

Abingdon Town Council

Draft Minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 17th June 2020 at 7.00pm In the Old Magistrates Court, the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames

Present:

Cllr Andrew Coveney	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council (Chair)
Cllr Alison Rooke	Oxfordshire County Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Cheryl Briggs	Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Eric de la Harpe	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Andy Foulsham	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Pat Lonergan	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Mike Pighills	Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Emily Smith	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Max Thompson	Vale of White Horse District Council
Mr Chris Hulme	Thames Valley Police

In Attendance:

Cllr Charlie Birks	Mayor of Abingdon
Mrs Jo Blackmore	Administrative Assistant (Clerk to the meeting)
Cllr Alex Greenaway	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Cllr Jim Halliday	Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Mr Lee Turner	Principal Officer, Traffic Schemes – Area Operations South, OCC
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk

T1 Election of Chair

The Town Clerk stated that under the Committee's Terms of Reference this position should be held by a Councillor from Abingdon Town Council. At present there was not a permanent elected Chair.

It was proposed by Cllr Andrew Foulsham, seconded by Cllr Mike Pighills and **resolved** that Cllr Andrew Coveney be elected Chair for the year 2020/21.

T2 Election of Vice-Chair

The meeting noted that under the Committee's Terms of Reference, that this position could be undertaken by any member of the committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Patrick Lonergan, seconded by Cllr Mike Pighills and **resolved** that Cllr Alison Rooke be elected Vice-Chair of the Abingdon Traffic

Advisory Committee for the council year 2020/21.

T3 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Neil Fawcett (Oxfordshire County Council), and Mr Paul Townsend (Abingdon-on-Thames Chamber of Commerce).

T4 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

T5 **Minutes and Matters Arising**

The Committee received and considered the draft minutes of the meeting of 13th November 2019, as circulated with the agenda.

Resolved: That the draft minutes of the meeting of 13th November 2019 be agreed as a correct record with the following amendment.

T19 Items raised by Members at the meeting

Charlie Hulme (Thames Valley Police) be amended to Chris Hulme (Thames Valley Police)

And signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Minute T17 Parking – Bridge Street

Cllr Jim Halliday pointed out that the problem was actually on Thames Street. Although the signs had been replaced vehicles were still turning down Thames Street and residents' cars were being damaged when these vehicles turned round. Cllr Jim Halliday proposed that 'No Access' was painted onto the road or something similar. **Action** to Lee Turner.

T6 **Public Participation**

None

T7 **Items submitted to the Town Clerk by members or residents ahead of the meeting (in order of date of submission)**

Members

Cllr Emily Smith (Oxfordshire County Council):

- **Parking enforcement:** Members considered the letter from Matthew Barber, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley regarding councils paying for PCSO parking enforcement. This item has been on hold due to covid-19. In the past if money was provided to support PCSOs there was no guarantee that it would go towards monitoring parking as the PCSOs would be redirected if something more urgent/important occurred. However, this issue is being reviewed, and now consider it possible to allocate PCSOs to parking enforcement until civil parking comes into force. Covid-19 and personnel changes have delayed the meeting but councils' response to this matter is requested.

Abingdon Town Council already fund half a PCSO and have done for many years. As part of this the council has supplied a list of priorities to the PCSOs and enforcing parking is on this list.

Chris Hulme assumed that the priority is to push for parking enforcement to be a priority for the neighbourhood team.

Carry over to next meeting.

- **Northcourt Road pavement:** (also raised by Cllr Charlie Birks and a local resident)

Cllr Emily Smith informed the meeting that Northcourt Road was to be re-surfaced later in the year with the road humps being replaced with road pillows except at road crossings.

Cllr Emily Smith and Lee Turner also informed the committee that other improvement work was being investigated, including:

- Bollards – who owns the verges must be established first. It has been confirmed via the land registry that the verges opposite Fitzharry's School are owned by the Vale of the White Horse District Council.
- A formal crossing at Dunmore Primary School
- Removal of white lines in the middle of the road
- Installing drain covers safe for cyclists
- Plus others

Cllr Emily Smith asked Lee Turner to ensure that all consultations have

been logged and added to the list.

Cllrs Andrew Foulsham and Cllr Charlie Birks stated that this has become a big issue with residents and road users who are concerned that there has been no action in dealing with this road for years.

Cllr Charlie Birks informed the meeting that the improvement options were not making the situation better for cyclists. Changes are still making it easier for cars not cyclists, road pillows are not good for cyclists.

