

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee held on Friday, 17th March 2017 at 09.30 hrs in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon

PRESENT: C/Cllr Judith Heathcoat, Chairman
C/Cllr Yvonne Constance
D/Cllr Robert Sharp
T/Cllr Dr Mike Wise
T/Cllr David Barron
David Williams, Magistrate
Chris Hulme, Thames Valley Police
Lee Turner, Oxfordshire County Council,
Environment & Economy, Highways

IN ATTENDANCE: Hilary Sherman, Town Council Planning Clerk

1.	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from D/Cllr Roger Cox, T/Cllr Andrew Marsden and Laura Hutchins Payne, OCC Environment & Economy, Vale Area Steward. The Chairman welcomed Lee Turner to the meeting as the OCC representative in place of Laura Hutchins.	
2.	Minutes of Meeting: Friday 16 December 2016 The Minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. <i>Min 2: School Flashing Amber Lights, Coxwell Street:</i> Noted that D/Cllr Roger Cox would keep a watching brief and would advise if the lights were not working at any time. <i>Min 5: Safety of A417 junction/road leading to Eaton Hastings Church:</i> Noted that the decisions agreed at the last FATAC meeting had been actioned by the Chairman and D/Cllr Roger Cox and that the resident concerned had written to the Chairman expressing his thanks. <i>Min 5: Oxfordshire Together:</i> The Chairman advised that she had emailed to Laura the list of parishes in her division which had signed up to Oxfordshire Together. <i>Min 5: Wearn Road exit onto Coxwell Road:</i> Chris Hulme reported that there had been a motor cycle collision on 24 November 2016 when the motor cyclist lost control but inappropriate speed may have been a factor also. There had been no other reports of collisions but the police would continue to monitor. <i>Min 6(b): Signage to retail shops, Faringdon Retail Park:</i> The Chairman reported that she had actioned this point but as the shops were now open, there was no longer a problem. <i>Min 6(c): Fernham Fields Development, mud on road:</i> Noted that the road is now being kept clean.	

	<p><i>Min 6(d): On-street Parking, -Enforcement.</i> The Chairman asked that checks are carried out regularly on London Street, Gloucester Street and Marlborough Street.</p> <p>T/Cllr Dr Mike Wise pointed out that people parking on the pavements in both London Street and Coxwell Road/Coxwell Street meant that people with pushchairs or wheelchairs were unable to use the pavement. He also pointed out the difficulties for traffic to move freely due to illegal parking. Chris Hulme stated the police would keep a watching brief on the area.</p> <p><i>Min 7(a):Footpath linking Highworth Road/Westland Road:</i> The Chairman reported that although the light had been repaired, it still required attention. OCC had written letter to residents regarding removal of overgrown vegetation from their properties which encroached onto the path.</p> <p><i>Min 7(b):</i> D/Cllr Sharp reported that the vegetation had now been cut back.</p>	CH
3,	<p>Declarations of Interest There were none.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Speaking Time There were no members of public present.</p>	
5.	<p>County Council Highways – Officer’s report</p> <p><i>(a) Speeding Coxwell Street/Coxwell Road, Faringdon:</i> A local resident had written outlining his concerns at the increase of vehicles and speeding traffic in Faringdon generally, and in particular with regard to (i) safety and (ii) the noise created early in the day. The resident had suggested the possibility of installing speed humps or a 20mph speed restriction in the area.</p> <p>Following consideration of the resident’s comments, it was agreed that humps were not deemed suitable as they would create a rumbling noise which would be detrimental to people sleeping. Regarding implementation of a 20 mph zone, Lee Turner stressed that speeds have to be appropriate to the environment. Faringdon has street lighting which indicates 30 mph. He also stated there were various criteria applicable to the installation of a 20 mph zone and it was felt this area was not appropriate.</p> <p>C/Cllr Yvonne Constance suggested that flashing signs be erected to remind people of the speed limit; monies for this could be obtained from developer funding.</p> <p>The use of speed guns was considered. It was noted that Community Speedwatch operated a scheme for community groups, with the support of the police, to use these speed guns which can be shared among several parishes. However, there was strict regulation of their use and people would require training.</p> <p>The members discussed at some length a speed survey from 2015, together with confidential and non-confidential accident data for the last 5 years. It was noted that nothing significant had been highlighted in terms of speed related incidents. No further action at this stage.</p>	

	<p>T/Cllr Dr Mike Wise remarked that due to the back up of traffic from the Park Road/A420 roundabout, especially at rush hours, it had been recommended in the Environment Impact Assessment accompanying the Bloor Homes planning application for the land south of Park Road, that traffic lights should be installed at the junction of Marlborough Street, Gravel Walk, Coxwell Street and Station Road.</p> <p><i>(b) Oxfordshire Highways Matters:</i> Lee Turner updated the committee, as follows:</p> <p>Laura Hutchins Payne was continuing to forward copies electronically of the highways maintenance newsletter to the committee members.</p> <p>Signage which had now been approved would be erected up to the Little Coxwell turn-off to direct traffic to the quarry.</p> <p>The Faringdon Retail park had now opened. Chris Hulme and Lee had been involved in relevant highways matters.</p> <p>Town Council was currently working with a consultant, under an S106 agreement, to improve signage in and around the town.</p> <p>Folly Park View had now been adopted by Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>Road lines in Faringdon were being refreshed.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council Highways had been consulted regarding the Fernham Fields residential development. T/Cllr Dr Wise stated that the Town Council had suggested the proposed 30mph limit be extended to the A420/Gt Coxwell roundabout but Chris Hulme stated that it was easier to keep rural roads to the normal speed of 50 mph.</p> <p><i>(c) A417 through to Stanford-in-the-Vale:</i> D/Cllr Robert Sharp pointed out that a lot of the drains were not level. Lee Turner agreed to look into this but also wished to remind members of the website FixMyStreet for the reporting of any highway problems.</p> <p><i>(d) Potholes:</i> D/Cllr Robert Sharp pointed out that potholes are breaking up soon after repair and that some in the vicinity of repair work had not even been mended. It was noted, however, that pothole repair was dependent on the depth of the hole.</p>	LT
6.	<p>District Traffic Matters As D/Cllr Roger Cox was unable to attend this meeting, it was agreed this item would be deferred to the next FATAC meeting.</p>	
7.	<p>Grass Cutting Lee Turner detailed the grass cutting programme for 2017. It was noted that the basic service of a single cut would continue.</p>	

	<p>Verges alongside rural roads will have a 1m swathe cut, while the remaining areas of grass will be cut back fully once. Visibility splays will have a separate cut currently expected to start in May two cuts per year).</p> <p><i>Oxfordshire Together</i>, the programme under which Oxfordshire County Council contributes toward maintenance of grass verges by parish and town councils in Oxfordshire, continues to expand. It was noted that in addition to those who participated in previous years, around 20 parishes would be taking on grass cutting in their area from 2017.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>An enquiry from Faringdon Junior School regarding the possibility of installation of a zebra crossing on Gloucester Street near the school was considered. This enquiry had been made in light of the problems experienced by the school in recruiting a school patrol person. Lee Turner stated that this request would need further research. He agreed to look into the matter and to report back to the Chairman with the results. The Chairman would respond to the school accordingly.</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>JH</p>
9.	<p>Proposed Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>The following dates were AGREED:</p> <p>Friday, 23 June 2017 (AGM) at 0930 hrs Friday, 15 September 2017 at 0930 hrs Friday, 15 December 2017 at 0930hrs</p>	