



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

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15th June 2018

To: All Members of the Abingdon-on-Thames Traffic Advisory Committee

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council: Cllrs Alice Badcock, Jeanette Halliday, Vicky Jenkins, Helen Pighills, Andrew Todd
Oxfordshire County Council: Cllrs Neil Fawcett, Alison Rooke, Emily Smith
Vale of White Horse District Council: Cllrs Monica Lovatt, Chris Palmer and Catherine Webber
Abingdon-on-Thames Chamber of Commerce: Mrs Jill Carver
Thames Valley Police: Mr Chris Hulme

Dear Member,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Abingdon-on-Thames Traffic Advisory Committee to be held on Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Royse Room, the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames. Please note the change of time compared with the previous meeting.

Should you have any queries regarding any matters relating to the agenda, please contact Nigel Warner on 01235 522642.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Warner', written over a horizontal line.

N E Warner
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

1. Election of Chairman

To elect a Chairman for the remainder of the Council year. Under the constitution the Chairman must be nominated from among the representatives of the Town Council.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

To elect a Vice- Chairman for the remainder of the Council year. The Vice-Chairman may be elected from any of the Committee's members.

3. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct.

5. Public participation

At the discretion of the Chairman, Members of the public or representatives of organisations may address the Advisory Committee. The address shall be in the form of a statement lasting not more than three minutes. The person giving the address shall not be permitted to participate in any subsequent debate by the Advisory Committee on the matter in question.

Notice of intention to make a statement must be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk no later than 5pm on Tuesday 19th June 2018. This may either be by letter delivered to the reception counter at the address above or by e-mail to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk, with a copy to nigel.warner@abingdon.gov.uk.

6. Minutes and matters arising

To receive and consider the draft minutes of the meeting of 21st March 2018.

Matters arising

To consider any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Minute 6: The Committee is requested to note the updates to the constitution as agreed by the Town Council:

- (a) At paragraph 3.2 changing the wording from "*The quorum of the Committee shall be five members **and** a representative of each of the local authorities*"

at 5.1 a, b and c.” to read “The quorum of the Committee shall be five members **including** a representative of each of the local authorities at 5.1 a, b and c.” The current wording is ambiguous and I recommend that it be changed.

(b) At paragraph 7.2 to add “k) Cycling” to “the type of matters which may be discussed.”

(c) To add a provision for substitution as follows: “Where a member who is a representative of a non-council body is unable to attend a meeting they may nominate a substitute member provided that the nominating member informs the office of the Town Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting.”

Note that the Town Council amended the recommendation of this committee to allow for a substitution system to be limited to non-council representatives.

7. Items submitted to the Town Clerk by members or residents ahead of the meeting

Report to follow.

8. Report from the Principal Officer, Traffic Scheme South Team, Oxfordshire County Council

Officer to report at the meeting.

9. Items raised by Members at the meeting

Members are requested to notify the Town Clerk for items to be included in the agenda. Items raised at the meeting may be discussed at the discretion of the Chairman. However such items may need to be deferred to the next meeting in order for any necessary investigations to be made by the relevant authorities.

10. Calendar of meetings for 2018/19

The calendar of meetings for the remainder of the Council year is:

- Wednesday 7th November 2018;
- Wednesday 6th March 2019.

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Draft minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Roysse Room, the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames

Present:

Cllr Alice Badcock	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Jeanette Halliday	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Vicky Jenkins	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Helen Pighills	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Neil Fawcett	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Alison Rooke	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Emily Smith	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Monica Lovatt	Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Chris Palmer	Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Catherine Webber	Vale of White Horse District Council
Mr Chris Hulme	Thames Valley Police
Mrs Jill Carver	Abingdon-on-Thames Chamber of Commerce
Mr Paul Townsend	Abingdon-on-Thames Chamber of Commerce

In Attendance:

Cllr Robert Hall	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Angela Lawrence	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr David Pope	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Mr Lee Turner	Principal Officer, Traffic Schemes – Area Operations South
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk

1 Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Vicky Jenkins, seconded by Cllr Helen Pighills and **resolved** that Cllr Alice Badcock be elected Chairman of the Abingdon Traffic Advisory Committee for the remainder of the council year 2017/18.

2 Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock, seconded by Cllr Vicky Jenkins and **resolved** that Cllr Helen Pighills be elected Vice-Chairman of the Abingdon Traffic Advisory Committee for the remainder of the council year 2017/18.

3 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Todd.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Monica Lovatt declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in relation to parking in the vicinity of the School of St Helen and St Katharine as she had represented neighbours of the school in relation to this matter on many occasions.

5 **Public Participation**

None.

6 **Constitution**

The Committee noted the constitution of the Traffic Advisory Committee as approved by the Town Council.

Following discussion it was recommended

- (a) At paragraph 3.2 changing the wording from "*The quorum of the Committee shall be five members **and** a representative of each of the local authorities at 5.1 a, b and c.*" to read "*The quorum of the Committee shall be five members **including** a representative of each of the local authorities at 5.1 a, b and c.*"
- (b) At paragraph 7.2 to add "k) Cycling" to "the type of matters which may be discussed."
- (c) To provide for a substitution system should representatives of the various bodies be unable to attend.

