

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30pm on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Harrison (Chair)  
Councillors Brown, Coll, Hughes, Inwood, Perry, Phillips, P Smith and Swallow

**In attendance:** Town Clerk  
County Councillor Jarvis

The Chairman informed members that the meeting was being recorded. It was noted that Councillor Brown was also recording.

**275/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was none.

**276/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bourke-Waite.

**277/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

There were none.

**278/20 APPROVAL OF GENERAL PURPOSE AND HIGHWAYS MINUTES:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (minutes 199/20 to 210/20), subject to the adding of Councillor Brown as attending the meeting.  
The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Hughes asked for an update on actions with regard to minute 203/20. He asked Councillor Brown if she had raised the matter at NHDC and asked if a reply had been received to the Town Council's letter.

Councillor Brown confirmed that she had raised the matter with the Cabinet member and the deputy, and they confirmed that they would follow it up. The Chairman asked if they had done so. Councillor Brown said that she did not know but would follow it up with them.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a reply to the Town Council's letter had not yet been received. The letter was sent to the Chief Executive and other NHDC contacts, but none of the recipients have replied. The Town Clerk would chase a response.

**279/20 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NHDC ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE:**

Members received a report from County Councillor Steve Jarvis:

- Arrows on the McDonalds roundabout have been repainted. A505 meetings have taken place with the Fire Service, who are interested in road safety implications on the A505, looking at what they can do in terms of communicating the dangers of the A505 and what can be done to make people more aware about the issues.
- Highways locality budgets for next year will be set shortly. Projects should include a traffic island in Baldock Road and resurfacing work.

- The County Council are putting in place a charitable organisation to run some libraries. This was originally going to happen in December but has now been put back to the start of the next financial year.
- The North and Central Hertfordshire Growth and Transport Plan has been produced by Herts County Council and covers North Herts and Stevenage. Consultation started a week ago and runs until sometime in March. It has a variety of proposals, the most significant ones from Royston's point of view are that it includes the A505 Bridge for the pedestrian/cycle route, and improvements to Royston bus station. Councillor Jarvis recommended that Members should view the consultation documents.
- There has been an investigation about joining the 127 and 91 bus services together so that there would be one service that runs from Royston through all the villages to Letchworth. This would increase the number of opportunities to travel the whole way by bus. This is not finalised as yet, but is feasible.

The Chairman asked how frequently this bus would run. Councillor Jarvis confirmed that it would be approximately every 2 hours.

Councillor Perry asked if it was possible for the Town Council to offer a consultation response. The Town Clerk confirmed that it would be on the agenda for the next meeting in March.

Councillor Coll asked if there was a safety design issue with the McDonalds roundabout. Councillor Jarvis confirmed that a review of the changes to the roundabout would take place shortly.

Members received a report from County Councillor Fiona Hill, read to members by the Town Clerk:

- With regard to the Sustainable Travel Town application, Councillor Hill felt that it should include, in more depth, the impact of traffic from Cambridgeshire, on Royston, using the A10, A1198 and A505 to pass through the town and park in the town, when using the station.
- Councillor Hill has attended meetings of the Granta Park Study Engagement Group, and she would be very happy to support Royston Town Council in a response. There are stakeholder meetings being held this week.
- Councillor Hill is happy to participate in the School visits again this year.
- The bus to Royston Gateway is now in operation and working well.
- Councillor Hill will be attending the next North Herts Bus Users' Group meeting.
- A number of Speed Indicator Devices have been moved, and can be moved again when necessary. Councillor Hill has recently commissioned Speed and Volume surveys in a number of roads, including Burns Road and The Warren. A feasibility study is scheduled in next year's Highways Locality Budget, for Burns Road. Councillor Hill continues to work with Hertfordshire County Council officers and the schools regarding recruitment of crossing patrols in Burns Road and Garden Walk.

The Traffic Regulation Order process is continuing on the proposals for the Grange Estate and Green Street. The issues in Layston Park will be addressed next financial year.

Widespread resurfacing work has been carried out in the town, including Melbourn Road and Stamford Avenue. Patching has also been carried out in Baldock Street, following concerns, particularly from users of mobility equipment.

- Councillor Hill continues to attend meetings regarding the proposal for an Integrated Health and Social Care facility on the London Road site and meetings regarding safety issues on the A505 and the A120 Crossing Group.
  - Residents have raised the issue of an additional bin in the Barkway Road/Limekiln Close area. This has been requested.
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- Councillor Hill is working with the Carers', Learning Disability and Autism groups to improve outcomes across Hertfordshire and she is also continuing to promote awareness of Sepsis and Dementia, which are becoming more prevalent.

Members received a report from District Councillor Tony Hunter, read to members by the Town Clerk:

- A trial of a Town Talk is being carried out this week prior to the Area Committee and members of the public are invited to ask questions. Town Councillors are welcome to attend.
- NHDC Full Council this week will be looking at the review of the Planning Code of Practice. Upon reading, the amendments are minor, but this is an important document.
- At the Full Council meeting, the current administration are proposing two new panels which are Community Engagement, Enterprise & Co-operative Development, and Housing, Strategic Planning & Transport.
- Officers have found sufficient funds from S106 sustainable transport to assist with the bike rack project in Royston
- Royston parking review is currently being worked on
- A Holocaust Memorial Day will be held at Howard Park Letchworth at 11am.

#### **280/20 NATURALLY ROYSTON WORKING PARTY:**

Members **AGREED** to receive the notes of the Naturally Royston Working Party meetings held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 into the workings of the Council.

#### **281/20 ROYSTON TOWN CENTRE WORKING PARTY:**

Members **AGREED** to receive the notes of the Royston Town Centre Working Party meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 into the workings of the Council.

#### **282/20 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TOWNS:**

Members **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would liaise with County and District Councils in order to arrange a meeting during the week of 17<sup>th</sup> February and also the week of 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The Town Clerk will report back to members with possible dates and times.

#### **283/20 ROYSTON TO GRANTA PARK STUDY ENGAGEMENT:**

Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Harrison, Councillor Swallow and the Town Clerk as the working party to formulate a response to the consultation on behalf of Royston Town Council.

#### **284/20 COUNCILLORS' SCHOOL VISITS:**

Members **AGREED** that Councillor Harrison would liaise with the officers of the council with regard to the school visits. All Town Councillors could be involved in the school visits if they wish.

#### **285/20 NHDC DRAFT PARKING OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES:**

Members disagreed fundamentally with policy 6. There should not be parking charges for evenings, Sundays and Bank Holidays in Royston. There are no buses that run during these times and so members of the public have little alternative but to drive and park.

Members believe that parking arrangements work well in Royston and would not like to see them amended greatly.

More electric charging points would be beneficial.

Members agreed that identifying more off street parking areas within Royston for short term free parking would be beneficial.

Members welcomed policy 13 – more provision of cycle parking as part of the parking review.

#### **286/20 OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:**

Members received a report from Councillor Harrison on the North Herts Bus Users Group meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019, at Baldock Community Centre.

- It was announced that the 16 Bus service would start a 45 minute service to Royston Gateway from 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- The 91 bus service to Letchworth is reportedly underused. There are currently discussions with Cambridgeshire County Council to extend the current 127 service to Letchworth via The Mordens and Ashwell.
- The Bus Services Act 2017 – trying to get operators to put on more buses and new models and perhaps reduce fares, was being looked at.
- Money for sustainable travel towns will be put in by various people and the County Council may try to get more money from Central Government.
- s106 money may go from Highways to buses. Bus lanes are a possibility in some built up areas, but are not possible on narrow country roads.
- The next meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at NHDC offices, 2pm.

Date of next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_