

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE TRAFFIC ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM, ON  
THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY 2022, AT 2.30 P.M.**

Present:

Wantage Town Council	Councillors 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 Officers (OCC)	L Turner M Timms
Deputy Clerk	S Sanders
Town Centre Manager	A Yates
Others present	Two members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None

**2. To receive any declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests.**

None

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2021**

The minutes were approved.

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

None.

**5. Matters arising from the previous minutes:**

a) Update on installation of dropped kerbs in various locations

Mr Turner was to check the progress of the installation of the remaining dropped kerbs that had been ordered. It was noted that the dropped kerb near Barclays Bank needed attention. Ms Thwaite agreed to put the request on Fix my Street. **Action: Turner/Thwaite**

b) Update regarding Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

To date 64 PCNs (Penalty Charge Notice) had been issued since the introduction of CPE in November 2021. It was noted that illegally parked vehicles can be reported via OCC's website.

c) Update on 20's Plenty Scheme

Wantage Town Council has applied for the scheme detailing the areas identified as being suitable for 20 mph limit. An acknowledgement had been received from OCC. £2m had been put into the budget for the next financial year to help fund the initiative, but the budget had not yet been approved. Grove Parish Council had not yet registered their interest in the scheme.

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

An old faulty VAS has been replaced in East Challow. Two new units were to be installed by the developer Crest Nicholson.

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

A planning application had been submitted to the District Council by the developer for the steps that had been installed and that had deviated from the planning permission. There had been 26 objections received to date about the installation of steps. The application has not yet been determined.

f) Update on school buses parking on Portway and Seesen Way

The plans to enable school buses to park at the leisure centre have been put on hold by King Alfred's Academy as it is not their priority. Councillor Hannaby will arrange a meeting with King Alfred's Academy to discuss the situation. **Action: Hannaby**

g) Update on loose manhole covers in Wallingford Street and Portway

Some of the loose manhole covers had been fixed. It was noted that two Thames Water manhole covers had been poorly repaired. Three manhole covers had been repaired near St Katharine's Care Home but were still making a loud noise when vehicles drive over them. A permit is required for work to be carried out on the highway. Mr Timms to chase.

**Action: Timms**

h) Update on request for HAMP (Highways Assessment Maintenance Programme) – Mill Street

Mr Timms agreed to put the request on Street Manager - Street Manager has replaced HAMP.

**Action: Timms**

i) Update regarding improvements to signage near Charlton Primary School

A feasibility study was being carried out by OCC regarding a crossing. A site visit was due at the end of January.

j) Markings on paths around Grove (reading TX2)

The markings indicate areas to be surfaced (slurry seal). The work was due to take place in December but it was reported that it had not yet been carried out. Councillor Hannaby to chase this. **Action: Hannaby**

k) Update on installation of SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices)

OCC had installed poles in Mably Way, Main Street, Denchworth Road (near the Baytree Public House) and Mayfield Avenue, Grove. The SIDs had been received, one had been installed on Denchworth Road and the remaining two were to be installed shortly. The three SIDs will be moved around periodically.

l) Raised utility cover – Mayfield Avenue

Mr Timms was to investigate the raised utility cover near King Cup Green, Mayfield Avenue.

**Action: Timms**

m) Problems with footpath from the aeroplane at Denchworth Road to Recreation Lane

It was noted that the work was still in progress but there were concerns that the new footway is not continuous resulting in pedestrians having to cross the road twice. It was not understood

why the road had been designed this way. Councillor Hannaby was to contact the Road Agreements Team. There was no update. **Action: Hannaby**

n) Update on cycle track from Lark Hill to Lockinge

Oxfordshire County Council had agreed to design the track using their funds which will be reimbursed from funds from the Kingsgrove development.

o) Update on installation of benches- Charlton Village Road and Mably Way

A suitable location at Mably Way had been found to install a bench opposite the entrance to the Mably Way Health Centre. There was to be a new bus stop along the stretch of road to serve the new bus routes. The Deputy Clerk was to liaise with OCC to find out if the new bus stop could be placed next to the site for the new bench. It would not be possible to install a bench near the bus shelter on Charlton Village Road as the location was not suitable.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

p) Update on temporary pedestrianisation area (western end of Market Place)

An ETRO (Experimental Traffic Regulation Order) had been implemented by OCC enabling the area to remain closed – it will operate for a maximum period of 18 months from 3 January 2022. There will be a consultation. OCC will then consider whether the provisions of the ETRO should remain in force indefinitely.

q) Update on maintenance to roundabouts – Mably Way

The vegetation on the roundabouts causing visibility issues had been cleared.

6. Matters referred by Grove Parish Council

Grove Parish Council had received complaints about the changes to bus routes - there was insufficient information given prior to the changes. Bus stop signs would need to be removed from the stops that are no longer used. The Deputy Clerk agreed to speak to OCC to ensure this is done. Once the road works have finished Grove Parish Council will look at what bus shelters can be added within their parish.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

7. Matters referred by Wantage Town Council and others

a) Buses using Mill Street

A member of the public had raised concerns about buses using Mill Street contravening a traffic sign prohibiting vehicles exceeding a weight limit of 7.5 T. Mr Hulme confirmed this is a goods vehicle restriction- it does not apply to buses.

b) Signage into the Market Place from Mill Steet to stop vehicles turning right

It was agreed that a bollard (as used at the eastern end of the Market Square) with a keep left arrow could be installed on the small island at the western end of the Market Square. It was noted that vehicles were still turning right from the Newbury Street approach despite the installation of directional bollards and additional signage. This was to be monitored.

**Action: Turner**

c) Potholes in Market Place (bus stop) and sunken Road

Potholes had been filled but now need repairing again. The road has sunken near the vehicle exit from the Market Square causing a deep hole. Mr Timms agreed to investigate this.

**Action: Timms**

d) Flooding in Charlton Village Road near Palmers

A team would be visiting the area to investigate the flooding within the next couple of weeks.

e) Harcourt Green area – blocked gullies and request for materials to firm verges to enable parking of vehicles

**Flooding**

A team would be visiting the area to investigate the flooding within the next couple of weeks. All issues should be put on Fix my Street.

**Parking on Verges**

Permission from the landowner would be needed if materials were to be put on the land. It was not thought to be owned by OCC. Mr Turner was to find out who had ownership.

**Action: Turner**

f) Potholes A417 (outside King Alfred's West Site)

The potholes had been repaired.

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

There was nothing further to report.

**9. General Correspondence**

None.

**10. Date of Future Meeting:**

7 April 2022

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm.

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