

MINUTES of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 14th March 2022.

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

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

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

302/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

303/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were none.

304/22 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.

305/22 APPROVAL OF GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the General Purpose & Highways Committee meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022 (minutes 233/22 to 243/22). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

306/22 MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:

Members **RESOLVED** to receive the notes of the Sustainable Travel Town Working Party meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022 into the workings of the council.

307/22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NHDC ROYSTON AREA COMMITTEE:

Members received a report from County Councillor Hill:

- In the Highways Locality Budget Scheme for this civic year (2021-2022), the footpath scheme is complete in Coltsfoot Drive. Following a meeting with Councillors Harrison and Hunter, the contractors, and some residents, most of the works on The Ridings Estate that were deemed unsatisfactory have now been completed. There has been liaison with Councillor Stanier and residents regarding a damaged area of pavement and vehicle crossover in Studlands Rise, which the contractors didn't think was due to the gas works.

This is being investigated as a possibility under the Highways Locality Budget Scheme, or other highways funding.

Footpath resurfacing has also been completed in Lingfield Road, Wheatfield Crescent, Kingsway and Victoria Crescent. The new light due in Honey Way has been ordered and there is funding for traffic regulation orders. There are now pram crossings in Mill Road and Lumen Road. Drainage investigations in Queens Road are programmed. The gullies on the A10, London Road have been cleared.

- For 2022-23, the programmed Highways Locality Budget Schemes include footpath resurfacing in Melbourn Road, Maple Way, Mill Road, Serby Avenue, Parthia Close and Victoria Crescent and a new Speed Indicator Device will be installed on Melbourn Road.
- Integrated Works Programmes (IWP) - Final schemes for this financial year include: road resurfacing on A10, A505 and Priory Close, footpath works for Yeats Close, Lingfield Road, Orchard Road, York Way, Shakespeare and Hardy Drive.
- The yellow lines have been completed in Layston Park.
- There has been a consultation on the stretch of Baldock Road from McDonald's to Ivy Lane, regarding extending the 40mph speed limit, after our objections to the proposed 50mph extension. Feasibility studies are being considered for 20mph schemes in certain roads, to supplement the existing 20mph flashing signs already outside of schools.
- The budget was set in February, for the next financial year, with Locality Budgets and Highways Locality Budgets remaining.
- The Happy Programme will be taking place again in the Easter holidays which will provide activities and lunch for those participating.
- There are regular updates from Public Health on COVID recovery.
- Libraries are open and HCC is trying to reinstate the services that were open prior to the pandemic with the occasional restriction in hours if there is a COVID outbreak.

Councillor Hill thanked the Chairman and other councillors for all their support.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hill and Councillor Hunter for all their help with the Ridings, particularly on the green areas in Studlands Rise, Hunters Way and The Shires.

Members received a report from District Councillor Hunter:

- The budget for this year has been set with council tax increasing 2.08% (approximately £5 for a Band D property) and the current administration are making efforts to save £1.5 million over the next financial year.
- The Managing Director of North Herts has been working to finalise what they can offer to victims of the Ukraine conflict in terms of housing although this is difficult as NHC no longer hold any housing.

- The Heath Ward polling station has changed from the Portakabin at the Golf Club to the Royston Museum which should be an improvement.
- The budget has kept the expansion of the Leisure Centre as well as the renovation and updating of the skate park on Newmarket Road.
- The parking review that was delayed by the pandemic continues with consultations ongoing.
- The local plan has had no updates but it should close this year.
- “Shop Local” bags are being taken to councillor surgeries to promote the Shop Local campaign.
- Grants have been given to a number of organisations through the local committee including Free after 3, Royston Town Youth Football Club, Homestart Royston, Buntingford and South Cambs, Barley Town House and the Royston High Street Planters.
- The community engagement officer continues to work with numerous organisations across the local district.
- NHC has launched a community lottery for good causes.

308/22 20'S PLENTY FOR HERTS:

Members **RESOLVED** to support the 20's Plenty for Hertfordshire campaign and to write to Hertfordshire County Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Hertfordshire where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.

309/22 ROYSTON TOWN CENTRE BUSINESSES' AND CUSTOMER SURVERYS:

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the decisions to promote the town users' survey commissioned by NHC and to display the Town Council logo on the surveys and promotional material.

310/22 PARKING IN ROYSTON:

Members received an update on parking in Royston from the Assistant Town Clerk:

- NHDC confirmed that no changes were being made to the observation periods used by Civil Enforcement Officers. Each contravention code has its own set observation period which can range from 0-5 minutes. There is a 10 minute observation period to vehicles that have overstayed in limited wait bays on the street and a 10 minute observation period if a pay and display ticket has expired in a pay and display car park during chargeable hours.
- Royston High Street Recovery Project: Hertfordshire County Council has responded that the proposed amendments to the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order regarding parking were received too late to be considered prior to the order being implemented but could be considered at the planned 3 month review. Confirmation that the amendments will be considered then has been requested.

311/22 PRIORY MEMORIAL GARDENS:

Members **RESOLVED** to suggest the following:

- No fingerpost sign
- No noticeboard as this would be difficult to keep tidy
- A visitor map with “you are here” on it with sites of interest including: Library, Royston Cave, Royston Museum, town hall, public toilets, car parks, bus station, railway station and market.

312/22 FUTURE LUTON STATUTORY CONSULTATION:

The Chair reported that the flights paths and stacking areas for Luton airport are being moved to the area of St. Neots with further details of this plan yet to be released.

Members **RESOLVED** that no response was needed at this time.

313/22 UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Greater Cambridge Joint Assembly in Cambourne along with Councillor Hill. He informed the council that the bridge over the A505 has had the money allocated for the design, but no further progress has been made. He also informed the council that the work for the Melbourn Greenway will be not be started until 2025.

314/22 COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Councillor Phillips reported that she’d attended the Zoom meeting of the Creative Royston Committee and the theme chosen for this forthcoming festival is the ‘Circle of Life’ which will take place from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th September. Creative Royston are now accepting event submissions and it is hoped that art exhibitions, writing competitions, workshops and concerts can be arranged as many groups and organisations are keen to be involved.

Councillor Phillips also reported that she would be attending the next meeting of the Coombes Community Centre on Wednesday 16th March where a presentation of the recent alterations to the facility will take place.

Date of next meeting: 16th May 2022.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____