

**Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Planning, Highways & Consultations Committee**  
**Held 7.00 pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016**  
**In the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames.**

**Present**

Cllr Jeanette Halliday  
Cllr Margaret Crick  
Cllr Robert Hall  
Cllr Brian Hedley  
Cllr Vicky Jenkins  
Cllr Patrick Lonergan  
Cllr David Pope

Chairman

**In Attendance**

Mr Nigel Warner

Town Clerk

1     **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Badcock, Vice-Chairman; Cllr Helen Pighills and Cllr Alice Badcock, Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames.

2     **Declarations of interest**

None.

3     **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

4.    **Matters Arising**

Minute 18 (21), Vale Reference P16/V2374/FUL.

79A Oxford Road, Abingdon, OX14 2AB – Application to erect new building containing three apartments, with parking and gardens and associated works.

It was noted that at the previous meeting the Committee sought clarification regarding this application and consequently had delegated authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee to make a recommendation in relation to this application. It was reported that this delegation had been exercised with no objections being made to the application.

5. **Public Participation**

None

6. **Public Spaces Protection Orders**

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Jeanette Halliday, welcomed Mandeep Mann, the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, to the meeting. Ms Mann had been invited to talk to the Committee regarding the process for putting in place Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which were due to replace Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs).

Public Spaces Protection Orders had been introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014 and had taken over from DPPOs. PSPOs were intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to that community's quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. At present the DPPOs in Abingdon allowed the police or a local authority officer with specific powers to confiscate alcohol if it is consumed and was associated with anti-social behaviour. The new legislation, by default, automatically took over in October 2016 which meant that the Abingdon DPPOs automatically became PSPOs. However the PSPOs allowed councils to take wider powers and to look at problems in the town, not specifically criminal offences but low level behaviours which were causing problems, such as dog control, gating orders etc. Under the legislation the District Council were reviewing the areas covered by the DPPOs and were looking to see whether these areas needed to be varied and whether there was any requirement to add additional controls. Ms Mann noted that currently there were 50 signs in relation to the Abingdon DPPOs which needed replacing. She had been meeting the stakeholders so that they could raise any issues. She emphasised that PSPOs were not aimed to deal with "one off" problems but for persistent anti-social behaviour and this had to be evidenced.

The matter was then discussed by members and the following points were made:

- Cycling on pavements should be considered as part of the PSPO especially in the Market Place and the Precinct.
- Cycling is illegal on pavements so why do we need signs?
- Signage allows people to point out to others what rules are in place for a particular area and individuals cycling on pavements tend to get off their bicycles when asked.
- Discarding litter, especially chewing gum, should be considered for PSPO.
- A member queried what was meant by local authority officers having a role in enforcement. Ms Mann responded that these were officers who as part of their current duties would have a role. For example, environmental wardens already had powers in relation to littering and can issue fixed penalty notices.

- Would it be possible to consider areas where there were problems with parking and people were ignoring parking restrictions? For example by St Nicolas' School and indeed other primary schools where there is a problem. Ms Mann responded that yes, this could be considered in theory but to note that there are already powers in place to deal with these matters.
- These Orders will not work unless they are enforced.
- Who should be informed should there be problems? In response, Ms Mann stated that enforcement of DPPOs was primarily a matter for the police and consequently were only likely to be introduced where they can be enforced.
- Cycling often caused problems in alleyways / passageways behind properties.
- Although not strictly relevant to the discussion a member raised the issue of problems where there are shared cycle / pedestrian lanes.
- In relation to signage could the new signage be more prominent? Ms Mann stated that the new legislation would be mean that signage would be less visible than at present because the new requirement was only to place signage on entry to a particular area. There would be a requirement for some signage so that police and the public would be aware, but this would focus on entry points to the area concerned and busy parts of that area. It was noted that currently the DPPOs were signified by numerous stickers around the town. A member agreed that the signage should not be obtrusive.
- Signage would help law-abiding members of the public point out to others what restrictions there were in an area.
- This matter would come down to enforcement on the ground and the need to have someone in a uniform to enforce.
- A member queried the legality of A-Boards. The Town Clerk stated that he would report further on this matter but that there were powers to control A-Boards through the highway authority and the mechanism of advertising consent. A-Boards often caused problems for pedestrians and those in wheelchairs / scooters.
- Motorised scooters on pavements and the highway themselves can pose a hazard.

