scheme Fund

A Substantive Highways Scheme Fund would be available in 2020/21 to enable area boards to bid (via their CATG) for funding to deliver transport schemes that exceed their discretionary budgets. There would be £150,000 available and bids will be assessed according to two factors: value for money and deliverability.

Resolved:

That the Briefing Note be noted.

P&A 27/19 New Gully Service for Parishes in Wiltshire

Consideration was given to recent communication from Wiltshire Council's Sewer and Land Drainage Team, which gave details of a new gully emptying service for parishes. Ordinarily, when a gully is identified the first step is to report it on the app. The Flood Working Group could be contacted if the gully did not meet criteria for immediate emptying. The new service featured a crew which would move around Wiltshire on a rota and could be directed to any gully which the system did not deal with.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

P&A 28/19 Pedestrian Crossing B3109, Bradford Road

Consideration was given to a Notice from Wiltshire Council stating their intention to construct a new 'TOUCAN' crossing along the B3109 Bradford Road at a point 16 metres south west of its junction with Westwood Road.

Resolved

To ask Wiltshire Council if they were planning to pave from the bus stop to Skynet Drive.

P&A 29/19 Update on Speed Indicator Device (*Minute P&A 17/19 and others*)

In recent weeks two new locations for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been approved by Wiltshire Council's Highway Engineer. The sites were on Prospect, opposite the entrance to Broadmead, facing towards Melksham, and in Neston, along Moor Green.

The SID was stationed at Prospect from 22 to 29 August. The average speed for incoming traffic was 27mph and the average speed for outgoing traffic was 31.08mph. The maximum speeds were 77mph incoming and 73mph outgoing. The data retrieved from the SID revealed that there was consistent speeding, with at least one vehicle exceeding 40mph (and often 50mph) every half hour. The data has been sent to the Police. The 85th percentile for outgoing traffic was 36mph and above the threshold for Wiltshire Council to take action. If the Police chose not to take action, a Traffic Survey Request Form would be completed and sent to Wiltshire Council.

The SID was presently at Moor Green in Neston.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

P&A 30/19 Annual CCTV Report 2018-19 (*Minute P&A 6/18*)

Consideration was given to the Annual CCTV Report which updated Members on the use of the CCTV system in 2018-19. The camera failed in July 2019 and subsequent to the report being circulated, Wireless CCTV had examined the camera and found that it could not be repaired. The Committee were invited to consider a replacement camera which would be smaller and lighter, deliver high-definition images, enable speedy viewing and downloads, be covered by a two-year warranty and be viewable on a smartphone app. The price for the new camera would be approximately £5,000 plus VAT.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether the CCTV system could be proven to have solved crimes;
- The deterrent effect of the camera; and
- Anti-social behaviour in the town, especially at Springfield.

Resolved

1) That the Annual Report be noted.

- 2) To approve the use of Earmarked Reserve 343 to purchase a new CCTV camera.

P&A 31/19 Transport Monitoring (*Minute P&A 16/19 and others*)

Consideration was given to the latest Transport Monitoring Sheet. The Committee received an update on the Skynet Drive permissive path; Wiltshire Council had undertaken to carry out hedge cutting and install a pedestrian guard rail to aid with the gradient. There were no plans for a formal crossing at this point.

Resolved

That the Transport Monitoring Sheet be noted.

P&A 32/19 Memorial Bench in Neston Recreation Ground

Consideration was given to a request for a memorial bench at the Neston Recreation Ground. The Committee was asked whether a bench of a different design to those currently in situ would be permissible.

Resolved

To approve the siting of a memorial bench in the Neston Recreation Ground.

P&A 33/19 Pickwick Court Signage

This item was deferred due to lack of information.

The meeting began at 7.30pm and ended at 8.25pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE