

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee held on Friday, 1 June 2018 at 9.30 am in the Jubilee Room, The Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon

PRESENT: C/Cllr Judith Heathcoat, Chairman
D/Cllr Mohinder Kainth (until 10 am)
T/Cllr Andrew Marsden
T/Cllr David Barron (Mayor, ex officio)
T/Cllr Kiera Bentley (Deputy Mayor ex officio)
T/Cllr Dr Mike Wise
Chris Hulme, Thames Valley Police
Lee Turner, OCC Area Operations (South)

IN ATTENDANCE: Four members of the public: David Williamson,
Lyn Williamson, Eddie Williams and Graham Hand

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from D/Cllr Roger Cox,
C/Cllr Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor and Mrs Hilary Sherman.
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting: 15 December 2017**
It was noted that in item 4 there were two instances where the term *self-enforcement* should have been written as *civic enforcement*. Following amendment, the Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 4. Election of Chairman**
One proposed and seconded nomination had been received for C/Cllr Judith Heathcoat who was elected *nem con*.
The Chairmen then welcomed new members to the committee.
- 5. Election of Deputy Chairman**
As no nominations had been received T/Cllr Mike Wise was nominated by T/Cllr David Barron and seconded by the Chairman. T/Cllr Wise was elected *nem con*.
- 6. Matters Arising**
As the meeting of 17 March 2018 was abandoned because of snow, matters arising from the meeting of 15 December 2017 were discussed

together with the agenda items of the 7 March 2018 meeting that had been dealt with by the Chairman.

S106 monies

Lee Turner reported that Geoff Barrell had looked into the OCC S106 funds related to transport held from developments in Faringdon, but that most of them were allocated for specific purposes; however, there were monies unspent for developments at: Swan Lane, Volunteer Way (£6.4k) and Better Ways to School (£2k). It remained to be determined how flexible these agreements were and whether they were specifically related to the site. There was a concern that unspent S106 monies could revert back to the developer. Lee Turner to investigate the conditions on these unspent S106 monies and report back at the next meeting.

Pavements

The Chairman reported that she had been advised by Keith Stenning that pavements would be placed in the slurry sealing programme for 2019/20 but had urged that this be put on the programme for 2018/19; OCC was currently reviewing the condition of pavements in all market towns. The Chairman asked for relevant highways officers to exert pressure to achieve the earlier date.

Eaton Hastings

Concerns were raised about the speed of traffic on the A417 past the entrance to Eaton Hastings. The Chairman had indicated that as Eaton Hastings did not raise a precept they would not be able to pay for any improvements; however, as local member, she had asked Highways to repaint the 'SLOW' signs on the road as part of Highways' maintenance programme. (This has been done). She had also had the agreement of Christian Walker of National Trust to pay for gateways on the verges delineating the limits of the hamlet on the A417 to act as a warning to motorists, which could possibly also include the costs of signage. Chris Hulme reported that a traffic speed survey on the A417 near Eaton Hastings had shown typical speeds of 50 and 40 mph on the opposite carriageways. Irrespective of speed limits he advised that motorists would drive according to the environment. It would be worth reviewing the situation after gates had been installed to see if they have any effect on average speeds before the introduction of a speed limit. Lee Turner added that while it may be possible to impose a 50 mph speed limit for a short stretch it would not be possible to reduce this to 40 mph on an otherwise delimited road. The junction signs for Eaton Hastings would be cleaned this summer. Action: Lee Turner to speak with National Trust re:gateways.

The issue of concealed entrances to farms and dwellings on the A417 was also raised. Lee Turner advised that warning signage bigger than A4 would need planning permission – Eaton Hastings residents to take this up with the VWHDC.

David Williams raised a concern about the state of the road leading to Easton Hastings church. It had been repaired with loose fill, but this had now washed away leaving the road in a poor state.

