

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE
TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE BEACON,
PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON THURSDAY, 17 JANUARY 2019 AT 2.30 P.M.**

Present:

Wantage Town Council	Councillor Mrs J Nunn-Price, G Stokell and Ms S Thwaite.
Grove Parish Council	Councillors R Pollock, Mrs J Stock (Chairman) and I Weeden.
Oxfordshire County Council	Councillor Ms J Hanna.
Thames Valley Police County Council Officer	Mr C Hulme. Mr L Turner.
Deputy Clerk	Miss S Sanders.
Others present	Four members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Mrs J Reynolds, Town Councillor S Trinder and Grove Parish Councillor F Parnell.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2018

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Statements and Questions from the Public

A resident of Pegasus Court requested that consideration be given to providing a bus stop in Mill Street at a location close to the Pegasus Court. This was to be referred to the County Council's Bus Infrastructure Officer. **Action: Turner**

Another resident of Pegasus Court requested an update on the progress of the installation of a VAS (vehicle activated sign) in Mill Street. The Deputy Clerk reported that arrangements were progressing.

A member of the public asked why street lights had not been fixed despite being logged on 'Fix My Street'. Mr Turner explained that a new contractor had recently been appointed and the backlog was being addressed. He agreed to follow up to ensure outstanding items were being dealt with. **Action: Turner**

It was noted that a road sign on the A417, between the Crab Hill development and Ardington shows 50 miles per hour speed limit and the road marking show a 40 miles per hour speed limit. Mr Turner was to investigate this. **Action: Turner**

The two residents from Pegasus Court were thanked for their comments and they left the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

a) Update on local bus service 38

The bus service had been extended, however new timetables had not been installed at bus stops. Thames Travel were aware and the task was due to be completed.

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Meetings were to be arranged between OCC, Wantage Town Council and bus operators to consider a bus stop in Denchworth Road (south east) near the convent and on the A417, west bound by King Alfred's West Site, for the 67 service. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

b) Update on VAS for Mill Street

A site visit had been made by OCC regarding the location of the VAS. A letter consulting with the residents of the Old Police Station, Mill Street had been sent. No comments or concerns had been received. The Deputy Clerk will instruct OCC to fit a twin fused isolator before proceeding to place an order with Westcotec for the sign and installation. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Update on bus congestion in Wantage Market Place

An email had been circulated prior to the meeting detailing the planned improvements to the bus stopping arrangements. It was proposed to deliver the changes in 3 phases.
Phase 1 - Install a set-down only stop on the north side of the Market Place to be used by buses arriving from Faringdon and Challow.
Phase 2 - Remove the disabled parking spaces from the south side of the market place and replace with set-down only stops for buses arriving from Oxford. The redundant bus stop in Newbury Street would be replaced with disabled spaces. Consideration will need to be given to the relocation of the existing bus shelter.
Phase 3 – The existing stops outside the Bear Hotel will become a single stop for all buses. It was intended that the first phase will commence shortly. There is insufficient funds to proceed with phase 2 & 3 at this time.

d) Update on maintenance of roundabouts at Mably Way

The vegetation had been cut to enable good visibility.

e) Update on lorries damaging buildings on corner of Newbury Street/Market Place

The Deputy Clerk had investigated the presence of bollards on the corner of Newbury Street where it meets the Market Place. There is one bollard in place. The Deputy Clerk was to check to see if there were any empty sockets that require bollards. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

f) Update on Fix My Street Website

Councillor Ms Hanna explained that there was a software problem. Ways to improve efficiency were being looked into. It was intended to produce weekly updates to County Councillors.

6. Matters Referred by Grove Parish Council

a) Cars parked on double yellow lines along the road leading to Waitrose

Mr Hulme advised that, from a police viewpoint, this was not considered to be an obstruction.

b) Road works signs stating road closure and road does not then close

Advance warning signs advertising a closure of Steventon Road on 11 January were mistakenly put out by a contractor.

c) Road condition at developments – e.g. King Alfred's East Site and Crab Hill

Mr Turner reported that the Streetworks Officers and Road Agreements Team Inspectors do their best to address issues when they occur. It was felt that although wheel washing was a condition of planning permission, a lack of enforcement officers had meant that this was not controlled.

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The Deputy Clerk was to contact the Enforcement Team concerning this matter for all developments locally. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

d) Parking in disabled parking spaces with no blue badge

Mr Hulme was aware of the issue with non-blue badge holders parking in disabled spaces but said that nothing could be currently done due to a lack of police resources.

e) Steventon Road Closure – sign positioned half way down the road but not at the Wantage entrance

Per b) above the signs had been mistakenly put out.

f) Speeding in Denchworth Road, Grove

Mr Hulme and Mr Turner were to investigate signage. **Action: Turner/Hulme**

g) Footpath by the electrical sub-station.

It was reported that the pathway by the electrical substation on Denchworth Road, Grove was impassable due to over-hanging vegetation. The Deputy Clerk was to email Lee Turner with details of the location. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

h) Damaged bus stop in Main Street, Grove

Grove Parish Council was unsure about who was responsible for the bus stop. Mr Turner agreed to forward paperwork to Grove Parish Council confirming their ownership. **Action: Turner**

7. Matters Referred by Wantage Town Council and others

a) Deep dive into potholes and other road issues update

Councillor Mrs Hannaby was not present at the meeting to report on this matter. A report was to follow. **Action: Hannaby**

b) Update on Ickleton Road issues

Resurfacing of the road was scheduled to be carried out from Newbury Street end to Ham Road as part of a major resurfacing scheme, subject to funds becoming available. The source of the water was unresolved.

c) Update on housing development contractor road issues.

The Streetworks Officer was happy to investigate road issues.

d) Street lighting

Street light issues should be reported on 'Fix My Street'. A member of the public had commented that street lamps were not being replaced following requests to 'Fix My Street'. Mr Turner advised that there was a new contractor and that there was a back log. Any issues should be reported directly to him.

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e) Request for bus stop in Mill Street in the vicinity of Pegasus Court

The resident requesting the bus stop was to be asked to carry out a survey to determine possible levels of demand for the service. A meeting between OCC, Wantage Town Council and the bus operators was to be organised to assess the suitability. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

f) Civil parking enforcement

The responsibility currently lies with the police. There was no update regarding the transfer of the responsibility to the District Council. It would be a lengthy process to implement.

g) Traffic Closures in and around Wantage and Grove

The A417 at Challow Road, 20 metres east of Winchester Way will be closed from 15-18 February 2019 to complete the water connection for the new site. Naldertown will be closed from 21-25 January 2019. Details of road closures and diversions can be found at Roadworks.org.

h) New technical initiative at County towards potholes

Item deferred.

i) Report by Councillor Mrs Hannaby on visit to Grove and Wantage by County Highways Officer

Report to follow.

Action: Hannaby

j) Wantage and District Mobility User Group

Ms Thwaite of the Wantage and District Mobility User Group reported that the group was expanding. There was to be another meeting at Wantage Fire Station for mobility scooter and electric wheelchair users to practise their driving skills around an obstacle course with Oxfordshire Road Safety Team. This was to be held on 12 February 2019.

8. Principal Traffic Officer's Report

Mr Turner reported that several reflective bollards had been replaced around Wantage Market Place from Councillor Mrs Hannaby's Priority Fund. Bollards had been provided at the bus stop on Denchworth Road (near Fitzwarren School) to prevent parking on the hardstanding. This was working well. Signs had been ordered for the shops at Barnards Way, Wantage and for long stay parking at Limborough Road, Wantage.

9. General Correspondence

None.

Next meeting: 30 May 2019 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.48 p.m.

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