

MINUTES of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in the Heritage Hall at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 17th October 2022.

PRESENT: Councillor Harrison (Chair)
Councillors Beardwell, Birch, Brown, Compton, Haugh, Langdon and Rees.

In attendance: Deputy Town Clerk
Town Councillors Inwood and Lockett
District Councillors Green and Hunter
County Councillor Hill
3 Members of the Public

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting was being recorded. The Chair reminded Members of the Climate & Biodiversity Emergency declared by Royston Town Council and asked Members to be mindful of this when making decisions on behalf of the Council.

181/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

182/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Adams and Stanier.

183/23 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.

184/23 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 18th July 2022 (minutes 100/23 to 114/23). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

185/23 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYSTON & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE:

Members received a report from County Councillor Hill:

- Following a feasibility study by HCC on Mill Road, some dropped kerbs have been installed, others are to be scheduled.
- Micro-surfacing has been completed on King James Way and footpath works are being considered for the next financial year.
- There is patching planned on Serby Avenue where there is shaling.
- Works on Masefield Way and Newmarket Road are programmed for the next financial year.
- Footpath works are also scheduled for areas including Shaftesbury Way, Honey Way, Morton Street and part of the High Street next financial year.
- A new speed indicator device has been installed on Melbourn Road.
- A public consultation regarding possible speed mitigation measures in Burns Road will take place next year.

- County Councillor Hill said that she had attended the public meeting on the withdrawal of the 915 bus held at Royston Town Hall last week. She advised that a list of contacts regarding this are in the library and being circulated around the town.
- County Councillor Hill reported that she had submitted an objection to the proposed increases in short-term parking charges put forward by North Herts Council.
- A consultation is currently being carried out for the Local Plan for minerals & waste and its submission date has been extended to 31st October.
- The consultation for the LCWIP closes on 7th November.
- The Summer Reading Challenge at the library received a good number of participants and awards were presented to those who completed the challenge.
- HAPpy camps have taken place across the County, again, during the holidays. These provided various activities, social interaction and a hot lunch for some of the most vulnerable.

On behalf of County Councillor Jarvis, Councillor Brown added that there was going to be an advisory 20mph speed limit put in place on Tannery Drift.

Members received a report from District Councillor Hunter:

- Councillor Hunter advised everybody that the LCWIP consultation was now online and it could be viewed by anyone that wished to.
- North Herts Council have experienced a huge amount of interest in the Solar Together Scheme.
- The Local Plan was presented by an officer to the Royston & District Committee and it will go to North Herts Council in November.
- The trees at the Warren car park have been cut back and a maintenance order has been put in place for the footpath.
- The Royston & District Committee donated £500 to Royston Make Lunch so they could take the children to the cinema during the school holidays.
- Councillor Hunter reported that North Herts Officers had been working hard to secure £12,000 for the resurfacing of the BMX track and £14,500 for new goalposts at Royston Youth Football Club.
- A £1500 contribution to the Free After 3 Scheme has been made by the Royston & District Committee.
- \$106 money has been spent on fencing at the BMX track, the Coombes Community Centre, a bike shelter, the bus shelters in Icknield Walk and Melbourn Street as well as general maintenance work on the Town Hall.

186/23 915 BUS SERVICE WITHDRAWAL:

- a) There was a lengthy discussion.
Members **RESOLVED** to agree to instruct the Deputy Town Clerk to write to Hertfordshire County Council and the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Dr Nik Johnson, stating how important the bus link is for the community of Royston and to encourage the two authorities to work together to find a solution and ask Hertfordshire County Council to consider providing funding for this route. The response would copy in the Mayor of the City of Cambridge.
- b) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the list of relevant contact details being posted on the Town Council noticeboards.

It was suggested that a proposal should be put to the Council to give delegated authority to the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to decide on behalf of the council which information should be displayed on the notice boards.

187/23 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TOWN:

- a) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the draft Royston Sustainable Travel Town governance agreement.
- b) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the draft working protocol between Royston Town Council, North Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council.

188/23 ONE WAY SYSTEM SIGNAGE:

The Chair suggested that better signs should be erected to prevent cars turning the wrong way out of Market Link Road.

County Councillor Hill reported that this issue was being looked at by HCC and the current signs were being repaired and that the Town Council should put this concern in writing.

The Chair decided that in the light of this discussion, this item would be deferred to the next GP & Highways meeting.

Councillor Birch left the meeting at 8.25pm.

189/23 NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN:

A North Herts Council Transport Officer was invited by the Chair to speak. He explained that the consultation contained a series of proposals designed to encourage walking and make cycling safer and more attractive in the town. He emphasised that these were initial ideas and welcomed members to bring their local knowledge of the town to respond to the plan.

It was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk would email councillors a list of the proposed routes to receive their individual feedback. The responses would be collated and sent alongside the formal Town Council response.

It was also agreed that members vote on the proposal for the proposed route that included the bridge over the A505.

Members **RESOLVED** to respond in support of the proposed route that included the bridge over the A505 and for the collated individual responses to also be submitted.

190/23 SEATING ON OLD NORTH ROAD AND MELBOURN ROAD:

Councillor Harrison reported that seating on these roads would fit into the Sustainable Travel Town project as it would encourage residents to walk more and drive less in the town.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the investigation into costs and feasibility of installing seats towards the end of Old North Road and Melbourn Road.

191/23 EV CHARGING POINTS SURVEY:

Members expressed their support for more EV charging points in the town and suggested both the Market Place and Angel Pavement car parks as potential sites for EV charging points. Members **RESOLVED** to formulate a response to the survey by HCC on publicly available EV charging points expressing the council's interest.

192/23 PARKING CHARGES:

The Chair reminded members of the recommendations made at the last Full Council meeting, to keep the 1 hour parking charge the same for another year. He expressed his concern that these views had not been represented at the North Herts Council meeting to decide parking charges. It was clarified that the comments of Royston Town Council were distributed in the cabinet addendum papers to those attending the meeting.

The Chair suggested that, providing North Herts Council agreed, the 1 hour parking charge should be reduced back to 60p on the Angel Pavement and Market Place car parks.

Members **RESOLVED** to request that the 1 hour parking charge on the Angel Pavement and Market Place car parks be returned to 60p if North Herts Council agreed this were possible.

193/23 UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN:

The Chair reported that he had attended a visit to Studlands Rise First School with Councillor Stanier, District Councillor Hunter and County Councillor Hill to discuss the role of local government with the children.

The Chair had attended the Cambridge Partnership meeting with County Councillor Hill and reported that there are plans to implement a congestion charge in Cambridge by 2026 which will exclude all Park & Ride bus stations on the outskirts of the city. Additionally, he explained that they plan to build a 6th Park & Ride bus station in the west of Cambridge by 2026 and a bus hub in Foxton which they will start building in 2024. He further reported that the Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority are aiming to run 4 buses an hour travelling between Royston and Cambridge.

Finally, he advised that there was a consultation for the Melbourn Greenway which members could complete individually.

194/23 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

Councillor Brown reported that a new grazier had been found to maintain the Therfield Heath and that the Therfield Heath Mitigation Strategy being prepared with Natural England is going to North Herts Council Cabinet in November to be approved. She further reported that the Royston Town Twinning Association had received a visit from the residents of the German town Grossalmerode for the first time in over 3 years and the Mayor of Grossalmerode had attended several visits in Royston during his stay.

195/23 HERTFORDSHIRE COUNCIL RAIL CROSSING DIVERSION ORDER 2022 AND HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CREATION ORDER 2022:

Members **RESOLVED** to respond in support of both draft orders.

Date of next meeting: 19th December 2022.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.28pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____