Cllr Alison Rooke referred the meeting to Oxford County Councils website for information on the government's covid-19 recovery project to advance walking and cycling. Abingdon is the next town on the list (after Didcot has been completed). This project allows for much wider changes for encouraging walking and cycling. Cllr Patrick Lonergan referred to a decision by the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the villages around Abingdon need to be included.

- **Parking around Larkhill Road area:**

The meeting was informed that no notice was being taken of the white lines and a request for double yellow lines was requested. It was pointed out by Thames Valley Police that currently enforcing parking restrictions was not a high priority so installing double yellow lines would not be very productive. Cllr Eric de la Harpe mentioned that the problem was often visiting parents coming to watch sports matches and yellow lines would be a deterrent. Cllr Jim Halliday reminded the meeting that the school had said that they would pay for the double yellow lines. Lee Turner stated that mutually convenient dates between the school and himself to discuss this had not be found yet and that he would chase this up when Abingdon School re-opened after covid-19. He also pointed out that a consultation is required to install double yellow lines.

- **Women's Cycle Tour route:** This event occurs in the first half of June.

The race has been postponed until 2021 due to covid-19. The 2020 route was not finally signed off before postponement however the route for 2021 is expected to be very similar to the planned route for 2020. This is an opportunity for Abingdon to celebrate cycling and Abingdon.

The Green Advisory and Scrutiny committee and Summer Events committee are keeping in touch with what is happening with this event.

- **Parking in the Berry Croft:** *(correction of spelling from the agenda)*

This is an issue in the whole of the Larkhill estate. Some verges have

been protected in the county but not recently as it is a funding issue and nothing like this will happen anytime soon. Cllr Emily Smith to contact the residents.

Cllr Cheryl Briggs and Cllr Helen Pighills

- **Illegal parking in front of Abbey Yard, Old Station Yard:**

Chris Hulme raised police concern over how much of the land was a public highway. This area is unusual in that the double yellow lines are backed by a traffic regulations order and are not painted on a public highway. The meeting was informed that the first 30 meters from Abbey Close is public highway (Oxfordshire County Council) and the remaining area is private (Vale of White Horse District Council). The parking complaints have been going on for years. Cllr Patrick Lonergan asked that as it is private land why could not parking be enforced as is happening on Christ's Hospital land, where a notice is displayed, and vehicles are clamped and fined.

Cllr Cheryl Briggs to contact the residents and confirm the precise area which has the problem.

Cllr Alison Rooke

- **St Helen's Wharf, Abingdon:** This item has been further highlighted for action as a result of the pandemic.

This area is too narrow for cycle lanes. Installing a 20mph limit over the whole area would be helpful. Cycle path maintenance and vegetation clearance is needed. The traffic survey has not reported back yet. This will now go back to Oxfordshire County Council as part of the covid-19 recovery project promoting walking and cycling project.

A suggestion was made that the footpaths should be made one way to comply with social distancing.

Cllr Grace Clifton

Cycle racks in the High Street. Cllr Grace Clifton had raised the concern that the cycle racks in the High Street, which had been damaged by a vehicle in August 2019 and subsequently removed, had yet to be replaced. An update was requested.

Mr Lee Turner reported that the delay had been that the cycle racks would have to be manufactured as “bespoke” items as they had to be removed for the Fair.

At this point Mr Lee Turner stated that he is working on the covid-19 recovery walking and cycling project. This project is being released in stages. If the money for the first stage is not spent by the end of July the County Council are not eligible for the stage two and three allocations. He would be contacting the Town Clerk regarding requests for Abingdon. Work in Abingdon is likely to come in the second stage. Cllr Emily Smith raised concerns that this covid-19 recovery project funding should not be used for maintenance work such as the replacement of the High Street cycle racks and that funding for items such as these should come from the usual revenue budget. The money was meant for additional projects and not maintenance. Lee Turner responded that this was a political issue and that Cllr Emily Smith would have to take this up at a higher level.

