

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE
COMMITTEE ROOM, 44 OLD STREET ON WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

PRESENT: Cllr T Morgan – Committee Chairman in the Chair
 Cllrs J Geldart, P McNeill, J Middleton, D Shopland from 7.40 pm,
 A Withers, Mrs I Johnson - Deputy Town Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms P Heath – Town Clerk

7.30 PM INFORMAL BUSINESS

1. REVIEW OF NSC SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES

Mr Paul Connolly, NSC Principal Transport Planning Officer, explained that the current review is part of the proposed budget cuts to the NSC public transport budget following the reduction in funding to councils across England. NSC currently supports bus services that are not commercially viable but meet a specific need. NSC want to gauge which of these services the town value most. The deadline for the Town Council observations is the end of September 2011.

A public consultation has now finished with 850 responses. Mr Connolly had no breakdown of the responses for Clevedon, although there had been a number of responses from users of the 800 Clevedon Town Service. This service is busiest at school times with passengers standing.

Mr Connolly indicated that the supported bus services cost NSC £30,000-£40,000 per contract. The 660 Congresbury to Portishead via Yatton and Clevedon service has a new timetable which now includes two 661 services from Yatton Railway Station to Castlewood. Mr Connolly felt the least well used service was the 657 Clevedon to Bristol service on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

NSC is obtaining tenders for these supported services and will then formulate a plan based on these quotes. It was noted that First Bus would also be facing financial restraints following Government budget cuts.

2. MISUSE OF FOOTPATHS

Mrs Humphrey, a Clevedon resident, addressed the Committee concerning the use of public rights of way by horses and in particular footpaths in Strawberry Hill Woods and on Dial Hill. This matter had been discussed by the Committee at previous meetings and recommendations made to NSC. Mr Jason Cox, NSC Manager of Strawberry Hill Woods asked that the following information be read to the meeting;

“I am responsible for protecting the rights and health and safety of the members of the public who are lawfully invited onto the site. There are no permissive or dedicated bridleways through Strawberry Hill Woodland and as such horse riding is not permitted.

In response to a number of complaints by local residents who are not happy with horse riding through the site, I have made a site visit and assessed the situation. As well as considering the health and safety implications of horses using the footpaths along side pedestrians I have looked at the physical impact of horse use on the existing infrastructure and in particular the footpath surfaces. I found that the footpath surfaces, especially at the Rippleside entrance are being eroded and churned up by horses, making passage by pedestrians difficult and that some of the footpaths, and in particular the narrow corridor of the Rippleside entrance, are not wide enough to allow horses and pedestrians to pass each other safely. I know that

2. MISUSE OF FOOTPATHS CONTINUED...

the footpaths are well used by dog walkers, school children and many other Clevedon residents.

I have therefore instructed that a kissing gate be placed at the Rippleside entrance to stop horse riders using the site and that as a reminder to horse riders that they are *not* permitted to use the woodland, 'no horse riding' signs are to be erected at the major entrances. My colleague who manages the Dial Hill site has also instructed 'no horse riding' signs to be placed at the main entrances to remind horse riders that they are not permitted to use the site.

This is the same kind of action that would be considered to exclude mountain bikes, motor cycles and four wheel drive vehicles that were unlawfully gaining access to our sites and comes without prejudice towards a particular minority. This action is simply to enforce the public right of way status of the woodland.”

Mrs Gardner, a Clevedon horse rider also addressed the meeting, she has owned horses for 30 years. She highlighted the lack of provision of bridleways or permissive routes for horses in Clevedon. Horseriders are therefore forced to ride on roads which are dangerous. It was reported that roadside signs warning of horse riders had been flattened. It was pointed out that there are a number jobs in the town dependent on the horse riding community including an Olympic training centre. Mrs Gardner hoped to work with the Council and Clevedon landowners to negotiate permissive routes for horses in the lower part of the town.

A Councillor present who had helped secure permissive routes for horses in Northamptonshire offered to assist the horse riders.

The Committee Chairman stated that the Town Council is supportive of the safety of all road users and any proposals for warning signs and permissive routes could be considered prior to presentation to the relevant authority, North Somerset Council.

3. OLD STREET – PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE

Mr Paul Glenn and Mr Gregg Brake were in attendance to discuss arrangements for the resurfacing of Old Street. The works will commence on 17 October 2011 with road closure from the Triangle to Highdale Avenue roundabout. The second phase during half term week will close the road from Highdale Avenue roundabout to the East Clevedon Triangle. Mr Glenn will be contacting businesses in Old Street concerning access. It is not possible to resurface one side of the carriageway at a time due to the width and the type of surfacing material being used. The existing road surface would be scarified to remove potholes. Curbs outside Clevedon Hospital would be repaired. Time scale for these works two weeks. It was noted the new road surface could not be laid in snow or rain.

8.25 PM FORMAL BUSINESS

TH/11/89 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs N Pennycott and M Hime - on holiday.

TH/11/90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Withers declared a personal interest in the informal business item - mis-use of footpaths and min TH/11/94.2 as he was a horse rider for many years but cannot ride due to two accidents on horseback involving vehicles.

Cllr D Shopland declared a personal interest in item 3 informal business - Old Street Closure and min TH11/94.3 as he has a business on Old Street.

TH/11/91 MINUTES

The minutes of the Transport & Highways Committee meeting held on 27 July 2011 were approved and signed.

TH/11/92 INFORMATION AND UPDATE ON COMMITTEE BUDGET 2011/12

The current balance of £6,665.00 was NOTED.

