

MINUTES of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30 pm on Monday, 16th July 2018.

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

In attendance: Town Clerk
Town Councillor FJ Smith
County Councillor Steve Jarvis and District Councillors Jean Green and Tony Hunter

112/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were none.

113/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

There were none.

114/19 MINUTES:

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

- 5th March 2018 (Minutes 352/18 to 363/18)
- 14th May 2018 (Minutes 43/19 to 47/19)

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

115/19 NATURALLY ROYSTON WORKING PARTY:

Members **AGREED** to receive the notes of the Naturally Royston Working Party meetings held on 27th March 2018, 24th April 2018 and 3rd July 2018 into the workings of the Council.

116/19 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Report from County Councillor Fiona Hill: A report was received which was read out by the Chairman.

Mill Road and Stamford Avenue Area: The issues of speeding and parking have been raised with officers at HCC/NHDC (including during the planning process with recent applications) and a study has been requested into the possibility of a one way system in Mill Road. This could have a detrimental effect on roads such as Stamford Avenue, Queens Road and ultimately Old North Road and Melbourn Road.
There are now parking restrictions in Lumen Road through the Highways Locality Budget.

Burns Road – Safety: A Speed Indicator Device has been installed near the schools. This is proving successful in reducing speeds where drivers are not genuinely looking to break speed limits. The police will also be carrying out speed checks.

There are yellow lines on the corners of the roads opposite the schools and staff/parents/carers/visitors have been requested to show consideration regarding parking on the roads near the schools.

In Burns Road, the roundabout and speed measures, such as speed bumps, do help with speed reduction but problems do still exist.

Further possible measures near the Coombes Community Centre are being investigated through the Highways Locality Budget.

A507 Proposed Weight Limit: This is going through the process. In the meantime, a weight limit proposal in Melbourn Street, Baldock Street and Baldock Road remains on the Highways Locality Budget.

A505 and Utility Works: Highways Officers are aware of the congestion and clashes with various works and are trying to eliminate as many issues as possible.

North Hertfordshire Bus Users Group: The issue of parking problems at the Trumpington Park and Ride was raised. The new 18 service was discussed, the bus goes to the end of Burns Road. Councillor Hill asked for feedback on any problems and they will be reported to the North Herts Bus Users Group.

HAFSL - Hertfordshire Adult And Family Learning Service: The Awards evening recently took place in Hatfield where the tremendous achievement of adult learners, against often very challenging circumstances, was recognised.

Hertfordshire Adult Care Services Workforce and Hertfordshire Carers' Strategies: These strategies, both 2018/21, have now been through the process at HCC and adopted by Cabinet.

Report from County Councillor Steve Jarvis:

Councillor Jarvis informed members about the draft report on safety improvements on the A505 between Royston and Baldock, which proposes closing most of the gaps to turn right onto the A505 and adding a roundabout at Ashwell Station and another at Slip End. The report still has to be checked and approved.

The issue of identifying the funding, which will be substantial, and the phasing of the implementation of the work are yet to be decided. The safety improvements at the McDonalds roundabout will now not take place until next year.

Regarding the lane closures on local roads while work on the A505 is carried out, he has spoken with Highways Network Management to establish whether they can make further changes to reduce the disruption to traffic. They have made some suggestions which include reducing the time scale for the completion of the work.

Councillor Jarvis has been looking to identify ways to make it easier for people at the far end of the Baldock Road near Ivy Farm to cross over to the Heath without going into town.

The Police and Crime Commissioner submitted a business case to take over the running of the Fire Service. A number of locations in the county have police and fire stations fairly close to each other and Royston is one of those. The PCC has identified a number of places where he initially proposes to combine the stations into one and Royston is not one of these. Those proposed to be combined initially include Buntingford, Bishops

Stortford, Hatfield and Hitchin. The PCC proposes that money will be saved by combining these facilities. The decision on the PCC's proposal is to be made by the Home Secretary imminently.

Finally Councillor Jarvis made members aware of the proposal to transfer the management of libraries to an alternative organisation. The proposals will appear in the autumn.

Councillor Inwood asked Councillor Jarvis when it is anticipated that the roundabout at the Ashwell turning would be constructed. Councillor Jarvis explained that there would not be funding in the next financial year, so it would probably be in 2020/2021.

Report from District Councillor Tony Hunter:

Busking: Councillor Hunter advised members that Area Committee have asked enforcement officers to work with the local Police and adopt a gentle approach to begin with. This appears to be working so far as he has since seen two buskers on The Cross, which is the preferred area. He has also been looking at new laws to see if they could be used to address this matter as buskers do not currently need a license.

