

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Harrison (Chair)  
Councillors Antony, Brown, Freeman, Inwood, Langdon and Rees  
**In attendance:** Deputy Town Clerk  
Town Councillor Haugh  
County Councillors Hill and Jarvis

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.

**171/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was none.

**172/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Councillor Beardwell.

**173/24 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.

**174/24 APPROVAL OF GENERAL PURPOSE & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

The Chair gave County Councillor Hill permission to speak.

County Councillor Hill wished to have it noted that the report she gave at the GP & Highways meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 was not fully reflected in the minutes.

The Chair thanked her for her comment.

An amendment was proposed to add detail to the minutes to fully reflect County Councillor Hill's report.

The amendment was seconded and carried.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the General Purpose & Highways Committee held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (minutes 101/24 to 112/24). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**175/24 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:**

Members received the notes of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Party meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 into the workings of the Council.

**176/24 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYSTON & DISTRICT AREA FORUM:**

The Chair invited Members to ask questions to County Councillors Hill and Jarvis as well as the Chairman of the Royston & District Area Forum on their reports.

Councillor Freeman enquired if the County Councillors could give an update on the pavement repairs taking place outside Wetherspoons.

County Councillor Hill clarified that vehicles parking there are causing the pavement to sink which is why work was still ongoing. She reported that the County Council are looking into fixing this and taking measures to deter vehicles from parking here in the future as part of her and Councillor Jarvis's work on the town centre and the High Street Recovery Project.

Councillor Inwood asked why the Town Council hadn't been consulted on the future of the Free After 3 Parking Scheme.

There was a lengthy discussion.

The Chair advised Councillor Inwood to speak to the Town Clerk and Chair of Finance Committee if he would like further information on this matter or if he would like to propose that the Town Council discusses contributing to the costs of the Free After 3 Parking Scheme at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

**177/24 NHC SHARED PROSPERITY FUND:**

- a) Members received a verbal update from the Deputy Town Clerk. She detailed that various bollards, benches, finger posts and railings were currently being painted in the town centre with the grant from the Shared Prosperity Fund. Some of the remaining funding had been applied for to complete the painting of benches, bike bars, railings, history signposts and hanging baskets on the High Street.
- b) The Deputy Town Clerk explained that more funding would be made available next year but Members would need to submit ideas for projects by the next meeting in December. No ideas were put forward for discussion at this stage.

**178/24 UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN:**

The Chair gave a report:

- He attended a meeting with Councillors and Officers from the County Council at the Princess Diana Memorial Garden in Lower King Street. Damage had been caused to the area due to a car accident. HCC agreed that immediate work would be carried out to return the garden to its former state and that footpaths surrounding the garden would be improved.
- He also attended two meetings of the Joint Member Steering Group for the Sustainable Travel Town. The first meeting discussed reducing the need for travel and where possible, encouraging people to walk, cycle or use public transport. During the discussion on car-free Sundays, the Chair raised the point that there are fewer Sunday buses and this would have a detrimental effect on the town's weekend economy. The second meeting focussed on new bus routes in Royston as well as putting the no.16 bus back to a half-hourly service. A meeting between Town, District and County councillors in the future to discuss bus services in Royston was suggested. There was also mention of installing a cycle repair stand at the station for the public to carry out repairs on their bikes.

**179/24 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:**

There were none.

Date of next meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_