TH/11/93 UPDATE ON ACTIONS NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

TH/11/94 ITEMS ARISING FROM INFORMAL BUSINESS ABOVE**94.1 REVIEW OF NSC SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES**

RESOLVED: To request; 1) that the following services be protected as priority bus services for the town;

- 660/661 linking Clevedon with Yatton Railway Station as promised by the British Rail when Clevedon Station was closed.
- 800 Clevedon Town Service used by many elderly residents.
- 985 Clevedon School Service. It is believed the Education Authority has a duty to provide transport for pupils living some distance from School.

2) More information from **NSC** regarding the public consultation together with passenger numbers and costings for the services under review.

94.2 MISUSE OF FOOTPATHS

RESOLVED: 1. To forward the letter from Mrs Humphrey to NSC as the authority responsible for Public Rights of Way, Strawberry Hill Woods and Dial Hill.
2. To await proposals from horse riders concerning the possibility of permissive routes for horses in Clevedon.

94.3 OLD STREET – PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE – The information was noted.

TH/11/95 HOLLY LANE WEEKEND PARKING TH/11/73

It was noted that the advisory signs purchased by the Town Council had now been erected. Members discussed the possibility of legislation to make Holly Lane an urban clearway.

RESOLVED: 1. To include Holly Lane including the Castle Road bend on the list of items for consideration at the next NSC traffic review for Clevedon.
2. To monitor the affect of the new signs on parking on Holly Lane for six months and if there is no improvement to investigate the possibility of off street car parking for these playing fields.

TH/11/96 REQUEST FOR SAFER CROSSING STRODE ROAD TO MARY ELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL TH/11/74

No further information from NSC.

RESOLVED: Committee Chairman to discuss with the NSC Councillor for West Ward.

TH/11/97 CLEVEDON TOWN CENTRE PROPOSAL FOR 20MPH SPEED LIMIT TH/11/75

The Police had replied stating 'The town centre has not been identified as an accident hotspot, but 20 mph zones that have been introduced elsewhere have helped in reducing collisions and make it safe for pedestrians. We would support Clevedon Town Council and North Somerset Council if this proposal is something they wish to progress'.

The problem of enforcement of a 20 mph zone was raised.

RESOLVED: To obtain the views of NSC on a 20 mph zone for Clevedon Town Centre.

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL

TH/11/98 KENN MOOR DRIVE TH/11/78

NSC had replied to the request for dotted white lines on road junctions off of Kenn Moor Drive stating that these roads do not meet the necessary targets for junction markings and could lead to the precedent of all roads requiring these markings. The junction with Tutton Way will be considered for possible markings. NOTED.

TH/11/99 STATION ROAD BOLLARD TH/11/70

NSC has been informed that this work is to go ahead. An up to date costing for the bollard is awaited. NOTED.

TH/11/100 TEIGNMOUTH ROAD – ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

Following correspondence with a resident of Teignmouth Road, NSC is looking to improve facilities in particular for the disabled, elderly and school children accessing Clevedon Town Centre, healthcare facilities and schools. The estimated cost of the scheme is £20,000. The Town Council is asked for a financial contribution. The Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman had visited the site with the NSC Highways Engineer and Schools Travel Adviser and were shown the potential improvements being investigated along the route. The aim of the scheme is to encourage pedestrians to use the pavement alongside the residential houses rather than the more direct and well used route past the industrial and commercial units.

RESOLVED: Not to support this proposal for Teignmouth Road. Members did not agree this scheme is a high priority compared with the request for a safer crossing to Mary Elton School. It was felt pedestrians would continue to use the most direct route.

TH/11/101 COLEHOUSE LANE – POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF RAILWAY BRIDGE

RESOLVED: To write to Network Rail and suggest that the removal of the disused railway bridge could be investigated.

TH/11/102 HILL ROAD TRADERS REQUEST FOR BROWN TOURIST SIGNS

REFERRED BACK TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL

The Hill Road Traders had written to register their disappointment about the progress of these signs;

Brown Tourist Signs from Seafront to Hill Road – NSC awaiting the appointment of a new Traffic Management Engineer.

Brown Tourist Signs on M5 – Highways Agency awaiting review of criteria for brown tourist signs on motorways to ensure they reflect the needs of drivers and also help the tourism industry.

RESOLVED: To inform Council that the Committee will continue to follow up both NSC and the Highways Agency.

TH/11/103 NAILSEA & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING 2012/13

RESOLVED: To consider this application as received at the next meeting of the Committee on 16 November 2011 when the Committee budget for 2012/13 is discussed.

TH/11/104 BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT REPORT JULY & AUGUST 2011

The reports were received. No concerns raised by the Contractor.

TH/11/105 FOR INFORMATION

To receive and note the following items which will be available at the meeting;

105.1 NORTH SOMERSET TRAVEL MAP

105.2 BRISTOL AIRPORT – latest edition of 'Your Airport'.

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL

TH/11/105 FOR INFORMATION continued...

105.3 CONGRESBURY – DRAFT NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURES A370 AND B3133

105.4. COMMUNITY PAYBACK PROJECTS TH/11/84 – Clearance work on the Clevedon Town Council land off Highdale Avenue to commence on 26 October 2011.

TH/11/106 CHAIRMAN ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

106.1 REGENT HOTEL – Concern raised that the façade is becoming increasingly detached from the brickwork.

NOTE: Cllr Garner has been in discussion with NSC about the state of The Regent.

106.2 GRASS VERGE – ARGYLE ROAD TO WALTON PARK HOTEL

NOTE: Cllr Middleton to discuss with the NSC Area Officer for Clevedon.

106.3 MORRISONS SUPERMARKET – CAR PARKING RESTRICTIONS

RESOLVED: To write to Morrisons and enquire why these restrictions are now in place.

NOTE: The Town Clerk and Chairman of Council are following this matter up with the NSC gal Department.

TH/11/107 PART I AND PART II ITEMS

There were no part one items.

The meeting finished at 9.30 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN:.....DATE:.....