

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at  
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 1 May 2019**

**Present** Councillor P Anstey (Chair)  
Councillors T Alberga, D Jones, G Sanders, M Wakeman and A White.

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

**P&A 74/18 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors L Bray, C Fuller and R Taylor.

**P&A 75/18 Public Question Time and Petitions**

There were none.

**P&A 76/18 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**P&A 77/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee meeting held on 20 March 2019**

There were none.

**P&A 78/18 Public Realm Update (*Minute P&A 64/18 and others*)**

- i. Public Realm Strategy.

The Committee received an update on efforts to progress the Public Realm Strategy.

On 15 April representatives from the Town Council met with Allan Creedy, Wiltshire Council's Head of Service for Sustainable Transport and with Dave Thomas from Wiltshire's Traffic and Network Management Team. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how projects might be delivered and whether the Town Council could ask Wiltshire Council or their contractor to deliver projects (with the Town Council providing the funding). Wiltshire Council has a consultancy contract with Atkins (this contract is due for renewal shortly). Allan Creedy advised that if the Town Council wanted someone to look at a public realm scheme (in a technical sense) it could ask Atkins (or its successor) to comment. However, it was pointed out that public realm work was not really Atkins' core work. Wiltshire Council's physical jobs tend to be awarded to Ringway (and sometimes to specialist

companies). Ringway's strength is in delivering everyday works (crossings, resurfacing etc) and might not be suited to the public realm. If the Town Council asked Wiltshire Council to deliver projects on its behalf, it is likely that all the risk would be placed on the Town Council. Allan Creedy suggested that the Town Council should use a specialist consultant (such as IMA) who can provide technical expertise, contract management and advice through the process. Allan Creedy undertook to send through a list of possible consultants. It was suggested that if the Town Council's plans do not involve re-designing the highway or re-siting kerb lines they should prove far simpler (and cheaper) to deliver. Allan Creedy also pointed out that if the Town Council carried out works which improved the sustainability of the road network, Wiltshire Council might be minded to make a contribution to the works.

On 30 April representatives from the Town Council met with Rory Bowen and Raquel Leonardo from Wiltshire Council's Economic Development and Planning Team. As part of their undertaking to play the role of the 'critical friend', the Economic Development and Planning Team had undertaken some work, evaluating the Town Council's stage 1, 2 and 3 reports as well as the 2015 benchmarking survey. The meeting had been set up for them to give their opinion on the Town Council's Public Realm Strategy. They stated that the public realm and survey work suggested that the priority should be on capturing visitors from the wider Corsham area. As such the focus should be on Newlands Road, Pickwick Road, the short stay car park and access to the High Street. Works could include improving signage at key points allied with decluttering superfluous signs, developing a materials strategy looking at common designs for street furniture, planting, kerbing and paving, re-designing the layout of the short stay car park to make it more pedestrian friendly and to aid access to the High Street and possibly creating a clear/open space in the Martingate Centre to draw people's eye towards the High Street.

## **Resolved**

To set up an informal Members' meeting to discuss priorities and the way forward for the Public Realm Strategy.

### ii. Cross Keys Improvements.

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on discussions with Wiltshire Council about improvements at the Cross Keys junction. Following the last committee meeting, Wiltshire Council were informed that the Town Council wished to pursue the more extensive option for coloured pavements. Wiltshire Council's Principal Engineer was asked about the durability of coloured pavements. He responded by stating that the surfacing is the same as that used on the highway and would be sufficient to accommodate vehicle manoeuvres. Furthermore, given the low level of usage, he did not expect to see noticeable wear and tear for a significant period.

Following concerns expressed by the Highways Department that concrete wall footings could adversely impact the roots of the nearby Horse Chestnut, the Town

Council had been in contact with its dry-stone wall contractor. He stated that he could construct stone footings and use lintels over any roots he might encounter, thus avoiding any damage to tree roots. Wiltshire Council's Principal Engineer had been informed of this proposal and was happy for stone foundations to be constructed.

A discussion took place about the Brief for the piece of public art to be positioned at the south of the Cross Keys junction.

### **Resolved**

To circulate the Public Art brief to all members of the Committee for comment before it goes out to artists.

### **P&A 79/18 Cross Keys Management Plan (*Minute P&A 64/18 and others*)**

Consideration was given to the possibility of producing a Management Plan for the maintenance of the Cross Keys area after the public realm works are completed.

Issues discussed included:

- That keeping the area clean and tidy would be important in the context of the Council's plan to invest £18,000 on coloured pavements, c.£15,000 on a piece of public art as well as a sum on a dry-stone wall and planting;
- The possibility of purchasing a street cleaning equipment, which could be used in other locations especially after delegation of services from Wiltshire Council;
- Whether the legal agreement should cover all of the coloured pavement area and not just the area to the south of the junction;
- The possibility of contracting out cleaning/sweeping the area; and
- The importance of setting out a standard to which the Town Council will adhere for cleaning/maintaining the Cross Keys area.

### **Resolved**

To produce a work schedule for the cleaning/maintenance of the Cross Keys area to be incorporated into the Grounds staff's tasks.

### **P&A 80/18 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 11 to 20 March the SID was sited at the top of Velle Hill, facing towards Melksham. The average speed for incoming traffic was 26.12mph and for outgoing traffic it was 28.23mph. There was a maximum speed of 85mph in the outgoing direction (towards Melksham).

