

MINUTES of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in the Hardwicke Hall at the Town Hall, at 8.00pm on Monday 10th January 2022.

PRESENT: Councillor Harrison (Chair)
Councillors Brown, Bylett, Hughes, Inwood, Perry, Phillips and Stanier.

In attendance: Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk
County Councillors Hill and Jarvis

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

The Chair expressed his sadness at the death of Councillor F J Smith.

233/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

234/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillor P Smith.

235/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

Members were advised to declare any interests at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Councillors Brown and Harrison declared an interest in agenda item 7, the Royston High Street Recovery Programme, and agreed only to participate in the discussion but not the vote.

236/22 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 10th October 2021 (minutes 166/22 to 175/22). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

237/22 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 on behalf of Councillor Hunter, Chairman of Royston and District Committee (NHC), that the ongoing parking review had been extended into January but had now closed. Also that NHC had voted to go to 4 yearly "all out" elections.
- The Library Home Service is very positive and she thanked the Council for posting it on their social media which was very helpful. During Lockdown, they started a telephone service and this helped with isolation.
- HertsLynx continues to be very successful with additional services over the Christmas period.
- Daily monitoring of the COVID rates continues to take place at HCC.
- The budget process is taking place and the IP scrutiny is later this month.
- The Highways Locality Budget schemes for 2021-22 are a light in Honey Way, footpath resurfacing in Coltsfoot Drive, Lingfield Road, Wheatfield Crescent,

Kingsway and Victoria Crescent. There are also pram crossings being installed in Mill Road/Lumen Road, a speed indicator device socket in Melbourn Road and drainage

investigations in Queen's Road are programmed. Coltsfoot Drive is one of the unfortunate victims of Cadent gasworks and HCC is still not satisfied that The Ridings Estate has been reinstated to a satisfactory condition and is continuing to monitor the situation.

- The Integrated Works programmes schemes scheduled include resurfacing works in London Road, the A10 Melbourn Road, Royston by-pass, Newman Avenue, Priory Close, Hardy Drive and the Melbourn Street signals are being currently updated. Work on King James Way and Honey Way is also due to be programmed.
- For 2022-23, the programmed Highways Locality Budget schemes, so far, include footpath resurfacing on Melbourn Road, Maple Way, Mill Road, Serby Avenue and Parthia Close. A five year warranty on the speed indicator devices has been renewed.
- Regarding accessibility in Royston, FH is waiting for a list of proposals from the Town Council (following the submission from students) so that these can be considered under the County Councillors' Highways Locality Budgets. Additional funding may be available from elsewhere, depending on the proposals.
- On the Newmarket Road crossing consultation, both County Councillors have responded. FH pointed out the need for the speed limit to be considered and a safety audit is required, in order for the crossing to be safe.

In response to questions from the Chairman, FH recommended reporting any work that needed doing on Butcher's Balk and that HCC were monitoring Cadent's works.

Members received a report from Councillor Jarvis (SJ):

- SJ reported that the Highways Locality work was essentially complete apart from a delay on yellow lines due to the weather conditions until March.
- Next year's work will include resurfacing of footways in Coronation Avenue and evaluating some design changes for the planned 20 mile an hour proposals for Tannery Drift.
- The formal consultation for the change to the speed limit on Baldock Road between the current limit and just past the Therfield turning has begun and he doubts there will be any significant objections. SJ was going to ensure the proposed traffic islands which had been removed from the plans would be reinstated. There would be one by each entrance.
- HertsLynx is being used extensively by people to get into Royston and by people who are not usually bus users or bus pass holders, which is encouraging. SJ hoped it would be extended for use within Royston in the future.

