

MINUTES of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30 pm on Monday, 14th January 2019.

PRESENT: Councillor Harrison in the Chair.
Councillors Bourke-Waite, Brown, Coll, Hughes, Inwood, Perry, Phillips, P Smith and Swallow.

In attendance: Town Clerk
Town Councillors Davison, FJ Smith and Squire-Smith
District Councillors Green and Hunter
County Councillors Hill and Jarvis
2 Members of the Public

Councillor Harrison reminded those present that the meeting would be recorded.

300/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

301/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None.

302/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

There were none.

Councillor Bourke-Waite arrived at the meeting at 7.32pm.

303/19 MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the General Purpose & Highways Committee held on:

- 15th October 2018 (minutes 208/19 to 219/19)

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

304/19 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Members received a report from County Councillor Hill:

- Sustainable Travel Towns: Cllr Hill stated that she would be happy to be on a working party if members agree that they wish to proceed with a bid.
- Seating at bus stops: County is prepared to assist with requests as they are received. Cllr Hill informed members that this item has been included in the S106 list.
- North Herts Bus Users Group: Cllr Hill attended, along with other councillors.
- John Street and High Street, Royston: Cllr Hill updated members on the proposal to put yellow lines on the corner of John Street and the High Street. As there is already an enforcement strategy in place it is now being enforced by NHDC and so yellow lines are not permissible.

- Melbourn Street: There is a site meeting due this week with the Highways Officer, whatever the outcome it would have to be enforced. Any ideas that members had suggested would only work as long as they were enforced.
- The budget process is underway – some speed indicator devices are going to be turned shortly and there is a proposal to get another device on Barkway Road in the next financial year.
- Councillor Hill has responded to the NHDC Parking Strategy as County Councillor.
- The Highways Together project: a meeting date to be agreed and the meeting to be attended by the Town Clerk, Town Councillors Harrison and Swallow, County Councillors, NHDC Area Committee Chairman and Highways Officers.
- Health and Wellbeing: various projects are underway in partnership with District Councils and other stakeholders, addressing a preventative agenda which is a big priority for the Government.
- Raising awareness of Sepsis: this is not hugely recognised and can be fatal if not caught early on and the importance of raising awareness was emphasised. County Locality Budget funding has gone into this.
- Working with carers in carers groups: working to highlight and try to help carers with financial issues and assessment problems that are coming up for them and their loved ones that are going into care.

Members received a report from County Councillor Jarvis:

- Highways have given £7.8 million to Hertfordshire to mend roads but it needs to be used by the end of March 2019. Resurfacing of Tannery Drift will be brought forward to this period and also resurfacing of the road to Therfield.
- Sustainable Travel Towns: originally the County Council was going to decide which towns would become sustainable travel towns, but now towns can bid for it. Previously it was thought that larger towns would be better suited, but it was felt that there was more scope to include smaller towns. It could be helpful in securing funding for the A505 crossing.
- A505 and A507: no further update at this time.
- Locality budget: the speed indicator device in Baldock Road is not currently working and this will be looked in to. A device for London Road has been added to the budget for next year, as it was felt that the new style device is more effective than the older style that is already there.
- There is a consultation relating to the fire service called the integrated risk management plan. It includes proposals for them to look at the changes in the way they man fire appliances, with suggestions as to how they might change the way they deal with part time crewed fire appliances, due to the lack of available part time crew during the day and also the use of smaller appliances when large appliances are not required to attend.
- Councillor Jarvis was asked whether the resurfacing work brought forward to March would affect the integrated works programme. Councillor Jarvis informed members that there would be a big gap in the integrated work programme next year which they would have to fill and demonstrate that the money had been spent. Once the

additional works have all been planned, they would then look at further works to replace the ones brought forward for this year.

Members received a Report from District Councillor Hunter:

- NHDC have a couple of consultations going on at the moment – a major one being the Local Plan which is out for consultation on the modifications. The consultation period

has been extended until 4th March. There is also the Housing consultation, which closes on 1st February.