Cllr Charlie Birks

- **Cycling provision in Abingdon:** This is being considered as part of the covid-19 recovery walking and cycling project.
- **Junction at Bridge Street, East St Helen Street and High Street:** This junction is part of Sustrans route 5 and part of it is one-way. The request is to install:
 - A contraflow for cyclists on the one-way section
 - Proper stop signs for cyclists
 - Clear road markings

There is pressure in the town for something to be done about this junction for cyclists. Cllr Alison Rooke stated that she cannot support a contraflow cycle lane behind the Museum. Cllr Charlie Birks responded that not all cyclists were able to dismount and push their bike and that it is unreasonable to expect them to do so especially on a designated cycle route. There have been debates on this in the past. It was suggested that proposals had failed due to timescales. The *Town Clerk* was requested to look up relevant documents (reports, resolutions etc) relating to this matter, for the next meeting. Cllr Pat Lonergan commented that the only way to enable space for a contraflow would be to remove parking spaces/loading bays and the local businesses rely on the loading bays for their business. Cllr Jim Halliday suggested that we should be able to install a contraflow safely whilst considering the local business’s needs.

Cllr Emily Smith suggested that this was included in the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure plan) for Abingdon. The aim of this is to create proper joined up cycle routes in the town.

If cycling against the one-way flow is occurring now signs should be installed to make cars drivers aware of this.

- **Speed limits in Abingdon:** Pressure groups are requesting that the speed limit for the whole of Abingdon is dropped to 20mph. A speed limit order could be obtained for the whole town. Request to add this for consideration under the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Town Council officers: Steve Rich, Assistant Town Clerk

- **Abingdon Michaelmas Fair and Abingdon Marathon Signage**

Abingdon Town Council requests that a condition is included in Abingdon Marathons road signage agreement to stipulate that the signs for Abingdon Marathon cannot be displayed until after Abingdon Michaelmas and Runaway fairs are over.

Subsequent to the request it was understood from the Abingdon Marathon website that this year's Marathon has been cancelled.

It was requested that this item is to be included in the agenda for consideration ahead of the 2021 Marathon. Lee Turner will in the meantime forward this to Oxfordshire's Network Team, asking them to be aware of the issues in relation to signing multiple events.

Nigel Warner, Town Clerk

- **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

This was delayed slightly by covid-19 but are is continuing online until in person meetings are allowed again.

Residents / Public

- **Parking Lambrick Way**

Currently there are no markings on the road or road signage displayed. White lines can be painted on the road to help protect the junctions; however yellow lines require a consultation which Oxfordshire County Council will not fund. With yellow lines there is also the danger that the problem will just be moved elsewhere. The recommendation was made to go ahead with white lines. Lee Turner to action.

- **Facilities for cyclists and cycling strategy in Abingdon**

Cllr Charlie Birks is requesting:

- That the speed limit in Abingdon is reduced to 20mph making cycling and walking safer. He was informed that the covid-19 recovery document was including amongst its requests.
 - The number of spaces available in bike racks in Abingdon Town Centre is increased. This is also included in the covid-19 recovery plan.
- Cycling to be included on every agenda.
 - Invite Cllr Alex Greenaway and Robin Tucker to the next LCWIP meeting

Chris Hulme is not sure whether police are issuing fixed penalty notices to cyclists on pavements but stated that enforcing no cycling on pavements is not a priority.

- **Lodge Hill Diamond Interchange**

There has been no update on this due to covid-19. Lee Turner informed members that the latest position was that the project had been moved between staff and teams. There has been some slippage.

Previous meeting Action list

The committee worked through the Action list from the meeting of 13th November 2019. Points from the action list were as follows:

- **T15 – Public Participation**

- Town Council – White give way lines on the cycle track behind Waitrose.

Update: Lee Turner picked this up as part of the covid-19 recovery plan.

- Chris Hulme – Cyclists not using lights.

Update: To include the issue of cyclists not using lights in the police newsletter to schools and the community.

As it is summer and schools are currently not operating as normal this is to be included in the autumn newsletters.

- Faded lines indicating the disabled parking spaces in Queen Street.

Update: Cllr Andrew Coveney to add to fix my street.

- Chris Hulme to raise the issue of Police vehicles parking on roads near Radley Road and Cameron Avenue.

Update: Done

- Oxfordshire County Council – parked cars on Lambrick Way.

Update: This was discussed earlier in the Residents / Public section and is included there. Lee Turner pointed out that there are several temporary measures being instigated but do not rely on the police being able to enforce.

- Oxfordshire County Council – ownership of the land opposite Fitzharry's school.

Update: This matter was included earlier in with Northcourt Road and has been resolved with the land owned by Vale of White Horse District Council.

Action: Cllr Cheryl Briggs to take the issue of parking up with them. Include this action with Northcourt Road.

- **T16 – Matters arising, Action List**

- T6 – T15/3 St Helen's Wharf. Reduction of speed limit to 20mph.

Update: This was brought up earlier in the meeting as a separate item and this has been included.