From 1 to 10 April the SID was sited at the junction of Leafield Way and Elley Green, facing west. The average speed for incoming traffic was 24.92mph and for outgoing traffic it was 24.79mph.

From 10 to 15 April the SID was sited along Valley Road facing towards the Hare and Hounds. The average speed for incoming traffic was 25mph and for outgoing traffic it was 27.87mph.

From 17 to 23 April the SID was sited on Park Lane, near the junction with Chestnut Grange, facing towards the town. The average speed for incoming traffic was 26.44mph and for outgoing traffic it was 28.30mph.

The SID was presently sited on the Lacock Road near the entrance to St Patrick's School.

### **Resolved**

To note the update on the Speed Indicator Device.

### **P&A 81/18 Wiltshire Council Briefing Note on Freight Strategy and Freight Management**

Consideration was given to a Wiltshire Council Briefing Note on Freight Strategy and Management.

### **Resolved**

To produce a list of pinch-points in the town where heavy goods vehicles are a problem. To invite Councillors to put forward pinch-points via the Member's Information Sheet.

### **P&A 82/18 Letter from the School Council of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School**

Consideration was given to a letter from the School Council of St Patrick's School about the dangers posed to pupils and parents along the Lacock Road.

Issues discussed included:

- Previous efforts to address the problem;
- That some of the issues are caused by the parents of school pupils;
- The possibility of yellow lines from the Almshouses downwards; and
- The absence of a school crossing patrol person.

### **Resolved**

To set up a meeting between Councillors Alberga, Anstey and representatives of the School to discuss the issue.

**P&A 83/18 Delay in Surfacing Works at Spring Lane**

The Committee were informed that works scheduled for late April 2019 have been postponed until August. The contractor had raised concerns about overhanging trees damaging equipment and asked that the trees be cut back before works commence. This cannot take place until the bird nesting season is over.

**Resolved**

To note the update.

**P&A 84/18 Transport Monitoring (*Minute P&A 70/18 and others*)**

Consideration was given to the updated Transport Monitoring Sheet.

Issues discussed included:

- That the results of metro-counts undertaken in the town centre in 2018 had now been received. Unfortunately, they do not provide much information on heavy goods vehicles; and
- That the Swindon and Wiltshire Rail Strategy report is likely to be presented to the South West Local Enterprise Partnership on 23 May and be available publicly.

**Resolved**

To remove the Heavy Vehicle Traffic in the Town Centre issue from the Monitoring Sheet.

**P&A 85/18 Refurbishment of the Public Conveniences (*Minute P&A 72/19 and others*)**

The Committee received an update on talks with the Martingate Centre. Officers were asked to find out if Martingate had plans to end the Tenancy at Will and if it would be possible to enter into a more formal arrangement, such as a lease, regarding the public toilets.

The Martingate Centre had informed the Town Council that they had no intention of ending the Tenancy at Will however, they would be reluctant to consider a lease at present as the whole ownership structure could be about to change, and it would be better to do this afterwards. They added that as part of the public realm work and plans to improve the Martingate centre, it might be that the public toilets could be moved to another location.

Issues discussed included:

- That it might be better to look at issues including energy efficiency, reducing water consumption and general maintenance until the ownership structure is decided;
- That the ownership structure is expected to be considered by Wiltshire Council's Cabinet on 2 July; and
- The benefits of waterless urinals.

## **Resolved**

To consider the issue at a future meeting.

### **P&A 86/18 Beechfield Management Plan 2019-2024**

Consideration was given to a draft Management Plan for the Beechfield Nature Area. The site had recently been visited by members of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Wild Landscapes Team, who had been asked to visit in order to provide advice on measures to improve the nature conservation value of the site. Their recommendations have been used to develop the Management Plan.

Issues discussed included:

- That the Wildlife Trust's suggestions about improving the seedbank and sectional cutting would help wild flowers in the open grassland area;
- The need to improve the safety of the platform near the pond;
- The state of the dry-stone wall; and
- The presence of barbed wire adjacent to the western boundary was potentially dangerous.

## **Resolved**

- i. To approve the Beechfield Nature Area Management Plan 2019-2024.
- ii. To ensure that the gate near the pond is locked to prevent public access.

### **P&A 87/18 Pavements in the Parish (Minute P&A 53/18)**

Consideration was given to a number of pavements in a poor state of repair, including: The footpath beside the road between 2 Elley Green and Tellcroft Close; Church Rise, Neston between Neston Country Inn and Neston Primary School; and pavements near Poynder Road.

Issues discussed included:

- That the pavement at the junction of Woodlands and the A4 had recently been repaired;
- That pupil safety was a particular concern near the Primary School; and
- That a wall had collapsed at the entrance to Park Lane near the A4.

## **Resolved**

- i. To report all three pavements to the Community Area Transport Group.
- ii. To report the collapsed wall at the entrance to Park Lane on the Wiltshire App.

**P&A 88/18 Local Highway Town and Parish Meetings**

The Committee noted that the annual Local Highways meetings were taking place at Salisbury on 8 May, Trowbridge on 15 May and Devizes on 13 June.

**Resolved**

That the Head of Technical Services attends the meeting and reports back to the Committee.

The meeting began at 7.30pm and ended at 8.30pm. There were no members of the public present.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE