

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE
TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE BEACON,
PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON THURSDAY, 29 JUNE 2017 AT 2.30 P.M.**

Present:

Wantage Town Council	Councillors Mrs J Nunn-Price and S Trinder (part), and G Stokell
Grove Parish Council	Councillors Mrs J Stock (Chairman), F Parnell and I Weeden
Oxfordshire County Council	Councillors Mrs J Hannaby and Mrs Z Patrick (part)
Others present:	4 members of the public
Thames Valley Police	Mr C Hulme
County Council Officer	Mr L Turner
Clerk	Mr W P Falkenau

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C S Dickson, C McCarthy, R Pollock, and Mrs Reynolds and Ms S Thwaite.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Parnell
SECONDED by Mr Stokell

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Stock be Chairman for the ensuing year.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Stock
SECONDED by Councillor Parnell

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Hannaby be Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 6 April 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

5. Statements and Questions from the Public

Two residents of Kent Mews complained that access had been blocked to their homes on a number of occasions due to parked vehicles and the activities of the construction workers. It was agreed that this would be dealt with under agenda item 8 b).

Mr Jackson, a resident of Pegasus Court, asked for an update on the suggestion that 20 mph advisory speed signs be installed in the vicinity of Pegasus Court in Mill Street. It was agreed that this be dealt with under agenda item 6 a).

6. Matters Arising

a) Update on traffic calming in Mill Street

The Town Council had noted the £20,000 cost of providing a zebra crossing. The Clerk's deputy had not yet investigated whether all the Pegasus S106 funds had been spent. The provision of 20 mph advisory signs had not been pursued due to the proliferation of existing warning signs. It was agreed that this should be reconsidered. The Clerk and Mr Turner to report back.

Action: Clerk/Turner

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b) Update on traffic calming in Chain Hill and Ickleton Road

The installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign in Chain Hill awaited the installation of a pole to take the sign. Dependent upon the success of this sign the Council will consider whether to install signs in Ickleton Road.

c) Update on bus congestion in Wantage Market Place

The Clerk had not yet undertaken any monitoring of the bus congestion in the Market Place. He had the impression that the problem had eased. It was noted that buses arriving from Mill Street were having to travel to the stop on the south side of the Market Place before proceeding to leave via Wallingford Street. It was agreed that consideration be given to providing a bus stop on the north side.

Action: Clerk

d) Speedwatch update

This was a matter being pursued through the police Neighbourhood Action Group.

e) Accident risk at pedestrian crossing in Denchworth Road

There had been only one reported accident in the past five years and this did not involve a pedestrian. It was agreed to check whether any of the existing warning signs were being obscured.

Action: Clerk

f) Strategy concerning local cycle routes

A website link to the strategy document had been provided to members.

7. Matters Referred by Grove Parish Council

a) Marked pot holes not being filled.

Members were reminded that 'fixmystreet' website provided updates on what actions were being taken and could be used to follow up if no action taken. Sunken manhole covers and drains in Ormond Road were proving a hazard for cyclists. This had been reported on 'fixmystreet' but no action taken. Mr Turner agreed to inspect and determine whether any action was appropriate.

Action: Turner

b) Problem with the payment machines in The Beacon car park.

There had been an occasion recently when money was put into a machine but no ticket issued.

The Clerk was to refer this to the District Council's parking department.

Action: Clerk

c) Dirty and obscured traffic signs

There were a number of dirty or obscured signs in the Denchworth Road and Mably Way areas. The County Council has responsibility for dealing with these but had no budget to do so. Signs requiring attention should be reported to 'fixmystreet'. It was suggested that the signs could be cleared by the Rehabilitation Service. It was agreed that this was something that Wantage Town Council and Grove Parish Council could pursue together. The Clerk was to contact the Clerk to Grove Parish Council to progress this.

Action: Clerk

8. Matters Referred by Wantage Town Council and others

a) Update on mobility group

Arrangements for mobility scooter training were proceeding. Councillor Mrs Hannaby was

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looking for a clear, flat, open area where this could be conducted. A map of accessible routes in Wantage for wheelchairs and mobility scooters was still under consideration.

b) Illegal parking in Church Street and the Wharf

The problem of illegal parking around the town was getting worse. This was causing particular problems in Church Street and The Wharf where on occasions residents were being prevented from accessing their properties by vehicle. The police were only able to undertake enforcement on an irregular and infrequent basis. Ideally, responsibility for parking enforcement should be taken over by district councils. Currently, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse were the only districts where police were still expected to undertake enforcement. There was a set up cost of £250k for the district councils to take this on which could be spread between the three councils. There was a need to lobby the Vale of White Horse District Council to progress this. There was a suggestion that the police should recruit special constables to undertake the enforcement.

c) Vehicle parking in a dangerous position in Ham Road

It was reported that the police were actively dealing with this problem.

Councillor Mrs Patrick left the meeting.

d) Entry to Limborough Road roundabout from the south

A complaint had been received that it was unclear which lane should be used by vehicles travelling onwards towards Mably Way. The two lanes were unmarked. Mr Turner agreed to look at whether there had been any accidents recorded at this location. He advised that the latest highway code indicated that it was for drivers to use their judgement about which lane to use.

9. Principal Traffic Officer's Report

Mr Turner reported upon the highway department organisation changes being conducted by Oxfordshire County Council. His role was now titled "Principal Traffic Officer". The role of Area Steward had been discontinued. Mrs Hutchins Payne would be leaving her employment with the County Council. The Clerk was to send her a letter from the committee thanking her for her work and wishing her the best for the future. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Trinder left the meeting.

Mr Turner advised that in future all services for this area will be dealt with from the Drayton offices rather than Oxford. Mr Turner reported upon the various works in the pipeline – drop kerbs at various locations, white line marking and traffic signing. It was noted that the marking of the mini roundabouts at Camel Crossroads were already wearing off. Ham Road was being patched with a full resurfacing in 2020/21. Denchworth Road from Camel Crossroads was due to be resurfaced next year.

10. General Correspondence

None.

11. Dates of future meetings.

7 September 2017, 18 January and 19 April 2018.

The meeting closed at 4.05 p.m.
