

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE
TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE BEACON,
PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 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, Mrs J Stock (Chairman) and I Weeden.
Oxfordshire County Council	Councillors Mrs Hannaby and Mrs Z Patrick.
Thames Valley Police County Council Officer	Mr C Hulme. Mr L Turner.
Clerk	Mr W P Falkenau.
Others present:	Two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C S Dickson and Mrs J Reynolds.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 18 January 2018

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

5. Matters Arising

a) Update on local bus service no.38

Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price had not yet made a request to the bus company to extend services to Charlton Heights and Larkhill. She was seeking a meeting with Mr Belchambers of the County Council before proceeding with this. **Action: Mrs Nunn-Price**

b) Update on grit boxes at Charlton Heights and Charlton Village

This had been referred to the Deputy Town Clerk and arrangements were in hand for the provision of new grit boxes and the re-filling of existing ones.

c) Update of parking enforcement and provision

There had been no further progress regarding increasing the parking times in Kings Park from two hours to three hours. A request was being referred to the Joint Economic Forum to install a sign directing longer stay visitors to the District Council pay and display parking spaces in Limborough Road.

d) Update on traffic calming in Mill Street

The Town Council had agreed to fund the provision of a VAS. The location had been put forward by Mr Turner and the Clerk agreed to proceed with this. **Action: Clerk**

e) Update on Ickleton Road VAS

The sign had not been installed by the 31 March deadline, but the County Council had passed to the Town Council all the funds required for its installation. Installation of the sign was now scheduled for 2 May.

f) Update on bus congestion in Wantage Market Place

The proposal to convert the disabled parking spaces on the south east side of the Market Place was on the County Council's scheme list. Tests to determine whether vehicles could comfortably get into and out of the bay had not yet been undertaken. **Action: Turner**

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

a) The number of sets of traffic lights causing delays at peak times on the A417 between Wantage and Rowstock

It is the responsibility of utility companies and developers to ensure that suitable traffic flow is maintained. The County Council has been refusing permits to avoid too many works proceeding at the same time. The list of works to be done on the A417 between Wantage and Rowstock is long and therefore disruption is likely to continue for quite some time.

b) Lack of notices on the Oxford Lane that it was to close prior to the closure and the lack of 'Road Closed' notices at the end of Oxford Lane at the A338 end, once the work had started.

The responsibility for dealing with signage and informing those affected rests with the utility company. Mr Turner agreed to investigate what actions might be taken if the utility companies fail to meet their obligations. **Action: Turner**

c) Contractors vehicles parking in Elizabeth Drive

With works nearing completion on the development to the west of Denchworth Road, contractors had started again to park their vehicles in Elizabeth Drive. The Clerk was to refer this to the District Council Planning Department with a view to the contractors being asked to park their vehicles in Downsview Road. **Action: Clerk**

A new vehicle access had been created close to the Mably Way roundabout. Some members thought that this should have splays. Mr Turner agreed to check the planning application to see if this was the case. **Action: Turner**

d) Pothole filling

The Chairman reported that when potholes were being filled, the debris, which had come out of the potholes, was not being removed and created a hazard. It was also reported that material in some potholes, which had been filled in Mayfield Avenue and Savile Way, had come out within a matter of days. Mr Turner reported that there were a lot of potholes to be filled and that the work was being overseen by Ms Buckley. He was to ask Ms Buckley to visit Grove to observe the problems being experienced. **Action: Turner**

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

a) Parking in Wantage town centre

There was nothing further to report.

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b) 'A' boards on paths

There had been no progress regarding the County Council giving the Town Council delegated authority with regard to removal of 'A' board signs. In the absence of this authority the Town Council will contact 'A' board owners asking them to place their signs in a responsible manner.

c) Crossings – by Ham Road and Fitzwarzyn School

Fitzwarzyn School

The road conditions in the vicinity of the crossing were poor. The whole of the section of Denchworth Road from Camel Crossroads to Elizabeth Drive was due to be resurfaced in the summer. This will include re-painting all the road markings which should help make drivers more aware of the crossing. Consideration could be given to installing new LED lights on the beacons. The work was the responsibility of the street lighting team. Mr Turner agreed to refer information concerning this to the Clerk.

Action: Turner

There was currently no bus stop flag on the bus stop by Fitzwarzyn School. The bus company was to be asked to provide this.

Action: Clerk

Ham Road

There had recently been an incident at the Ham Road crossing. There was no information regarding the cause of this. An additional barrier had been installed to reinforce to pedestrians that they were approaching a crossing. The crossing was due to be re-painted and the surface restored.

d) Issues for Locality meeting

It was noted that the County Councillors had been provided with a fund for each parish. There was a need to consider how these funds might be utilised and refer to Councillor Mrs Hannaby.

e) Road closures for parades

The annual parade for Palm Sunday had been cancelled. It appeared that conditions laid down by the County Council had not been met and therefore the District Council would not issue a closure notice. Mr Hulme confirmed that there was no obligation on the District Council to consult with the County Council or the police, but that the obligations on the organisers were increasing. There was a need to ensure that safe practices were adopted.

Mr Hulme also advised that under normal circumstances the police did not have the powers to stop a march, as long as the march did not cause a highway obstruction.

f) Bus service behaviour in Market Place

It was hoped that the behaviour of bus drivers would improve when extra bus stop space was provided.

g) Mobility Group update

Ms Thwaite reported that a briefing session and training had been arranged at the fire station on 24 May 2018.

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8. Principal Traffic Officer's Report

Mr Turner reported that Wallingford Street and Stockham Way/Winchester Way were due to be resurfaced. The surface of the crossing at Portway by King Alfred's Academy was due to be refurbished. The A338 Newbury Street to the county boundary and the road from Chain Hill towards Newbury were to be remarked to the county boundary. The yellow lines at Newbury Street to the north of the Royal Oak public house were to be extended to close up the gap in the yellow lines. The speed limit on the A417 in the vicinity of the Crab hill development was to be reduced to 30 mph.

9. General Correspondence

None.

10. Dates of future meetings

28 June, 6 September 2018 and 17 January 2019.

The meeting closed at 3.43 pm.

WPF/ME
