

MINUTES of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30pm on Monday, 16th March 2020.

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

In attendance: Town Clerk
Town Councillors Davison and Stanier
County Councillors Hill and Jarvis
District Councillor Hunter
1 member of the public

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

341/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Members were advised of the Plastic Free Royston project and the work carried out by the Naturally Royston Working Party.

342/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hughes and Inwood.

343/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

There were none.

344/20 APPROVAL OF GENERAL PURPOSE AND HIGHWAYS MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 13th January 2020 (minutes 275/20 to 286/20).

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

345/20 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NHDC ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE:

Members received a report from County Councillor Steve Jarvis:

- Some trees on the roundabout next to McDonalds will be cut down to make the restaurant more visible. This should help with the problem of people making last minute manoeuvres on the roundabout. Damaged or missing signs in the area will be replaced.
- The Highways programme for next year includes some resurfacing work in Weston Avenue and Kneesworth Street.
- Cllr Jarvis has suggested that the proposed waiting restrictions around York Way are extended to the junction as there is clearly a problem there.
- The County Council is reviewing its speed management strategy and considering where 20mph speed limits would be appropriate.
- Planning to join the 127 and 91 bus services together is continuing.

Members received a report from County Councillor Fiona Hill:

- The Council is busy dealing with Coronavirus and there are regular updates from public health which I am circulating to the Town Clerk and Leader of the Council as relevant.

- The budget has been set, social care ring-fencing 2%, adult care almost £366 million, children's services over £209 million, roads and waste almost £122 million, public health over £47 million and fire protection over £44 million.
- Councillor Hill met with the minister in London along with Sir Oliver Heald and Councillor Hunter to highlight problems faced with lack of accountability for utilities and developers. Work is ongoing to have mature trees replanted on Baldock Road. It is Councillor Hill's opinion that a hefty fine should be issued for removing the trees without permission. Neither NHDC nor HCC gave permission for the trees to be removed.
- School visits taking place as usual this year.
- Councillor Hill updated members on ongoing issues with Garden Walk. The lines have been repainted and there is now a permanent crossing patrol in Garden Walk and another in Burns Road. Councillor Hill is working with the police, schools and other stakeholders to educate drivers on illegal parking and speeding. Speed Indicator Devices have been relocated and are working well. Inconsiderate parking is still one of the main problems.
- The community locality budget scheme has been agreed again in this year's budget as has the highways locality budget.
- NHDC and HCC have both declared a climate emergency and therefore Councillor Hill hopes members will support the Plastic Free Initiative to be discussed later on the agenda. This also links into the Sustainable Travel Town which will be discussed later and the A505 bridge which is currently being worked on.
- Councillor Hill updated members on local road repairs and resurfacing including shaling on London Road and Barkway Road although some repairs are being held up waiting for utility works to be completed. Drainage issues near Stamford Avenue and Tesco's roundabout are being looked into.
- The issue of obstructing roads and pavements was raised by the Chairman and it was agreed that these should be reported to the police.

Members received a report from District Councillor Tony Hunter:

- The first Town Talk was very well attended with the main two issues being parking around the town and a possible Christmas Event. The next talk would be held in the cinema room which could accommodate more people.
- The Royston and District Community Transport manager has retired. Councillor Hunter wanted to commend him for all his work.
- Councillor Hunter drew attention to the house in Elm Walk which has been uninhabited for many years and has caused concern to local residents. Enforcement notices have been served under the Local Government Act and if the building is not made safe, NHDC will do the work themselves and seek costs.
- The Cabinet are looking at inflation linked car parking charges and Councillor Hunter has submitted his comments on this. Cabinet are also reviewing the Green Space Strategy, the delay on which has enabled 2 play areas to remain open. He thanked Councillor Hill for her work on this project.
- S106 money has been allocated for 2 bus shelters in Royston and they are being installed in Melbourn Road and Icknield Walk this summer.

346/20 NATURALLY ROYSTON WORKING PARTY:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Naturally Royston Plastic Free initiative and authorised the use of resources in the campaign.

Members **AGREED** to receive the notes of the Naturally Royston Working Party meetings held on the 18th December 2019 and 22nd January 2020 into the workings of the Council.

347/20 ROYSTON TOWN CENTRE WORKING PARTY:

Members **AGREED** to receive the notes of the Royston Town Centre Working Party meeting held on 3rd February 2020 into the workings of the Council.

348/20 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TOWN:

Councillor Harrison gave an update on Royston Town Council's bid for Royston to become a sustainable travel town.

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the proposed submission document.

The Town Clerk would submit the application tomorrow.

349/20 ROAD SAFETY ON GARDEN WALK:

Members had already received a report from Councillor Hill on this subject earlier in the evening. Members agreed to leave this matter to Councillor Hill as she was already working on the issues in the area.

350/20 PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER TO IMPLEMENT NEW 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME' (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES) RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIFIED LENGTHS OF YORK WAY, YORK WAY LINK ROAD, GREENFIELD, GREENFIELD LINK ROAD, DURHAM WAY AND DARLINGTON ROAD, ROYSTON:

Members **RESOLVED** that they supported the proposals as outlined but thought that there should also be double yellow lines on both sides of York Way from its junction with Beverley Close to the junction with the York Way Link Road.

351/20 NORTH CENTRAL GROWTH AND TRANSPORT PLAN CONSULTATION:

Members **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation about the Royston packages as follows – Members of Royston Town Council strongly agree with all of the aims except improved facilities and information at Royston bus station. Members agree that the current location of the bus station is not satisfactory and perhaps a feasibility study could be undertaken to move the hub where the buses are to the railway station. This would improve inter-connectivity with buses in Royston.

352/20 LOCAL BUSES:

Councillor Harrison gave an update.

- Discussions continue between Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire regarding merging the 91 and 127 bus services. This is expected to start in the summer.
- The A service route to Cambridge is changing after the Grafton Centre stop. In future it will go up past Shire Hall, down Histon Rd, and join the Busway via King's Hedges. It will no longer cover the science park or the regional college.
- The consultation with Cambridgeshire about a bus service linking Royston to Granta Park during rush hour periods has been responded to on behalf of the Town Council.

353/20 OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

Members received a report from Councillor Phillips about the Coombes Community Centre committee meeting. The Centre manager reported that bookings and takings had increased again and over 40 clubs are now using the Centre. Projects discussed included improvements to the ramp. The Centre has a new maintenance man who is very competent. The Centre is being well run thanks to the staff and Trustees.

354/20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, that, in the public interest, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960.

355/20 CAR PARKING:

Councillor Brown declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion or vote.

Members **RESOLVED** that there should be no increase in car parking charges in any car park in Royston.

Date of next meeting: 18th May 2020.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.38pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date _____

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