

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE
TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE BEACON,
PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 2.30 P.M.**

Present:

Wantage Town Council	Councillors Mrs J Nunn-Price (part) and S Trinder (part), and Ms S Thwaite.
Grove Parish Council	Councillors R Pollock, Mrs J Stock (Chairman) and I Weeden.
Vale of White Horse District Council	Councillor C S Dickson (part) and Mrs J Reynolds.
Thames Valley Police County Council Officer	Mr C Hulme. Mr L Turner.
Clerk	Mr W P Falkenau.
Others present:	Five members of the public (part). Three members of the Chamber of Commerce (part). Two members of the Town Team.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor F Parnell, County Councillors Mrs J Hannaby and Mrs Z Patrick and G Stokell.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 29 June 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Statements and Questions from the Public

Mr Knight of Wantage and Grove Campaign Group raised the following matters:

- Request for 20 mph speed limit in Mill Street.
- Vehicles parking on pavements and causing obstruction for pedestrians and wheelchair users.
- Dangers from cyclists riding on pavements

He asked what actions could be taken to deal these issues.

He was advised that the first item would be dealt with under item 5(a) on the agenda. Mr Hulme advised that whilst all the other items might be deemed illegal, police resources were not available to give priority to such matters. If there was a continuing problem the complaint should be referred to the police via the 101 telephone number and if appropriate, the police might be able to take action.

Mrs Fox of Ormond Road asked whether a pedestrian crossing could be installed in the vicinity of the Guild House in Ormond Road. She felt that with traffic levels increasing it was proving more difficult to find a safe crossing point in this area of Ormond Road. Mr Turner advised that there was no County Council funding available to provide crossings. Given that this was the pedestrian route from King Alfred's Academy's East Site to the town centre, there might be the opportunity to secure S106 funding for a crossing from the East Site development. The Clerk agreed to ask his deputy to investigate this.

Action: Clerk

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Mrs Wixey of Grove Street complained about problems being experienced from vehicles parking on the single yellow line in the vicinity of Crooks Cottages. She was requesting an extension of the double yellow lines from the pelican crossing to Limborough Road roundabout. Mr Turner advised that any changes to the waiting restriction would require consultation with residents. As the vehicles belonged to residents, it was likely that there would be objections to any changes. He felt that the best way forward was for residents to try to seek an accommodation with the vehicle owners involved.

Ms Norvell asked for an update on the situation concerning civil parking enforcement. It was noted that Cherwell District Council had come to an arrangement with Thames Valley Police whereby the Council contributes to the cost of a PCSO in return for parking enforcement work being undertaken. It had previously been the police's policy not to accept hypothecated funding. He agreed to seek guidance on what was the police's current policy. **Action: Hulme**

It was generally agreed that whether it was police hypothecated funding or civil parking enforcement that the solution to illegal parking within Wantage town centre rested on a solution provided through the District Council. The District Councillors present agreed to take this matter up with the District Council. **Action: Dickson/Mrs Reynolds**

Ms Norvell also asked with regard to town centre traffic management, whether parking bays could be marked out in Mill Street and Wallingford Street, and whether consideration could be given to installing brick ramps to the entrances to the Market Place. Particular problems were also being caused in Newbury Street by the number of parked vehicles narrowing the space for vehicles to pass.

Mr Chapman of the Chamber of Commerce urged that action be taken about illegally parked vehicles. It was the view of the Chamber that illegal parking was adversely affecting businesses in the town. Problems were also accentuated by the lack of public car parking. As these problems appear to affect the whole of the district, it was suggested that the Chamber seek the support of the Chambers of Commerce in other towns.

5. Matters Arising

a) Update on traffic calming in Mill Street

Mr Turner advised that for there to be a 20 mph zone there would need to be checks undertaken to indicate whether such a zone was acceptable under highway guidelines. He advised that the County Council had no budget available for highway safety and any funding would rely on S106 contributions. It was known that Pegasus had made a S106 contribution for highway improvements to the County Council. The Clerk's deputy was still in the process of trying to ascertain where these contributions had been spent and whether there was any left for a scheme in Mill Street.