- Proposed Budgets: NHDC is currently working with County on the health and wellbeing side – with £50,000 added to the budget to extend schemes. NHDC are looking to achieve more public recognition and council recognition by putting things in MIS and working with charities and communities across the region. Royston has a ‘Meet and Eat’ scheme plus a gardening scheme. The extra funding will give groups more scope to pre-plan and ensure more outreach in the area.

It has also been recognised that the CAB is under a lot of pressure and so £50,000 has been added to the budget to aid and assist them.

Also in the proposed budget, £10,000 has been earmarked for replacement trees as over 30 trees were lost last year due to the hot weather.

Furthermore, the proposed capital budget keeps £1 million for the leisure centre extension. The business plan would not work at the moment because there is too much competition on the gym side in Royston, but things do change.

- The Parking Review has been broken down into phases. Charging for parking on The Heath could have repercussions on the roads in the surrounding area. If that happens NHDC will have to look at it accordingly.
- Sustainable Travel Towns: Cllr Hunter indicated that he would be happy to be on a working party if required.
- County Council are running a ‘Social Isolation Pilot’ in Letchworth. NHDC are working with them to find ‘connectors’ to work with and recognise and assist people in need. The NHDC community team are looking for people to assist with this pilot.
- The Cabinet appeal at Reed was dismissed.
- The commemorative stone laying yesterday, at Hitchin, for Frank Young VC was well attended with over 120 people in church and at the service outside.

The Chairman thanked the County and District Councillors for their reports and asked members if they had any questions:

Clarification was sought on the £1 million for the leisure centre. Cllr Hunter said it was still delayed, but it would roll on and would not be taken out of the capital budget.

It was stated that local residents feel that the speed indicators are a success and there has been a noticeable reduction in speeding traffic.

An update on the A505 was requested due to the recent amount of serious accidents occurring. Councillor Jarvis has been in contact with the Director of the Environment to enquire as to why it has not been progressed and this is being investigated. Councillor Jarvis understands that the proposals would still involve a roundabout at Ashwell Station and not at Slip End and right turns onto A505 from most other

junctions would be banned. He has not seen the latest version, but will keep members updated.

305/19 NATURALLY ROYSTON WORKING PARTY:

Members **AGREED** to receive the notes of the Naturally Royston Working Party meetings held on 23rd October and 4th December 2018 into the workings of the Council.

306/19 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TOWNS:

Members **AGREED** that a working party should be set up to formulate a bid. Members **RESOLVED** that Town Councillors Harrison, Swallow, Inwood and Perry should be members of the working party, along with County Councillors Hill and Jarvis and District Councillor Hunter.

307/19 PARKING AT ROYSTON HEATH:

Members had received a briefing from the Conservators of Royston Heath. Members discussed at length possible alternatives to parking charges at the Heath. There were suggestions of parking permits if people became members of Friends of Royston Heath or the sporting clubs, or possible cheaper parking offered to Royston residents. It was confirmed that no decision has been reached about parking charges at this time. The Conservators' representative thanked members for their suggestions and he would put them forward at the next Conservators meeting. The Chair said that this matter would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Committee.

308/19 SEATING AT BUS STOPS IN ROYSTON:

Members **RESOLVED** that recommendations would be made to NHDC for shelters and seating to be positioned in the following locations:

- Town Hall
- Railway Station (East & West)
- Icknield Walk Stores
- Melbourn Road outside the Cemetery

309/19 NORTH HERTS BUS USERS GROUP:

Members received a report from Cllr Harrison on the North Herts Bus Users Group meeting held on Tuesday 8th January. It was reported that there has been damage to bus stops in Letchworth and problems with buses in the Hitchin and North Herts area had been reported. A late night service to Stevenage was praised for being very good. Trumpington Park and Ride are putting in a new waiting area and parking area for the airport buses that use the facility. There is currently a consultation about expansion of the Trumpington site with either a multi-storey development on the existing site or an additional site south of the current site.

310/19 OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

There were no reports received.

Date of next meeting: 18th March 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date _____