

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE TRAFFIC ADVISORY
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON
THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 2.30PM**

Present:

Wantage Town Council: Councillors I R Cameron, S Third and S Thwaite
Grove Parish Council: Councillors J Stock (Chair) R Ackers, R Batstone and F Parnell
County Council Officer: L Turner
Clerk: S Sanders
Others present: 2 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors T Gilhome and J T Hannaby, and C Hulme (Thames Valley Police).

2. To receive any declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests.

None

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Statements and questions from the public.

None.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes:

a) Update on cycle track from Larkhill to Lockinge

The Clerk was to contact Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for an update. **Action: Clerk**

b) Update on requests for controlled pedestrian crossings at three locations – Denchworth Road (Fitzwaryn), Ham Road and Mably Way

Wantage Town Council had agreed at a meeting that the delivery of a controlled pedestrian crossing at Mably Way should take priority over Ham Road. Both remain as a request only due to lack of funding/design.

Denchworth Road - Funding of £160k had been received from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Engineers were working on the design.

c) Update on issues with bus stops (Wantage and Grove)

The following issues had been raised with OCC and their comments added.

1. No bus stop markers or timetables Mably Way and Cane Lane – Timetable displays are the responsibility of bus operators. OCC agreed to chase this. **Action: Clerk**
2. No bus stop sign opposite Tescos, Grove. - Southbound Millbrook Square stop has never been marked with a pole but it is recognised that one is needed. A consultation with residents is required prior to installation and will be carried out by OCC. **Action: Clerk**
3. Bus stop north side of Market Place is no longer drop off only, but the sign remains - Flag has been changed to show that the service X36 picks up and continues to Kingsgrove.

d) Update on issues with kerb access at the top of Mill Street near the Bell PH

It was agreed that a site meeting be arranged.

Action: Turner

e) Update on road safety issues - Grove Street/Stirlings Road

There had been a site meeting and a plan had been proposed by OCC. The Clerk was to carry out an informal consultation to gauge the opinions of residents/business owners of Grove Street and Stirlings Road.

Action: Clerk

f) Update on Little Lane maintenance

It is understood that the John Lewis Partnership have responsibility for the area of Little Lane that requires maintenance. The Clerk was in communication with the property manager and had sent photographs of the potholes, highlighting the issue.

g) Update on pedestrian safety issues from Kingsgrove to Lockinge

Mr Turner said that there were no plans to improve the pedestrian crossing. The area is not wide enough to accommodate a pedestrian refuge island. He agreed to raise the safety concerns with the Road Agreement team.

Action: Turner

h) Update on 20's Plenty Scheme

The 20's Plenty Scheme (Wantage) was due to be implemented by November 2023. It was noted that there had been a claim that this scheme would have an impact on Wantage Fire Station which could result in its closure. A comment had been received from the Director of Community Safety and Chief Fire Officer (OCC) as follows: 'As a fire and rescue service we recognise there is a balance between increasing road safety through reducing speed limits and the impact on our response due On Call firefighters turning into stations. There is no risk that this initiative would lead to the closure of the station at Wantage'.

6. Matters referred by Grove Parish Council

a) Request for a pedestrian crossing at Recreation Lane near bus stop

It was agreed that Mr Turner should refer the request to the appropriate team.

Action: Turner

7. Matters referred by Wantage Town Council

a) Vehicle speed/noise at various locations including Chain Hill

The Town Council can commission OCC to carry out speed surveys. The cost of a survey would be approximately £200. The 20mph speed limit will include the current 30mph limit on Chain Hill. Speeding issues are the responsibility of the police to enforce. Any concerns about repeat incidents should be reported to the police. The Clerk was to refer this to the Council's Planning Committee.

Action: Clerk

b) Issues with the pedestrian crossing on Grove Road near MacDermid

It had been reported that the signal-controlled crossing was not functioning correctly. Mr Turner to investigate

Action: Turner

c) Request for a bus shelter Downsview Road (Wellington Gate)

Councillor Stock was to investigate if there was a bus shelter due to be installed.

Action: Chair

d) Request for a one-way system Springfield Road

The item was deferred to await more information.

e) Civil Parking Enforcement

Due to Councillor Hannaby's absence, it was agreed that this item be deferred.

f) Layby on the A417 (near the Kingsgrove development).

Concerns were raised about the work. The poorly controlled temporary traffic lights were causing traffic queues and delays. It was suggested that during peak times the lights should be controlled manually. Mr Turner agreed to investigate.

Action: Turner

8. Principal Traffic Officer's Report

There was nothing further to report.

9. General Correspondence

None

10. Date of Future Meeting:

Thursday 11 January at 2.30pm

The meeting closed at 3.40pm