238/22 ACCESSIBILITY IN ROYSTON:

Members received a verbal report from the Assistant Town Clerk:

- The students had responded and agreed to their report being shared. There had been no clarification as yet from them on specific kerbs or paths in need of repair.
- Royston First had responded that they agreed there were issues that needed dealing with but struggled to know who by. They were willing to support any agreed action by speaking to the traders in the town.
- No response had been received from the Conservators of Therfield Heath.
- Sgt Jon Vine had clarified the law regarding parking over dropped kerbs. In the absence of any other restriction, drivers can park anywhere on the public highway. It is not an offence to park on a footway, dropped kerb or verge and for a vehicle to be considered blocking a footway or dropped kerb, officers must have enough evidence for a prosecution. The obstruction must be real, not potential. The civil enforcement officers also have the power to deal with such incidents.

The Chairman commented that the committee would have to wait and see what happened.

Councillor Hill commented that she and Councillors Jarvis and Hunter had met with a resident to discuss, amongst other issues, accessibility. FH thought the time civil enforcement officers had to wait before issuing a penalty notice was too long and perhaps the councils could jointly lobby for a reduction in the time allowed to park without enforcement.

Members **RESOLVED** to write to NHC civil enforcement officers for clarification of their current rules.

239/22 ROAD SAFETY CAMERA VANS:

The Chairman commented that he had spoken to a member of the public who was concerned about speeding on Melbourn Road and would like to address this issue. Members agreed that speeding during the evenings was a particular problem all over Royston. Councillor Hill drew attention to her report which had stated that a speed indicator device would be put up on Melbourn Road shortly.

Members received a verbal report from the Assistant Town Clerk:

- The Police & Crime Commissioner Road Safety Van Team had responded that they had a location on the Melbourn Road and one on the A10 London Road as it goes through the village of Reed.
- The Team will go out to Garden Walk and the 40MPH and 30MPH areas on Baldock Road to assess the areas for a safe and suitable location to site the van which is fully off the carriageway without parking on a grass verge and not obstructing footpaths, driveways or road junctions. Should they be able to find suitable locations, they will carry out a speed check on the roads.
- Unfortunately due to the restricted space at Newmarket Road, Burns Road and Barkway Road, to ensure the van is fully off the carriageway without parking where they are prohibited, it is not possible to deploy a van at these requested locations at this time. Should the situation change they will reassess potential deployment.
- Due to existing enforcement vans and enforcement cameras on Old North Road, they are unfortunately unable to deploy at this location, and as Kneesworth Street is in close proximity to the enforcement vans and cameras they would also be unable to deploy here at this time. However, the enforcement team has been made aware of the concern for these locations.

- The local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team have been notified of the concerns, and they will assess potential for occasional Speed Gun deployment. Residents may also wish to consider setting up a Community DriveSafe group and/or consider completing a Road Safety Fund application when the scheme reopens later this year.

Councillor Hill commented that there is a DriveSafe scheme in Royston, which has been in place for a number of years. Participation is predominantly from councillors, with some community members, but more support would be welcome. Some of the roads discussed at the meeting are already included in the DriveSafe scheme. FH will forward details of these to RTC.

240/22 ROYSTON HIGH STREET RECOVERY PROJECT:

Members discussed the parking provision at length.

Members **RESOLVED** to support the trial of the scheme but would like more consideration for the night time economy and suggest that waiting in all parking spaces on the High Street, except several disabled spaces, be limited to 20mins after 6.00pm to support the evening economy.

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee to contribute towards the maintenance of the planters during the scheme trial.

241/22 PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED 'NO WAITING AT ANY TIME' AND A NOTICE FOR A PELICAN CROSSING IN NEWMARKET ROAD, ROYSTON:

Members **RESOLVED** to support the proposal with the comments that visibility of the crossing was very important and signage should give motorists early notice of a new crossing.

242/22 UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman reported that Royston had been selected as a Sustainable Travel Town and HCC would be arranging meetings in the near future.

The 911 bus route had been changed slightly to include Fowlmere which could only help the Royston economy. The 18 service was now run by Richmonds.

HAPTC had reported that the Secretary of State has directed Luton Borough Council not to grant permission for the airport expansion to allow more time for further enquiries to be made.

The Chairman thanked the committee on behalf of HCC for their support for the proposed 40MPH speed Limit on Baldock Road.

243/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

There were none.

Date of next meeting: 14th March 2022.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____