

MINUTES of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in the Heritage Hall at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 11th October 2021.

PRESENT: Councillor Harrison (Chair)
Councillors Coll, Hughes, Inwood, Perry and Stanier.

In attendance: Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk
County Councillor Hill and District Councillors Green and Hunter

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

166/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

167/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Brown, Phillips and P Smith.

168/22 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.

169/22 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 12th July 2021 (minutes 89/22 to 97/22). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

170/22 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the notes of the Sustainable Travel Town Working Party meetings held on Tuesday 27th July and Wednesday 15th September 2021 into the workings of the council.

171/22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NHDC ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE:

Members received a report from County Councillor Hill (FH)

- FH reported that the new on-demand bus service – HertsLynx - has been very successful since the launch by HCC on 19th September.
- HCC/Herts Sports Partnership had run the Herts Holiday Activity Programme 'HAPPY' at the Coombes Centre in Royston and are also working on other schemes including targeting vulnerable children.
- There is a North Herts Youth Council whose meetings currently take place in Letchworth. We would like to find young people from Royston to attend and members were asked to spread the word locally. The North Herts Youth Council would supplement the proposed Royston Youth Council and not replace it.

- FH is continuing to work with stakeholders including the PCC, Police, schools, HCC, NHDC, RTC, residents and DriveSafe on speeding, congestion and parking and more roads have been requested to be added to the scheme.
- The safety work at the Litlington junction on the A505 is complete and should make a big difference particularly in stopping drivers from turning onto the A505 the wrong way.
- Most of the scheduled yellow lining, through HLB, is complete with further work due in Layston Park.
- There have been many problems on the Ridings Estate with the gas works that have been carried out, with some newly laid pavements being dug up. FH has been working on resolving issues for residents in the area, with Sir Oliver Heald QC MP and Councillors Harrison and Hunter. The lack of accountability for utility companies is a national problem and has been raised at Government level.
- Services such as libraries and recycling centres are all open and day centres are increasingly opening. Services for people with mental health issues and domestic abuse are being invested in. The adult learning service HAFLS has been rebranded as 'Step2Skills'. This service improves skills, including literacy and numeracy, for adults and has a huge impact on self-esteem and confidence.
- FH is continuing to work with officers and councillors, from HCC, NHDC and RTC on the Sustainable Travel Town and they were making steady progress.

Members received a report from District Councillor Hunter:

- Cllr Hunter reported that meetings at NHDC had mostly returned to face to face although Zoom was still being used for non-decision making meetings.
- The Local Plan was still under consideration by the inspector.
- Safety work funded by the locality budget had been completed.
- Three new panels had been set up to cover Place, Environment and Community Engagement.
- A public consultation was underway on Election procedures and whether or not there should be whole council elections or to continue with electing one third of the council at a time. Details are available on the NHDC website.

172/22 ACCESSIBILITY IN ROYSTON:

Members discussed at length the issues raised by members of the public regarding accessibility in Royston including:

- on pavement parking and parking in front of dropped kerbs,
- narrow pavements,
- lack of ramps at shop entrances,
- access to Therfield Heath.

Councillor Hill updated members on the project to widen the pavements in Kneesworth Street. She would keep Members updated.

Members agreed that there were problems in these areas which should be brought to the attention of the relevant organisations.

Members **RESOLVED** to write to the Police, NHDC, Royston First Bid and the Conservators of Therfield Heath about the accessibility issues.

173/22 TRAVEL/MOBILITY HUB IN ROYSTON:

In March 2020, the Council was consulted as part of the ‘North Central Growth and Transport Plan consultation’. Members responded to the consultation saying that they would like to see a Travel Hub set up at the railway station in Royston and not at the current bus station, as recommended in the plan, as that wasn’t a suitable location. The Town Clerk reported that although HCC and NHDC previously had a presentation from Enterprise on their generic proposals for transport hubs, nothing further had happened to date. Officers from NHDC were trying to arrange a meeting between HCC, GTR and Network Rail but due to key contacts being on leave this has been delayed. The Town Clerk had sent Members some information on Travel Hubs setting out their potential. The Chairman gave a brief report on the plans for the Travel Hub at Foxton.

174/22 ROAD SAFETY CAMERA VANS:

Members suggested the following locations within Royston for the siting of Road Safety Camera Vans:

- Melbourn Road
- Newmarket Road (evenings)
- Old North Road
- Kneesworth Street
- Burns Road
- Garden Walk
- A10/London Road (near Layston Park)
- Baldock Road at the 40mph sign
- Barkway Road

Councillor Hill added that these locations were also on her list and that the police would have to find a safe location but would notify us if the sites were not feasible. Members **RESOLVED** to send this list to the police.

175/22 COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

There were none.

Date of next meeting: 10th January 2022.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____