

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM, ON THURSDAY, 29 APRIL 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)	Councillor J T Hannaby
Thames Valley Police (TVP)	C Hulme
County Council Officer (OCC)	L Turner
Others present	Councillor R Batstone Three members of the public
Deputy Clerk	S Sanders

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. To receive any declaration of pecuniary interests.

None

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2021

Minute 7. d was amended. The word unusable was replaced with useable.

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

It was noted that a wheel washer was not in operation at site of the new rugby field in Grove. This needs to be monitored.

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

Part of the planning permission conditions for the Crab Hill development was for a single roundabout to be in place by the 600th occupation. There have been 130 occupations to date.

c) Update on strengthening signage etc, to stop vehicles from entering Market Place from Newbury Street – installation of illuminated bollards

An additional keep left sign had been installed at the corner of Newbury Street with Market Place. Signs reading unsuitable for HGVs had been installed in Seesen Way/ Wallingford Street and Newbury Street. The illuminated bollards had not yet been installed. Councillor Hannaby was to contact the street lighting team to ascertain what progress had been made.

Action: Hannaby

- d) Update on request for dropped kerbs in various locations – including a new request at Mill Street/Limborough Close junction.

An order has been raised for a dropped crossing at Limborough Close. Ms Thwaite was to meet with Tim Wilde of OCC to discuss the requests for other locations. **Action: Thwaite**

- e) Update regarding Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

CPE was on track for implementation in November 2021. James Whiting (Parking Manager OCC) had been invited to the meeting but was unable to attend. He had sent an update. He reported that over the next 6 months the priority was to focus on surveying and mapping existing restrictions with a view of consolidating the 30+ existing orders for the Vale into one new consolidated map based order ready for enforcement. Taking into account resources and time constraints, at this stage it was not planned to introduce new restrictions or changes, as these would require extensive consultation and officer involvement. However once CPE is up and running there will be some capacity to consider new orders (subject to funding and local support).

- f) Update on speed restrictions in Wantage and Grove – 20 mph speed limit in all built up areas

Councillor Hannaby reported that she had registered her support with OCC. Councillor Stock was to advise Grove Parish Council of the initiative. **Action: Chairman**

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

Mr Turner reported that the VAS had been repaired.

- h) Update on speed of traffic on A417 near King Alfred's school (West Site)

OCC road agreement team was working with the developer of the new site adjacent to the A417 with a view to extend the S278 agreement to implement further traffic calming measures. Mr Turner was to get further information regarding this. TVP Neighbourhood Team was planning to visit the area, however it had been highlighted that the signage needs to be assessed. There was a request for further signage near the crossing at Ham Road. The signs at the Camel Crossroads also needed reassessing. **Action: Turner**

- i) Update on suitability of access for mobility scooters and wheelchairs to the East Gate site, Springfield Road by the footway connecting to Charlton Road

The route was not public highway. Mr Turner had referred this to the District Council as a planning issue.

- j) Update on school buses parking on Portway and Seesen Way

The school buses continue to park on Portway and Seesen Way. The legal agreement required to enable a parking area at Wantage Leisure Centre had not yet been finalised.

6. Matters referred by Grove Parish Council

- a) Request for safe crossing to access new sports field

Mr Turner was to provide details of the technically approved plans for Denchworth Road showing the footway/cycleway and uncontrolled crossings to the Deputy Clerk.

Action: Turner

b) Fix My Street functionality

It was felt that Fix My Street service did not work effectively. Often issues that had been reported were closed without being resolved, or an inadequate response was given. Inspectors had been reminded that their responses should be correct and meaningful and standard text should be avoided.

c) Complaints about road works

Complaints had been made by members of the public regarding the number of road works happening in the same area at the same time. Traffic lights were not in sync and causing delays. Mr Turner advised that the OCC Network Team were responsible for temporary signals and roadworks. The principal officer for network coordination covering Vale & South Districts (temporary signals, roadworks etc) was Nick Brown.

d) Road closures/signage

It was noted that road closure signage was not being removed from roads when works had been completed. The network team were also responsible for this.

7. Matters referred by Wantage Town Council and others

a) Lack of speed limit signs on A417 (Challow Road) suggestion of a VAS for both directions

Speed indication devices were being investigated for this stretch of road. Mr Turner explained that 30mph roundels were not permitted where streetlights were in place.

b) Loose manhole covers in Wallingford Street

Complaints have been received from residents regarding the loose manhole covers. The drain covers had been reported to OCC and were due to be repaired. No timescale had been given.

c) Road conditions/potholes in Mill Street and other roads

It was reported that Mill Street had been inspected and the potholes had been marked with white paint indicating that they would be repaired soon.

d) Request for a pedestrian crossing near Charlton Primary School

There was no longer a lollipop person in the area. Mr Turner was to investigate possible signage/lights alerting drivers to children crossing. **Action: Turner**

e) Traffic on Church Street

It was reported that HGVs were turning into Church Street causing problems for residents in Priory Road. Unsuitable for HGV signs had been installed at the Royal Oak crossroads.

f) Bus Services – timing and coordination in the Market Place

It was reported that buses were arriving at the same time. It was agreed that this issue should be brought up at the next meeting with David Harrison of OCC.

g) Concerns re speeding vehicles and HGVs in Portway

A member of the public had expressed concern about the speed of traffic travelling along Portway. It was noted that Earthline Ltd lorries were often seen speeding along the stretch of road however specific incidents and vehicle registration numbers were not known.

8. Principal Traffic Officer's Report

There was nothing further to report.

9. General Correspondence

None.

10. Date of Future Meetings:

9 September 2021

The meeting closed at 3.37 pm.