- T6-T22/3 Parking in the town
 - Loyd Close / Boulter Drive.

Update: Both informal and formal consultations have occurred with 72% in favour of some parking restrictions. Time restrictions between 9:00am and 6:00pm are being implemented in July. There is concern that this will move the parking problems elsewhere. There has been a request for an enlargement to the car park to be included in the 106-agreement funding for the housing estate. Staff at the doctor's surgery could also be requested to park further away from the surgery.

- Town Centre parking (loading) bays.

Update: The time scales did not work out for this to be included in the Loyd Close/Boulter Drive consultations. Remind Paul Townsend to seek a consensus from the local businesses on the time limit for the loading bays, 15 or 20 minutes. “Active loading/unloading” permitted. However, people often think that they can leave the car there and shop and this is not permitted. The meeting felt that 15 minutes loading time was sufficient and Cllr Alison Rooke proposed with Cllr Cheryl Briggs seconding that the decision be taken at the next meeting. The change will not be quick due to a consultation being required which needs to be funded. Abingdon Chamber of Commerce have previously mentioned that they will contribute to the costs.

- Nuffield Way parking problems.

Update: Abingdon Chamber of Commerce to consult informally with the businesses, with Cllr Neil Fawcett included.

Action: Cllr Andrew Coveney to chase this outside the meeting.

- Other parking areas: Parking problems in other areas of Abingdon; Oxford Road (service road), Radley Road between Norman Avenue and Swinburne Road, Junction of South and West Avenue, Wilsham Road.

Update: Abingdon Chamber of Commerce needs to hold informal discussions about actioning these.

- T6–T16 – Road Patching. General state of road patching and whether Oxford Road now requires full resurfacing due to the number of patch repairs.

Update: Cllr Alison Rooke has asked the Cabinet member to look at this and respond back to her with a list but so far, she has not heard back. Continue to the next meeting.

- T8.1 – Roundabout sponsorship.

Update: This has been delayed by covid-19 as not a priority. The meeting was informed that the roundabouts are a disgrace and there are two businesses that are prepared to pay for improvements. The method of establishing how to enable them to pay for the work has been ongoing for over a year. The meeting was informed that there was no staff time allocated to arrange a scheme. Representatives from the Vale of White Horse District Council stated why they need to be involved in this issue as Oxfordshire County Council own the

roundabouts. Planning permission is a separate matter and a joint document between Oxfordshire County Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council was issued regulating the size of sign allowed.

Lee Turner stated that Oxfordshire County Council do not have the resources to progress this matter and it was not a County Council priority.

Cllr Jim Halliday informed him that this problem has been ongoing for years, there are a lot of complaints being received from residents and businesses about the state of the roundabouts. There were businesses offering to sponsor the roundabouts which would pay for their maintenance and he queried and why the previous roundabout sponsorship document cannot simply be updated.

Cllr Patrick Lonergan left the meeting at this point it being 9.11pm.

Action: Cllr Andrew Coveney to chase up this issue with Cllr Neil Fawcett

- T17 – Items submitted to the Town Clerk by members or residents ahead of the meeting.
 - Parking – Abingdon School.

Update: This has been covered earlier under parking around Larkhill Road area.

- Traffic speed in Wootton Road.

The speedwatch survey has been completed. The survey itself was a one off but regular speed checks are conducted in this area. Chris Hulme asked if there was a resident lead speedwatch group in Abingdon. The Town Clerk stated that some areas had groups. Cllr Charlie Birks informed that various groups such as Carbon Cutters, Abi bikes were combining forming 'Liveable streets.

Update: Done.

- Fairacres – Traffic issues in Nuffield Way and leaving Fairacres. Lee Turner to summarise the current position described in emails from the public.

Update: Information from Lee Turner sent to the Town Clerk who will forward it to members.

T8 Submission to Oxfordshire County Council in relation to temporary measures to make streets more pedestrian and cyclist friendly to assist in social distancing in response to the Cofid-19 pandemic and creating safer public spaces

Noted, this has been covered throughout the meeting under the relevant agenda items.

T9 Report from the Principal Officer, Traffic Scheme South Team, Oxfordshire County Council

Lee Turner reported that there was nothing to add to the meeting.

T10 Draft calendar of meetings for 2020 / 21

Members agreed the dates for the future meetings for the Council year 2020/21 as:

- Thursday 22nd October 2020
- Wednesday 3rd March 2021

The meeting rose at 9.21pm

Signed.....

Date.....