

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE TRAFFIC ADVISORY
COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM, ON
THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 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 (OCC)	Councillors J T Hannaby and J Hanna
Thames Valley Police (TVP)	C Hulme
County Council Officer	L Turner
Deputy Clerk	S Sanders
Others present	A Yates (Town Centre Manager)
	Two members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. To receive any declaration of pecuniary interests.

None

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2020.

The minutes were approved.

4. Statements and questions from the public.

None.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes:

a) Update on road conditions at new developments

The issues of mud on the road at the Wellington Gate development had improved following enforcement and the introduction of wheel washers and sweepers. There had been no recent complaints.

b) Update on road infrastructure – Charlton Road (roundabouts Nelson PH and Springfield Road).

Mr Turner reported that plans had identified that improvement to the road were to be made but have not yet been approved.

It had not been confirmed if there was any work to be done to the roundabout near the Lord Nelson. Mr Turner would follow this up. **Action: Turner**

c) Update on strengthening signage etc, to stop vehicles from entering Market Place from Newbury Street.

The keep left sign at the corner of Newbury Street with Market Place was to be raised so that that it wouldn't be obscured by passing vehicles. Signs reading unsuitable for HGVs were due to be installed and traffic island bollards were to be replaced.

d) Update on patching of the road – Chain Hill

The patching of the road had been completed.

- e) Update on responsibility for cutting back foliage near Fitzwaryn School, Denchworth Road.

It had been confirmed by OCC that the vegetation was their responsibility. The work to cut back foliage had been requested, however a timescale had not been given.

- f) Update on request for dropped kerbs in various locations.

Ms Thwaite was to send the updated list of areas identified to Mr Turner for consideration.

Action: Thwaite/Turner

It was noted that there were some broken dropped kerbs at Wellington Gate. These would need to be repaired prior to being adopted by OCC.

- g) Update regarding Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

CPE was on track for implementation in November 2021. Lines were on a programme to be refreshed. It was thought that there was not any scope for amending any orders at this stage as it would delay the process. James Whiting (Parking Manager OCC) was to be invited to the next meeting in April.

Action: Deputy Clerk

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

The 38 bus was not a standalone service and therefore it was not possible for a reverse trip to be made.

- i) Update on speed restrictions A338 from Williams to Grove Bridge (results of speed survey)

A further survey had been carried out in October 2020. The results showed that the average speed was 42-45 mph and the 85th percentile was 47-50 mph. Mr Turner believed that the speed limit on this road was appropriate. Vegetation has been cut back along the footway to improve safety for pedestrians. It was noted there was a short section of verge area to the south of the lay-by that was not laid as a footway.

Councillor Hannaby was disappointed that there had been no money allocated for the Active Travel initiative in the area.

- j) Speed restrictions in Wantage and Grove – 20 mph speed limit in all built up areas.

Councillors Hannaby and Hanna spoke about a campaign named “20’s Plenty for Oxfordshire” that was being supported by OCC. The initiative was for roads where pedestrians and vehicles meet to have a speed limit of 20 mph. It was noted that this was not applicable to A roads.

- k) Update on the non-functioning vehicle activated sign (VAS) near Mandhill Close

This was being investigated by Mr Turner.

Action: Turner

6. Matters referred by Grove Parish Council

- a) Blocked Drains

It was reported that there were several blocked drains in Grove. The blocked drain at Mably Way roundabout (near the Aeroplane) had been reported to Fix My Street several times. The Deputy Clerk was to follow this up.

Action: Deputy Clerk

b) Pot Hole Fixed

The large pot hole on the Denchworth Road near the substation had been repaired.

c) Consultation regarding road speed

A consultation had been received by residents of Grove from OCC regarding proposed traffic improvement measures along Denchworth Road and Newlands Drive. It was noted that this was a re-consultation due to the expiration of the statutory 2 year period to implement the relevant traffic orders. TVP had objected to the change of the speed limit (from 60mph to 30mph) because the environment had not changed. The fear was that people won't comply if the speed limit changes without the environment changing.

7. Matters referred by Wantage Town Council and others

a) Speed of traffic on A417 near King Alfred's school (West Site)

A complaint about the speed of traffic on the A417 near King Alfred's school had been received from a member of the public. The Deputy Clerk was to request that TVP bring the speed indication device to the area.
Action: Deputy Clerk

b) School buses – parking on Portway

A complaint had been received from a member of the public regarding school buses parking on the road and causing traffic delays. Planning permission had been granted for a bus parking area at Wantage Leisure Centre, however the legal agreements had not been finalised to enable this to proceed.

c) Bus services – Notes from the meeting with Mr Harrison of OCC had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the X36 was financed by S106 monies. The 38 was only guaranteed until August 2021. The Deputy Clerk was to arrange a further meeting for February 2021.

Action: Deputy Clerk

d) Suitability of access for mobility scooters and wheelchairs to the East Gate site, Springfield Road by the footway connecting to Charlton Road

The steps on the footway at the eastern end of the estate did not make the access to Charlton Road unusable for mobility scooters and wheelchairs. The mobility group were to write to the planning officer with their concerns. Mr Turner was to investigate the compliancy of the access.
Action: Thwaite/Turner

8. Principal Traffic Officer's Report

Mr Turner had nothing further to report.

9. General Correspondence

A complaint had been received by a member of the public about a bus stop being installed in Newlands Drive, without consultation. The bus stop had now been moved to a different location.

10. Date of Future Meetings: 15 April 2021.

The meeting closed at 4.07pm.