Pedestrian Crossing on Henry Blake Way

The need for a pedestrian crossing on Henry Blake Way at the entrance to Faringdon Park retail centre was raised at the Faringdon Town Meeting on 22 January 2018. Pedestrians approaching the site from Faringdon on the NE side pavement and wishing to cross this wide, three-lane road to Waitrose (and vice versa) had the hazard of negotiating fast-moving traffic entering (and leaving) the retail centre. The original layout plan showed a pedestrian crossing, and although dropped kerbs and tactile paving had been installed, a crossing on the road surface had not been marked out. Lee Turner would investigate and report back at the next meeting.

A420 update

The Chairman had circulated an account of a meeting with OCC Officers on matters concerning Coxwell Road and the A420. C/Cllr Constance had raised the impact of the developments in Swindon on increased traffic density.

Following two fatal accidents near Fyfield, there had been requests by local residents for the A420 to be dualled, but this was not supported by the Chairman. Lee Turner advised members to look at an OCC document A420 Strategy in LTP4 the (Local Transport Plan). He had £50k to spend between the SODC and WoHDC areas on local safety schemes that would include the A420. A question was raised whether Oxford City's takeover of road maintenance within the city would increase the funds available for that part of the A420 outside the city limits.

The A420 was to be re-surfaced with a "top-dressing" from Park Road to the Coxwell Road junction on 2 June 2018 and the matter of a refuge on the A420 to enable pedestrians to cross to Little Coxwell was included in the Chairman's' communication.

There was to be a meeting on 5 June to discuss a speed survey in Tubney because it was being increasingly used as a rat-run; the Chairman would liaise with C/Cllr FitzGerald.

Civil Parking Enforcement

At the Town Meeting of 21 May, D/Cllr Cox had stated that he would be discussing the matter of Civil Enforcement with VoWHDC officers.

The problem was that Civil Enforcement had to be self-funding through parking revenues and fines, and while District Councils would be financially responsible they would have to present a costed proposal to OCC for approval. Currently, only West Oxfordshire and Oxford had Civil Enforcement.

7. Public Speaking Time

Graham Hand, a resident of Faringdon, presented an argument for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit within the town boundary. He argued that traffic had become faster, more frenetic and that this was causing a danger to the health and safety of pedestrians and cyclists. The introduction of a 20 mph zone would send a strong message that Faringdon considered people to be more important than cars. It would encourage more people to walk and cycle, particularly school children, with the added benefits of improved traffic flow, fuel efficiency and increased footfall in the town. The Fire Service had a six -year plan to improve safety by reducing accidents and this would contribute to that aim. He cited a University of West England report on the effect of introducing a 20 mph zone in Bristol and the associated economic and social benefits. Lee Turner would investigate and report back at the FATAC meeting of 7 September 2018.

8. County Council Highways Officer's Report

Lee Turner reported that the revision to Faringdon signage was now complete apart from some minor snagging. A disabled parking bay was to be marked out at 10 Palmer Road. Patching of the bus lane in the Market Place would take place on 11 June; the bus companies had been informed. T/Cllr Wise raised the matter of the unscheduled closure of Gravel Walk during the resurfacing of Lechlade Road starting 26 March 2018 and the apparent lack of consultation between the contractors and OCC on the impact of the road closures and the lack of notification to the majority of those affected who did not have frontages on Lechlade Road.

9. Any other business

T/Cllr Wise asked about the damage caused to Gravel Walk by a lorry fire last year that had subsequently resulted in subsidence of the recently resurfaced road surface and whether this was recoverable from the vehicle's insurers. Lee Turner to report back to the next meeting. T/Cllr Bentley asked about signage to warn motorists about the points where bridleways crossed major roads. An example was the A420 near the old Plough pub where horse riders had difficulty in crossing the road because of the speed of the traffic. Other bridleway crossings on the A420 had similar problems. Lee Turner to report back to the next meeting.

10. Future Meeting Dates

Dates were AGREED as follows:
Friday 7 September 2018 at 0930hrs
Friday 7 December 2018 at 0930hrs