He then apologised for the problems with the brown bins and advised that officers are working with the new contractors to put things right. The ongoing issues are disappointing given that the new contract will have been in place for three months at the end of July.

Councillor Hunter informed members that officers have agreed to arrange a date to discuss the complexities of section 106 monies and this will involve all Councillors and will be held in September 2018. He also stated that he is working with Barley Parish Council to try to obtain funds from the Police and Crime Commissioners road safety fund.

Report from Councillor Ruth Brown:

Councillor Brown asked to give a report as a District Councillor and the Chairman agreed.

The ongoing problems with the new waste collection contract were highlighted. Members of the public have now been advised to contact Urbaser direct as the issue has been taking up much of the Councillors and council officers' time. It has been questioned whether the contract will continue beyond the initial three month period.

Councillor Brown also spoke about the speeding in Barkway Road and advised that steps are in place to raise a petition. There are also issues around parking and grass cutting.

Agreement has been received in principal for £54,000 from Section 106 monies from NHDC to be put towards the new A505 bridge crossing. Coombes Community Centre have received a Communities Facility Grant towards a new lift.

117/19 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN BURNS ROAD, ROYSTON:

Members discussed the issue of traffic management in Burns Road. The subject of speeding at the top end of the road between the community centre and the new estate came up frequently during canvassing for elections. There are currently few restrictions

in situ at the top end of the road to prevent speeding. Members all agreed that traffic management needs to be thought about carefully as measures can often cause problems for local residents and buses, however, they believed that some type of further restriction was required. Members **AGREED** to await the findings from County Councillor Fiona Hill, who is currently researching the options available, and this matter can be discussed further at future meetings.

118/19 ROYSTON SCHOOL VISITS 2018:

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the Final Report of the Royston Schools Visits 2018 into the workings of the council.

119/19 LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR HERTFORDSHIRE:

Councillor Harrison suggested a working party is formed to address this matter. It was **AGREED** that Town Councillors Bourke-Waite, Brown and Swallow, District Councillor Hunter and County Councillor Hill would be Members of the Working Party along with Councillor Harrison.

120/19 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BUSES:

Councillor Harrison reported on the meeting he attended with Councillor Vera Swallow, County Councillors Fiona Hill and Steve Jarvis and District Councillor Tony Hunter.

One of the items mentioned at this meeting was the new 18 service which is replacing the 331 service. This bus is run by CentreBus instead of Arriva. Councillor Harrison advised members of the new bus route and timetables.

Members were also advised that the 26 service between Royston and Trumpington will be withdrawn at the end of this month and will be replaced by a new "A" service.

Councillors discussed the potential impact of the new service upon Royston residents and agreed that it seemed to be an improvement on the current one.

121/19 OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Councillor Brown reported that she had visited the Citizens Advice Bureau recently. The CAB currently has a high level of volunteer recruitment, has appointed a new CEO and two new trustees. The CAB has campaigned nationally to improve the role of Universal Credit with some success. Funding remains a challenge, costs are rising, core funding is static and project funding is reduced. The most common problem is issues around benefits, with Universal Credit issues having doubled and are expected to increase further with the full roll out in October.

The CAB have established a service called the Royston Complex Needs service which is an additional service for the residents of Royston with debts and benefits issues. This is funded by the Brian Racher Trust and Royston Rotary jointly. CAB staff have all recently been on ASK training and now routinely ask all clients if they have experienced gender violence or abuse. Councillor Brown found the visit interesting and was impressed with the work the CAB undertake in very challenging circumstances.

Councillor Brown then reported that Royston & District Twinning Association recently held their AGM and have appointed a new social and publicity officer. They have a German visit planned to coincide with the Arts Festival 28th September – 2nd October 2018. They are currently recruiting hosts and organising the program. If anyone is interested in hosting please let Councillor Brown know. Their annual dinner this year will be held on 16th November 2018 at 7.30pm, to which all councillors are invited.

Councillor Inwood reported on his first meeting as a member of the Coombes Community Centre Committee, who welcomed him with open arms. The centre has had a lower level of business than expected this year in comparison with last year, which was a record year. There has also been an issue with the centre's pump. The building was previously owned by NHDC and it is currently unclear who will pay for the new pump system. The work for the new car parking spaces is currently planned for late August or early September. The centre also have acquired a spot on the notice board at Tesco where they can place publicity leaflets. They are also organising a network group for local groups and businesses to be held two to three times a year, which will be free of charge for groups attending.

Date of next meeting: 15th October 2018.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.22 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date _____

