

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE
TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE BEACON,
PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2018 AT 2.30 P.M.**

Present:

Wantage Town Council	Councillors Mrs J Nunn-Price and S Trinder.
Grove Parish Council	Councillors F Parnell, R Pollock and Mrs J Stock (Chairman)
Vale of White Horse District Council	Councillors C S Dickson and Mrs J Reynolds.
Oxfordshire County Council	Councillors Mrs J Hannaby and Mrs Z Patrick.
Thames Valley Police County Council Officer	Mr C Hulme. Mr L Turner.
Clerk	Mr W P Falkenau.
Others present:	One member of the public – Mrs Maberley

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I Weeden, Mr G Stokell and Ms S Thwaite.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 7 September 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Statements and Questions from the Public

Mrs Maberley asked three questions.

Local bus service no.38

Mrs Maberley reported that this service continued to visit Grove, but no longer visited Charlton Heights and other housing estates in Wantage. She asked whether the County Council could arrange for the service to visit Charlton Heights.

It was noted that the County Council no longer provided subsidies for bus services. Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price, Local Passenger Transport Representative, agreed to refer a request to extend services to Charlton Heights and Larkhill to the bus company. **Action: Mrs Nunn-Price**

Grit boxes at Charlton Heights and Charlton Village

Mrs Maberley reported that during the recent bad weather the grit bin at Charlton heights had been empty. She asked who was responsible for filling the bin. The junction at Parsonage Close/Charlton Village Road had been in an unsafe condition. There was no grit bin in the area to attend to this. She asked how she would go about requesting a grit bin.

She was advised that the County Council was responsible for filling grit bins and that there was an arrangement for Wantage Town Council to purchase grit bins and for the County Council to maintain them. The Clerk advised that he would report her complaint about the empty bin to the responsible County Council officer and the request for the bin by Parsonage Close to the Town Council. **Action: Clerk**

Parking enforcement and provision

Mrs Maberley asked what progress was being made in dealing with the parking enforcement and parking provision in Wantage town centre

She was advised that there was no immediate solution to the parking enforcement issue. The District Council had declined to take on the parking enforcement because it estimated that there would be a cost of £750,000 involved. More land was needed for parking provision. There was currently none available within the town. District Councillors were seeking to sort out the provision of more permits for the Pay and Display parking spaces in Limborough Road. The Clerk reported that Bushbuy would like to increase the parking times in the Kings Park car parks from 2 hours to 3 hours. The current 2 hours was stipulated in a legal agreement and required a Deed of Variation from Sainsburys and the District Council. Bushbuy was seeking the support of the local councils in pursuing this. It was agreed that the Committee give support to this.

Action: Clerk

5. Matters Arising

a) Update on traffic calming in Mill Street.

The Clerk reported that Pegasus Homes had not made any contribution to highway improvements in Mill Street. A contribution of £250,000 had been made towards the provision of affordable housing. The Town Council had agreed to provide a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) in Mill Street and Mr Turner had identified a site where this could be installed. The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident closer to the Market Place in Mill Street and that it might be appropriate to position the sign further to the east. Mr Turner agreed to look at whether an alternative site would be suitable.

Action: Turner

b) Update on request for pedestrian crossing in Ormond Road.

The Clerk reported that there was no S106 funding available from the King Alfred's site development in Springfield Road. It was noted that with the closure of the school, the pedestrian traffic was likely to decrease, rather than increase.

c) Update on civil parking enforcement.

See item 4 above.

d) Update on VAS for Chain Hill and Ickleton Road.

A VAS had been installed in Chain Hill. The Town Council had agreed to fund a VAS in Ickleton Road, but wanted to monitor how effective the VAS was in Chain Hill before proceeding.

e) Update on bus congestion in Wantage Market Place.

A proposal had been made by the County Council and bus companies that the disabled parking bay on the south eastern corner of the Market Place be converted to a bus stop/stand and that the disabled parking spaces be relocated to the area of the disused bus stop in Newbury Street. The proposal was supported by the Town Council. The Clerk had informed the public of the proposal through social media and by letter to properties in the vicinity affected by the changes. There had been no comments nor objections received. The Committee agreed to support the proposal. Mr Turner advised that he would progress it.

Action: Turner

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f) No Entry signage at Little Lane.

The No Entry sign had been reinstated.

g) Speedwatch update.

Progress on this awaited action by the Police Neighbourhood Action Group.

h) Mobility group update

It was reported that Ms Thwaite was proceeding to arrange the training course for mobility scooter users.

6. **Matters Referred by Grove Parish Council**

None.

7. **Matters Referred by Wantage Town Council and others**

a) Complaint regarding the location of 'A' board in Wallingford Street and update on request to the County Council by the Town Council for delegated powers to deal with inconsiderately placed 'A' boards.

The Town Council was seeking delegated powers from the County Council to deal with 'A' boards and other highways obstructions around the town. The Town Council had this power in the past, but this lapsed when the County Council sought to introduce a highly complex legal agreement covering this. Although most parishes in the past had been given delegated powers to deal with highway obstructions, it appeared that all of these agreements had lapsed and that currently the County Council did not have a suitable legal agreement to put forward for this. It was noted that specific problems could be referred to the County Council through the fixmystreet website.

b) Lack of gritting in snow conditions of paths around town centre.

In the recent bad weather, the pathways around the town centre had not been gritted. Mr Turner reported that the County Council no longer gritted footways. There were arrangements in place for some areas for street cleansing operatives to treat pathways, but this did not apply in this district. The County Council promoted a Snow Warden Scheme where volunteers could grit highway surfaces. Mr Turner agreed to arrange for details of this to be passed to the Clerk's deputy. **Action: Turner**

c) Inconsiderate parking close to Fitzwaryn School.

Details of problems in the area were noted. No actions were agreed.

8. **Principal Traffic Officer's Report**

Mr Turner reported.

Road schemes.

A417 Wallingford Street/Seesen Way to be resurfaced at the beginning of March.
A417 Springfield Road/Ormond Road drainage work to be undertaken – date to be confirmed.
Denchworth Road – Elizabeth Drive resurfacing to be undertaken in the financial year 2018/19.

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Traffic calming in Newlands Drive

The County Council had been misinformed that Grove Parish Council gave support to this scheme. It was due to be referred back to a cabinet meeting on 8 March 2018. County Councillor Mrs Patrick and Councillor Parnell indicated that they intended to attend, to make objection.

Road markings

These had recently been refreshed in Brereton Drive and Newbury Street.

New signage relating to Grove Business Park

New signage was on order and funded, two thirds by the Business Park and one third by the County Council.

9. General Correspondence

None.

10. Date of next meeting

19 April 2018 at 2.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 3.54 pm.

WPF/ME
