

MINUTES of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in the Heritage Hall at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 12th July 2021.

PRESENT: Councillor Harrison (Chair)
Councillors Coll, Perry, Phillips, P Smith and Stanier.

In attendance: Town Clerk
County Councillor Hill and District Councillor Hunter

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting was being recorded.

89/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

90/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Brown, Hughes and Inwood.

91/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

Members were advised to declare any interests at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. No requests for dispensations were received.

92/22 APPROVAL OF GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the General Purpose & Highways Committee held on Monday 17th May 2021 (minutes 45/22 to 51/22).

93/22 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the notes of the Sustainable Travel Town Working Party meeting held on Wednesday 16th June 2021 into the workings of the council.

94/22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NHDC ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE:

Members received a report from County Councillor Hill:

- Councillor Hill reported that she/HCC is continuing to work with RTC, NHDC plus other stakeholders, progressing the potential Royston Sustainable Travel Town.
- She has also been working with HCC officers/Network Rail/contractors with regard to improved access between the platforms at the station.
- Road resurfacing, which had been held up due to utility works, has now been carried out on Old North Road/Kneesworth Street, near the railway bridge. Carriageway works are planned for Green Street, near Gage Close and Morton Street, The Ridings, Grange Bottom, London Road, the A10 Melbourn Road and the bypass.

- Footpath resurfacing is planned for Coltsfoot Drive, Lingfield Road, Wheatfield Crescent and Kingsway.
- Safety improvements are being investigated for Burns Road, near the community centre, following a feasibility study funded through HLB. A SID is being considered in Melbourn Road.
- The A505 safer crossing work is ongoing and has had approval from the Greater Cambridge Partnership/Melbourn Greenway project. Hopefully, this will continue with the new administration in Cambridgeshire.
- Grass cutting has been taking place along the A505, with litter picking being carried out at the same time, as far as possible, to ensure minimum impact on the road network.
- Various drainage issues in the system are earmarked for work soon.
- A consultation on yellow lines at Layston Park has been carried out and the results are being analysed.
- There is now a new pedestrian refuge on Baldock Road.
- Safety work on the A505 between Baldock and Royston has been carried out, including new signage and lines, but more intense work will soon be carried out at the Litlington turn, until the end of September.
- Speed checks are carried out by the Police, in various areas.
- More generally, HCC is continuing to work with partners and stakeholders with regard to COVID. Waste recycling centres are open within COVID restrictions and the majority of libraries should be fully open within the next week or so, but without some of the activities such as Rhyme Time, until later in the year. The Summer Reading Challenge has been launched in libraries across the whole county with participation and membership from many children.
- Armed Forces Events were held across the County during June, for Armed Forces Week, with an official COVID compliant HCC event at Hertford Castle on 23rd June.

Members received a report from District Councillor Tony Hunter:

- Councillor Hunter reported that NHDC had had its first full council meeting which was held at Hitchin Town Hall. The Royston Area committee had also held its first meeting at Royston Town Hall where two grants were awarded - one to the Coombes Community Centre and one to Royston Town Football Club.
- The Community Engagement Officer continues to work with local groups including RTC on developer contributions, S106 and other capital projects. Projects completed include the fencing around the BMX track on Burns Road, the bike shelter on the Market Square and the bus shelter on Icknield Walk. Other projects are in progress including other bus shelters, cycle racks around the town centre, a new all-weather hockey pitch, a new venue for the Royston Scouts, disabled access to the Barkway Pavilion and kitchen improvements to the Town Hall. The CEO supported the application for the

Trinity Life Church who were fortunate enough to get £50,000 from the Capital Grant Fund towards refurbishment and alterations.

- The parking review continues and there will be another meeting later this month.
- The consultation on the Local Plan is now closed and it is anticipated that the report from the inspector will be received in late summer.
- The Local Government Boundary Review is taking place and there will be a briefing this month. It is anticipated that there will be alterations at District Council level.
- HCC were successful in obtaining a grant from the DfT towards Demand Responsive Transport covering villages around Letchworth, Baldock and Royston with Royston being one of the key hubs. The next Highways Liaison meeting will take place on 21st July where more information will be available on this.

95/22 AFFINITY WATER DRAFT DROUGHT PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the Affinity Water Draft Drought Plan as presented with no recommendations.

96/22 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

- The Chairman gave a brief update on changes to the bus services in and around Royston.
- The bus shelter for outside the Town Hall has been ordered and should be here by the end of the year or beginning of 2022.
- The Chairman reported that he had been re-elected to the executive committee of HAPTC.
He had been informed at the AGM, that the holding pattern for aircraft approaching Luton Airport was going to be changed so that planes would be flying over Royston at 7,000ft. Members were aware of the consultation but thought that it had already closed. Cllr Harrison agreed to investigate further.
- He would give his report on HAPTC at the next Full Council meeting in September.

97/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

There were no reports.

Date of next meeting: 11th October 2021.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.59pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____