

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE TRAFFIC ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM, ON THURSDAY,  
10 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 2.30 P.M.**

Present:

Wantage Town Council	Councillors I Cameron, T Gilhome, and S Thwaite
Grove Parish Council	Councillors F Parnell and J Stock (chairman)
Oxfordshire County Council	Councillor J T Hannaby
Thames Valley Police	C Hulme
County Council Officer	L Turner
Clerk	WP Falkenau
Deputy Clerk	S Sanders
Others Present	A Yates (Town Centre Manager)
	Seven members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

**2. Declaration of Disclosable**

None

**3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

ON THE PROPOSITION of S Thwaite

SECONDED by Councillor Gilhome

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

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Stock

SECONDED by Councillor Cameron

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Hannaby be vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

**4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2020**

The minutes were approved.

**5. Statements and questions from the public**

A member of the public spoke regarding the issue of speeding on the A338 from Williams Engineering to Grove Bridge. Mr Hulme reported that speed surveys had been carried out recently along the stretch of road. The results showed that 85% of drivers did not drive at speeds above 49 mph (speed limit 50 mph). The member of the public requested a copy of the data. **Action: Turner**

Mr Turner agreed to arrange another survey at a different point on the stretch of road.

**Action: Turner**

Mr Hulme did not think the installation of a fixed camera would get the desired effect. The accident history was low along this stretch of road.

Oxfordshire County Council had cleared the footway and cut back foliage as part of the Active Travel initiative. Letters were to be issued to residents of properties with overhanging vegetation asking them to cut back bushes and trees belonging to them that obstruct the footway.

**6. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

- a) Update on meeting between Mr Turner and Councillor Hannaby regarding cars parking across dropped kerbs.

A meeting had not taken place. It was agreed there would be no further action.

- b) Update on crossing at Oxford Lane, Grove

Councillor Hannaby reported that the crossing had been installed and thanked OCC officers for their assistance.

- c) Update on Road Infrastructure – Charlton Road

Mr Turner reported that there were no plans to change the double roundabouts near the Nelson PH to a single roundabout. The matter was to be raised at the next Crab Hill Forum.

**Action: Hannaby**

It had previously been suggested that a new roundabout was to be installed near to the Springfield Road junction with Charlton Road. Mr Turner was to look into this.

**Action: Turner**

- d) Update on re-marking of white lines at the Royal Oak Crossroads

The refresh of the white lines had been completed. Funds came from the OCC budget. It was noted that it should have come from the Active Travel funds.

- e) Update on suitability of signage for vehicles entering Market Place from Newbury Street

It was reported that lorries continue to enter the Market Place, causing disruption (the roads cannot accommodate large vehicles). Bollards were repeatedly being damaged as well as buildings. It was questioned whether the current signage was sufficient to keep the lorries out of the Market Place. Mr Turner was to check that the white lines had been refreshed at Newbury Street. His team were looking at a new scheme for signage, but there was a reluctance to proceed as Wantage Town Council has proposed a new temporary traffic layout. Mr Turner was to investigate the possibility of strengthening the current signage by adding additional signage such as ‘unsuitable for HGVs’.

**Action: Turner**

- f) Update on request for resurfacing on Chain Hill – viewed as dangerous for two-wheel transport.

Patching of the road was programmed to be carried on 23 September 2020.

- g) Update on request for traffic calming measures to reduce speed of vehicles entering Ormond Road from Wallingford Street.

An order had been raised for vegetation to be cut on the verge to help with sight lines.

- h) Update on foliage near Fitzwaryn School, Denchworth Road.

This was to be followed up by Councillor Hannaby.

**Action: Hannaby**

i) Update on request for dropped kerbs in various locations

This had not yet been progressed.

**Action: Turner**

It was reported that Waitrose Limited had agreed to put a dropped kerb to Stirlings Road.

j) Update regarding Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

A meeting was to be held in October for the report to be agreed by all district councils. Traffic orders need to be checked. Wantage Town Council had engaged with the police, offering to fund a PCSO to carry out parking enforcement. The police have not yet responded to this. Mr Turner reported that work had commenced on refreshing road markings. It was possible that implementation of CPE could be autumn 2021.

k) Update on possibility of the timetable being adjusted to enable the 38 bus to make a reverse trip.

There was no update.

**7. Matters referred by Grove Parish Council**

a) Speed restrictions on the A338 from Williams to Grove Bridge

This item had been covered during agenda item 5.

b) Fixed vehicle activated sign (VAS) not working near Mandhill Close

Councillor Stock was to ask the Clerk of Grove Parish Council who funded the fixed VAS so that responsibility could be ascertained.

**Action: Stock**

**8. Matters referred by Wantage Town Council and others**

a) Speeding enforcement Wantage and Grove

Current speed limits were to be looked at with regards to the possibility of implementing 20mph restrictions.

b) COVID-19 initiatives to provide more pedestrian space and encourage cycling

Councillor Hannaby reported that the pedestrianisation of the western end of the Market Place had been relatively successful, but there had not been any money received from either the county or district council for the initiatives. Mr Turner advised that OCC had received £300,000 from tranche one from DfT to be used across the county. In Wantage cycle racks had been installed, vegetation cleared and white lines on the cycle path between Grove and Wantage had been refreshed. Mably Way vegetation had been cleared. There was no money from tranche two for the south of the county. Tranche three was yet to be released.

c) M4/A34 road diversions

When the M4/A34 is closed, the traffic is diverted through Wantage. Highways England and West Berks Council determine the diversion routes. Diversions are not mandatory and therefore local knowledge can dictate routes taken by traffic.

d) Bus services – Report on meeting with Mr Harrison of Oxfordshire County Council

A meeting had taken place. Mr Harrison acknowledged the desire of Wantage Town Council to be involved more closely in future designs of bus services. Another meeting was to be arranged in October. Focus had been on Harwell/Didcot/Milton Park.

e) Request for pedestrian crossing on Denchworth Road by second entrance to Whittington Crescent.

A pedestrian crossing would be possible in the area subject to evidence of need and available funds.

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

The agreed changes to bus stops and disabled spaces in the town centre had been carried out. Several bollards had been replaced around the town. White lines had been refreshed along the A338 from Limborough Road to Bellingers garage. A pair of bus shelters/stops had been installed at Whittington Crescent. Bus shelters have been ordered for installation near Fitzwaryn school. It was not yet known who would take responsibility for the shelters.

**10. General Correspondence**

None.

**11. Dates of Future Meetings:**

14 January and 15 April 2021.

The meeting closed at 4.07pm

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