

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Harrison (Chair)  
Councillors Adams, Beardwell, Haugh, Inwood, Langdon and Rees

**In attendance:** Deputy Town Clerk  
County Councillors Hill and Jarvis  
District Councillors Green and Hunter

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.

**385/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was none.

**386/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Councillor Brown.

**387/23 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.

**388/23 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 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (minutes 314/23 to 329/23). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**389/23 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:**

Members received the notes of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Party meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 into the workings of the Council.

**390/23 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYSTON & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE:**

County Councillor Hill gave a report:

- The Integrated Plan at County Council is complete for 2023/24.
- Libraries in the County have continued to work well as hubs for regular activities.
- School allocations are taking place for under 11's in the present week.
- Councillors and Highways Officers met this week to discuss the proposed ramped access to the Market Place.
- All road schemes for 2022/23 are now complete except for some delays due to the weather and utility works.
- The integrated works programme for 2023/24 will include Melbourn Road, Mill Road, Masefield Way, Wordsworth Close which are all scheduled for resurfacing works. Preparation works will also take place in Grays Close and Eliot Road.

Footpath works are proposed in Gage Close and Icknield Walk. Drainage works will take place in Grange Bottom and Kneesworth Street. Under Highways and County Budget schemes for the next financial year, there is a road surface treatment proposed for both the footpath and road in Serby Avenue. Parthia Close, Morton Street, Honey Way and Shaftesbury Way also have footpath works scheduled under the Highways Locality Budget.

County Councillor Jarvis gave a report:

- The advisory speed limit of 20mph has been implemented on Tannery Drift.
- The pedestrian refuge in London Road is being investigated.
- Work will be carried out on Briary Lane and Orchard Road footways this year.
- HertsLynx bus service now runs until 11pm for journeys in and out of Royston.

The Chairman of Royston & District Area Committee gave a report:

- The Community Engagement & Planning and Housing Panels established by North Herts Council 2 years ago have been disbanded. The only remaining panel is the Environmental Panel.
- North Herts Council have purchased a shopping centre in Hitchin and there will be a public consultation for its future use.
- There is a public consultation on changing area committees to area forums.
- The contract for the leisure centres in North Hertfordshire currently run by Stevenage Leisure Limited is up for tender and will be finalised in March next year.

### **391/23 HERTFORDSHIRE'S DESIGN GUIDE PUBLIC CONSULTATION:**

No comments were put forward at this time.

The Chair suggested that Members responded as individuals via the online survey.

### **392/23 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:**

There was none.

### **393/23 UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN:**

The Chair gave a report:

- The Chair and Deputy Town Clerk attended, as observers, a meeting between officers and councillors from North Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council regarding the feasibility of ramped access to the Market Place.
- The Chair, Councillor Rees and Deputy Town Clerk attended a meeting with an official from Thameslink, officers and councillors from North Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council, at Royston Train Station regarding a travel hub. He reported that the feasibility of installing a bus stop in an area near platform 2, to provide a better link between rail and bus travel in line with the aim of becoming a Sustainable Travel Town, would be investigated.

### **394/23 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:**

There were none.

The Chair thanked Members on the General Purposes and Highways Committee for their hard work and support for the past year. The Chair also thanked County Councillors Hill and Jarvis, and District Councillors Hunter and Green for their attendance.  
Date of next meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_