(Note this was a recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.)

7 **Items submitted to the Town Clerk ahead of the meeting**

- a) Cllr Monica Lovatt – Car parking around schools.

Cllr Monica Lovatt stated that car parking around schools was a general problem, particularly at times when pupils are transported to and from school. In her division there were particular problems at St Nicolas School despite yellow lines, and Carswell School.

Cllr Lovatt also stated that on the Waysmeet estate there were problems students St Helen & St Katharine's School parking along one wide road and now parking in the narrower side roads. This was creating excess

problems for local residents and making exits from drives difficult. Cllr Lovatt also stated that on residential estates laid out with bends in the roads there was a problem seeing oncoming cars when passing parked cars and several residents had had near misses. She wondered what could be done to ease these problems. She understood that there were problems in enforcing yellow lines. She stated that Harding Road had approximately 30 cars parked in it today and this would soon be filled and then students would be looking to park in other roads. Local residents were very concerned with the problem.

There then followed a long and detailed discussion as below:

- Chris Hulme of Thames Valley Police stated that there was a general rule that people can park on the highway. Where white lines were marked these were advisory and not enforceable. If someone parked and as a result blocked in another vehicle he advised that the Police should be telephoned but the offending vehicle may be gone before the Police get there. Harding Road is not unique to Abingdon. There are parking problems wherever there are sixth form students. Part of the issue is that public transport is not always a convenient way for students to get to school. This problem will never go away. There were similar problems at Henley and Wheatley (where students could not park on the campus). People will always look for free and convenient parking. Yellow line parking restrictions tended to displace parking problems to other locations.
- In response to a query from Cllr Monica Lovatt regarding regulations in place about parking at junctions Mr Hulme stated that Rule 243 of the Highway Code stated that you should not parkin within 10 metres of a junction. However this was a rule and not an offence; the offence would be causing an obstruction. This was a very problematic area.
- Cllr Jeanette Halliday stated that St Helen's & St Katharine's School was run as an education business and posed the question as to whether they should be considering this as part of their business instead of making parking part of the town's problems.
- Cllr Vicky Jenkins stated that she had phoned up the Police regarding similar problems in Cameron Avenue and they referred her to Oxfordshire County Council. Mr Hulme stated that the pertinent question was: was the parking causing an obstruction and were there any restrictions in place.
- Cllr Emily Smith stated that the County Council Officer had said there had been some discussions with schools to ask that they work with us in relation to this matter. Mr Hulme posed the question as to whether schools had policies in place in relation to parking. Cllr Smith wondered whether County Officers commented on the parking implications when planning applications were put in for development at schools.
- Mr Turner suggested that the schools be spoken to directly. Cllr Monica Lovatt stated that she had met with the Head of St Helen

and St Katherine's School about these matters. She further stated that unfortunately the relationship between the school and local residents in relation to parking was very poor.

- Mr Turner stated that schools did try to encourage children not to come to school by car. He further stated that any planning applications which had traffic implications were considered by the County Council.
- Cllr David Pope stated that he had taught for 22 years at Abingdon School and that the matter students of bringing vehicles to school had often come up in assemblies. Students were not allowed to park in the school, parking was only provided for those who worked there.
- Cllr Neil Fawcett stated that there were parking issues on Conduit Road. In relation to state primary schools in his division there was an increase in parents bringing children to school by car, especially at Caldecott, less so at Thameside. Nonetheless most students walked to school. In relation to Caldecott Road cars routinely parked on grass verges and there were also lots of problems in relation to the service road. Some years ago the County Council worked with schools on this and he posed the following questions: is there anything the County Council can do? Could physical measures be put in place eg on the Caldecott Road, to stop cars parking on grass verges.
- Cllr Alice Badcock stated that the PCSO was frequently addressing matters in Caldecott Road.
- Mr Hulme stated that all schools had these problems and it is natural for parents to drop their children off at school. The problem was worse in the afternoons was because parents had to wait for children to leave school.
- Cllr Alice Badcock asked whether the County Council had any leaflets regarding considerate parking? Mr Turner stated that there used to be a Safer Routes to School initiative and he would look to see if there was somebody within the County Council who liaised with schools in relation to such matters. He suggested that wooden posts could be put in place to stop parking on grass verges.
- Cllr Alice Badcock suggested that as a Traffic Advisory Committee the schools could be written to, to raise the issue of parking and the need to be considerate. Clearly parking by sixth formers is impacting on the local community. Cllr Badcock suggested that the idea of walking buses should be promoted. It was **resolved** that the Town Clerk write to schools in relation to this matter.
- Cllr Catherine Webber stated that she had been on a District Council planning tour and that there was a sixth form parking area at the Community College in Faringdon where students could park, if they have permits.
- Cllr Alison Rooke stated that the County Council has less influence over schools now that they are academies. She also noted that most roads in the vicinity of St Helen and St Katherine's

School and Abingdon School are private roads belonging to Christ's Hospital and that these are regulated through parking restrictions and are gated in places. Christ's Hospital also prevent parking on their verges through zig-zag curb stones.