The Clerk reported that the County Council was making available from a Locality Fund the sum of £5000 towards highways schemes. It was unclear whether it was dependent on matched funding. The Town Council had already agreed with the provision of a Vehicle Activated Sign in Chain Hill at a cost in the region of £5000. It had agreed that the funding for this should be matched with the County Council so that signs could also be provided in Ickleton Road and Mill Street. Applications for funding had been submitted to the County Council.

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

See item a).

Three members of the public left the meeting.

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c) Update on bus congestion in Wantage Market Place

Mr Turner advised that he and other officers would be meeting representatives of the bus companies in the following week. It was reported that school buses taking children to East Hendred School were using the Market Place bus stop and adding to the congestion.

d) Speedwatch update

It was noted that this was being taken forward by the Wantage and Grove Police Neighbourhood Action Group. The Clerk advised that East Challow Parish Council had expressed an interest in joining with Wantage in a Speedwatch scheme.

Councillor Trinder left the meeting.

e) Update on accident risk at pedestrian crossing in Denchworth Road

Mr Turner reported that there was some overhanging foliage obscuring signs and that some signs were in a dirty condition. He agreed to arrange for this to be dealt with. He was delaying attending to any white line marking because the Denchworth Road from Camel Crossroads to the Stockham Farm development was due to be resurfaced in the coming year.

f) Update on marked pot holes not being filled

The reporting systems now seemed to be working satisfactorily.

g) Update on problem with the payment machines in The Beacon car park

The machines had recently been replaced and there was no longer a problem.

h) Update on dirty and obscured traffic signs

Mr Turner was arranging for various signs and overhanging foliage to be attended to in the Mably Way area.

i) Mobility group update

Ms Thwaite advised that production of a map was still being considered. There was a need to review what drop kerbs were in place. She was still in discussion with the Fire Brigade concerning a Safety Awareness Course. She was contemplating arranging a workshop for mobility scooter users to advise on safety issues.

In response to questions Mr Hulme advised that mobility scooter drivers were subject to drink driving laws and that passengers should only be taken on mobility scooters if they were designed to accommodate them.

j) Vehicle parking in dangerous position in Ham Road

The police had intervened and this no longer appeared to be a problem.

6. Matters Referred by Grove Parish Council

a) Traffic management arrangements for Grove Airfield development and the new leisure centre

Grove Parish Council was concerned that suitable traffic management arrangements were made for the construction and delivery vehicles associated with these developments. It was noted that the management plans would be submitted through the District Council Planning Department.

b) A417 overnight road closure at East Hendred

This had caused inconvenience to the public because the traffic diversion signs did not indicate the diversions were only operative overnight and were left in place throughout the day. Also, the roadworks.org website appeared to indicate that the closure applied all day.

c) Traffic calming scheme along Newlands Drive

The County Council was proposing to install road humps. Grove Parish Council were objecting to this.

Councillors Dickson and Mrs Nunn-Price left the meeting.

7. Matters Referred by Wantage Town Council and others

a) On street parking enforcement in Wantage town centre

This was dealt with under item 4 above.

b) Traffic management arrangements for new developments

The traffic management arrangements for the flat development in Wallingford Street and retirement property in Church Street had been wholly unsatisfactory, causing problems for divers and residents. Mr Turner advised that enforcement action concerning these matters rested with the District Council Planning Department. It was noted that there had been tardiness in the reinstating of the 'No Entry' signs at the junction between Wallingford Street and Little Lane. One 'No Entry' sign was currently attached to a drainpipe. Mr Turner agreed to seek its reinstatement on a pole. **Action: Turner**

8. Principal Traffic Officer's Report

Mr Turner reported that the new structure for the County Council Highways Department had been launched last Friday. Mr L Joseph was the new Highway Inspector for the Wantage area. The new drop kerbs, previously promised, had been installed at various locations around the town. White line markings had also been refreshed at various locations around the town.

9. General Correspondence

None.

10. Dates of next meeting

18 January and 19 April 2018 at 2.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 4.09 pm.

WPF/ME