Ms Mann stated that it was likely that anti-social behaviour in car parks was likely to be part of the new PSPOs; for example there were issues in the Fairacres car park. It was also likely that the current Order in relation to alcohol would continue.

In relation to taking matters forward, it was noted that the District Council would shortly be consulting on this matter. The draft Order was currently being prepared and the consultation period would be six weeks. A press release would be issued and a consultation document would be on the District Council's website. The matter was likely to be considered by the Community Safety Partnership in January 2017 and signage in place from February / March 2017. Once the order is made it would be in place for a period of three years, at the end of which it could be renewed, amended or abolished. A member stressed that in undertaking consultation thought should be given to people who do not have access to websites. Ms Mann stated that publicity would be given by way of the press and

that the District Council officers could be contacted by telephone, letter etc. A member suggested that the Abingdon Blog could be contacted as they would give publicity to the matter through their website.

The Chairman thanked Ms Mann for attending the meeting and she left at 7.32pm.

In further discussion, members asked that this matter be placed on the agenda for the meeting due to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016. During the next three weeks, members were encouraged to think about the areas which could be covered by PSPOs and also the issues which may need to be addressed. In particular, members may wish to consider the Council's own recreation areas, Market Place etc. The intention of the Committee was then to send a Council corporate response to the consultation.

7. **Christmas Parking Arrangements**

The Committee noted that the District Council had resolved to provide free parking in Vale car parks in Abingdon on up to four days in December, up to and including 24<sup>th</sup> December and were asking the Council's views on which days would be suitable. The Town Clerk stated that he understood that free parking had been advertised as taking place on the date of the Christmas Extravaganza, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016. He had queried this with the District Council and they had stated that, on this occasion, this would be in addition to the four dates in December.

It was proposed by Cllr David Pope, seconded by Cllr Patrick Lonergan, and resolved (unanimously) that the Town Council advise the District Council that the free parking days should be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

8 **Vale of White Horse Local Plan Update Bulletin 4**

Members noted the update bulletin regarding the above. (Previously circulated to all members of the Town Council on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016.)

9. **S106 Contributions Received – Land east of Drayton Road, Abingdon**

Members noted the s106 contributions from Taylor Wimpey for agreement reference **15V41 – land east of Drayton Road, Abingdon – P14/V1196/FUL.**

10. **Development contributions generated from proposed development  
At: The Clock House, 22-26 Ock Street, Abingdon, OX14 5SW**

Members received and considered a letter from the Vale of White Horse District Council dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in relation to the above. Members considered a

number of suggestions where Section 106 contributions could be requested from the proposed development. Members noted the criteria for securing Section 106 contributions and considered that potentially there were three projects which could benefit: work to the Ock Valley Walk, contributions towards the Guildhall Project and contributions towards the continued operation of the South Abingdon Children's Centre.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeanette Halliday, and seconded by Cllr David Pope that the District Council be advised that the Town Council would wish Section 106 contributions to be applied for in relation to the South Abingdon Children's Centre.

Requests needed to be submitted to the District Council by 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016, unless a longer timescale had been agreed with them in writing.

11. **Proposed Unitary Authority in Oxfordshire**

Members noted the letter from Oxfordshire District Council Leaders regarding the proposed unitary authority in Oxfordshire. (Previously circulated to all members on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016.)

12. **Oxfordshire County Council (Abingdon Marathon) (Special Event) Order 2016**

Members noted the correspondence in relation to the above.

13. **Certificate of Lawful Development**

Members noted the following:

RE: Rear extension at first floor level and new rear dormer.  
AT: 10 Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PQ  
REF: P16/V2403/LDP

RE: Change of use from A1 to A2  
AT: 24 Stert Street, Abingdon, OX14 3JP  
REF: P16/V2464/LDP

14. **Permitted Development Rights**

Members noted the following:

RE: Erection of single storey flat roof extension  
Depth: 3.6m  
Height: 3.1m  
Height to eaves: 3.1m  
AT: 83 Ypres Way, Abingdon, OX14 1NQ  
REF: P16/V2624/PDH

15. **Vale of White Horse Planning Decisions**

There were none to note this cycle.

16. **Planning Applications**

Planning applications were received and considered from the Vale of White Horse District Council. Following consideration of the planning applications, it was **RESOLVED** that the following comments be forwarded as the Council's recommendations on the various applications: (see separate schedule).

The meeting rose at 8.25pm.