- Cllr Monica Lovatt noted that in the vicinity of St Nicolas' School there were yellow lines but that these were frequently ignored. Mr Turner stated that the Police had been out to undertake enforcement in Boxhill Walk.

b) Cllr Monica Lovatt – Concerns regarding traffic congestion in Nuffield Way

- Cllr Monica Lovatt stated that she had recently been in correspondence with Mark Bryden who was a senior manager at Ability Matters Group Limited on Nuffield Way. He and a number of other local businesses were very concerned with traffic congestion problems in the area. This was making it very difficult for employees to travel to and from their workplaces. It was considered that the general congestion problem had worsened as a result of more intensive occupation of the Business Park over the past two years, together with a more intensive flow of traffic into Abingdon from the A34 at peak times. There was now further concern that congestion would get worse with the building of the new Hilton Hotel and the potential, following the recent planning application, for an Aldi to open at Fairacres.

In discussion the potential for opening up the gate at Blacklands Way was discussed.

Mr Turner stated that he had been in contact with Mr Bryden and had met with him. He stated that it had taken him 12 minutes to get from the Business Park to the bottom of Nuffield Way to turn right. There was some parking on Nuffield Way itself which did not help. Mr Turner had raised some matters which the businesses could assist with, for example flexibility of working arrangements. The proposed Aldi development at Fairacres and also the Hilton hotel had been raised. Mr Bryden had queried why the County Council was not improving Marcham Road and the roundabout. In response Mr Turner stated that there was not funding available from the developments in terms of Section 106 monies. However he stated that the faded "Keep Clear" could be refreshed in a new financial year. There was also the potential for yellow lines to be marked on Nuffield Way. There was a cost to this, approximately £2,600 (costs of the Traffic Regulation Order and the physical works) and this would need to be paid for. He had stated that it was open for businesses to join together to fund this. However he did caution that double yellow lines would affect local residents and could also have a displacement effect.

- Mrs Carver stated that the discussion on yellow lines was very interesting. It was often perceived that in the town centre yellow

lines were not being enforced, in which case she wondered why qualifying residents would bother to buy Residents' Parking Permits.

8 **Report from the Principal Officer, Traffic Scheme South Team, Oxfordshire County Council**

Members received and considered the report from the Principal Officer, Traffic Scheme South Team, Oxfordshire County Council.

Mr Turner reported as follows:

- Lodge Hill Diamond Interchange. Survey work was currently taking place and there was a delivery date on the Diamond Interchange of late 2020.
- A highways operations update had been made at the recent Locality Meeting.
- Structural highway maintenance was due to take place in Boxhill Walk in July 2018, the cost of this work being £250,000.
- Micro-asphalting was due to take place at St Mary's Green, with surface treatment.

Members requested that the Faringdon Road Pedestrian Crossing proposal be placed on the next agenda.

9 **Items raised by members at the meeting**

Members raised the following items:

- Cllr Helen Pighills. There was a problem with heavy vehicles using Northcourt Road. The problem related to the poor road surface, there were many potholes and it was not designed for heavy vehicles. The road also included two schools and the Abingdon and Witney College. Whilst there was sometimes a need for heavy vehicles to access properties in Northcourt Road this was not always the case and vehicles sometimes came down there due to instructions of satellite navigation systems. Before spending money on the road could the County Council consider a weight limit? It was agreed that this would be brought forward as a matter at the next meeting.
- Cllr Alice Badcock requested that when roadworks are brought forward that they be looked at "in the round." She noted that roadworks were due to take place in Oxford Road, Wootton Road and Spring Road all at the same time and such roadworks happening together can cause chaos. Mr Turner stated that these issues are considered by the Network Coordination Team.
- Cllr Jeanette Halliday raised concerns regarding heavy plant using Abbey Close.

The Chairman, Cllr Alice Badcock, then asked Members if there were any specific items which they wished to be raised on the agenda for the next meeting. It was responded as follows:

- Cllr Angela Lawrence –cycling.
- Mrs Jill Carver – loading and unloading bays and enforcement. The issues that old roads are not always fit for heavy vehicles, eg East and West St Helen Street, and therefore consideration of weight restrictions.
- Cllr David Pope – parking on grass verges. Commercial vehicles parking on residential roads.
- Cllr Vicky Jenkins – bridge maintenance.
- Cllr Neil Fawcett – will advise.
- Cllr Jeanette Halliday – wished to receive an update in relation to a parking turning point in Ock Mill Close.
- Cllr Alison Rooke – will advise.
- Mr Chris Hulme (Thames Valley Police) – levels of parking enforcement – the Police stance.

10 **Calendar of Meetings for 2018/19**

Members noted the draft calendar of meetings for these committee meetings:

- Wednesday 20th June 2018;
- Wednesday 7th November 2018;
- Wednesday 6th March 2018.

The meeting rose at 8.36 pm