

**Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Minutes of the Planning, Highways & Consultations Committee
Held 7.00 pm on Monday 6th June 2016
In the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames.**

Present

Cllr Jeanette Halliday
Cllr Michael Badcock
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Robert Hall
Cllr Brian Hedley
Cllr Patrick Lonergan
Cllr David Pope

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

In Attendance

Mr Nigel Warner

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Vicky Jenkins; Cllr Helen Pighills; and the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames, Cllr Alice Badcock.

2 **Declarations of interest**

None.

3 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2016 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising**

The Committee asked that the Town Clerk request that the Vale of White Horse District Council recommence sending through s106 updates.

5. **Public Participation**

None

6. **Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum**

Members noted the correspondence from the Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum regarding public rights of way and planning applications. It was stated that the Town Council already follows this procedure.

7. **Cycle Path Past Morland Gardens**

Members considered the letter from Drayton Parish Council regarding the new road junction and cycle path.

The Committee was very concerned and disappointed that it had not been consulted on this matter by Oxfordshire County Council. Members were also surprised that approval had been given for the changes which it was understood from the website would be taking place in relation to the installation of three way traffic lights and the assumed impact as detailed in the letter from Drayton Parish Council, in relation to the cycle path as it had not formed part of the approved planning application or the Planning Inspector's decision.

The Committee also regretted that it had not been consulted on this matter as Members would have liked to have put forward some positive suggestions. It was considered there was some merit to the suggestion of Drayton Parish Council regarding putting in a proper cycle track and footpath. This Committee also suggested that they would have asked that consideration be given to the installation of a roundabout rather than traffic lights.

On a related issue the Committee noted that previously it had suggested that the whole of the B4017 Drayton / Abingdon Road between Abingdon and Drayton should have a speed limit of 30mph and the question was posed to whether this would be progressing.

Resolved: that the above be the position of the Town Council in relation to this matter and that the Town Clerk advise Drayton Parish Council and the other organisations copied into their letter of 20th May 2016, ie the District Council Planning Department, Oxfordshire County Council Highways and Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Services accordingly.

8. **Proposed Speed Survey West of A34**

The Committee received and considered the email sent from Marcham Parish Council sent in relation to the above.

Members asked that the Town Clerk confirm to Marcham Parish Council that the "rubber" vehicle strips which have been put across the road on the town side of the A34 had not been arranged by the Town Council.

In relation to the request that the Town Council considers joining with Marcham Parish Council in sharing the cost of the speed survey west of the A34, to track vehicles as they approach the town, members shared the concern of Marcham Parish Council regarding the issue of speed. However, it was considered that as

the area in question was not within the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, it would not be appropriate for the Town Council to make a contribution in this regard.

Resolved: that the above comments be conveyed by the Town Clerk to Marcham Parish Council as this Council's position in relation to this matter.

9. **Consultation – Faringdon Road (Abingdon) – Proposed Zebra Crossing**

Members received and considered the consultation in relation to the proposed zebra crossing in Faringdon Road.

Cllr David Pope welcomed the proposed crossing as it was something that he had proposed many years ago. He expressed surprise that it had taken 10-15 years to get to this point but he supported the proposal as the road was crossed by many children and it was a busy and fast road in terms of traffic.

Resolved: that the Council supports the proposed zebra crossing in Faringdon Road and advises the County Council accordingly.

On a related matter, members noted that although there were double yellow lines in Larkhill Road these were frequently ignored by motorists. As a consequence, parking along the road was creating a hazard for both pedestrians and motorists. A member suggested that CCTV be used to help enforce regulations. However another member pointed out that the Town Council part funds one of the town centre PCSOs and suggested that the Police be contacted to detail the Council's concerns regarding parking along the Faringdon Road and urge that enforcement action be taken to reduce the problems. The Committee agreed.

Any objections or other representations on the proposal should be submitted by Friday 24th June 2016.

10. **Changes to the Vale of White Horse District Council Constitution – Planning Scheme of Delegation**

Members received and considered the correspondence from the Vale of White Horse District Council regarding the above review.

The Committee understood the reasons these proposals were being brought forward but were keen to ensure that local democratic input into the planning system was maintained.

In response to the specific proposals, the Committee welcomed the offer of training by the District Council to members of parish councils. Alongside this members considered that it would be helpful if they had an opportunity to meet the area planning officer(s) for Abingdon.

In relation to proposal number two it was noted that this involved enhanced

dialogue between planning officers and parish councils to support the above (ie to ensure that concerns are material planning considerations) and that “any consultee parish council who raised objections to applications would be asked which matters would need to be resolved to secure their support and would be consulted again before the committee report was written to determine whether their objection still stands. If not satisfied, there would be a firm expectation that the parish council would attend planning committee and explain its concerns.”

Members appreciated the reason for this proposal but asked that the Town Clerk make the District Council aware that the democratic requirements of the Town Council are such that any reconsideration of the Town Council’s views on a planning application would have to be taken back through the Committee, and in this regard the District Council should note that the Town Council’s Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee meets every three weeks. There was no mechanism to reconsider the Council’s comments between meetings.

It was agreed that the above comments be conveyed to the District Council.

11. **Permitted Development Rights**

Members noted the following notification:

- RE: Proposed conservatory
Depth: 3.5m
Height: 3m
Height to eaves: 2.3m
AT: 28 Crosslands Drive Abingdon OX14 1JY
REF: P16/V1261/PDH

12. **Planning Decisions / Notifications**

Members noted the latest decisions from the Vale of White Horse District Council.

13. **Planning Applications**

The 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 page)

The meeting rose at 7.45pm