

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE
COMMITTEE ROOM, 44 OLD STREET ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2015

PRESENT: Cllr J Geldart – Committee Chairman in the Chair
 Cllrs A Giles-Townsend, G Hill, P McNeill, J Middleton,
 N Pennycott, D Shopland, G Watkins
 Deputy Town Clerk - Mrs I Johnson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs R Garner – for part of the meeting; A Shopland.
 The following attended for part of the meeting;
 PC D Hughes and PC Clarke
 7 residents from the Hill Road and 2 traders from The Beach
 Karen Jarvis - Project Manager NSC Property and Asset Management
 Rob Thomson - Engineering & Design Manager NSC Highways
 Sally Varley & Paul Tompkins - NSC People and Communities
 Phil Windatt – Kier Construction
 Peter Treasure-Smith – Headteacher, St Nicholas Chantry Primary
 School.

7.30 pm INFORMAL BUSINESS

1. HILL ROAD PARKING ISSUES

Malcolm Simmonds spoke on behalf of some of The Beach traders. He was disappointed that parking charges are to be introduced to Clevedon. He highlighted the fact that when he left for the NSC SPED meeting on Monday there were 7-8 parking spaces along Alexandra Road. He also pointed out that the WSM pay and display scheme had been cited as successful for traders. However he had counted 13 empty shops along Orchard Street while there are no empty shops on Hill Road. He felt the NSC decision on Monday was taken mainly by Councillors with little knowledge of Clevedon. He was concerned that pay and display would spread to The Beach and other parts of Clevedon and that eventually this could result in a residents parking permit scheme.

Three residents of Hill Road addressed the Committee highlighting concerns about the installation of pay & display meters in Hill Road, Bellevue Road and possibly Alexandra Road.

Lindsay Edwards emphasised the fact that the residents of Hill Road felt left out of the discussions and would like to know what is proposed. She also stated that the hours covered by the current parking restrictions (8.00 am – 6.00 pm) do not reflect the 2015 shop opening times.

Neill Bird felt pay and display would not encourage trade for the shops as many of the people who browse in the shops on Hill Road may go elsewhere rather than pay for parking. He asked how the pay and display would be enforced if introduced. He felt that a 2 hour 9.00 am – 5.00 pm parking restriction would be fair for residents and shopkeepers provided it was enforced.

Nigel Hobden asked what was proposed for residents parking on Hill Road and queried whether residents parking zones would be introduced. He too cited the lack of enforcement.

2. ST NICHOLAS CHANTRY SCHOOL – CLOSURE OF HIGHDALE ROAD

Susan Warren-Cox emphasised that the proposed closure of Highdale Road to facilitate the building work at the School would result in additional traffic using Chapel Hill which is narrow with poor visibility. A number of school children cross this road at school times. She asked that the Council look again at a pedestrian crossing on Chapel Hill near Highdale Avenue to avoid accidents.

7.40 PM FORMAL BUSINESS **TH/15/483 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr B Hatch – out of Clevedon.

TH/15/484 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr J Geldart declared a pecuniary interest in St Nicholas Chantry School Closure of Highdale Road as she is a School Governor and her children attend the school.

TH/15/485 MINUTES

The minutes of the Transport & Highways Committee held on 5th November 2014 were approved and signed.

TH/15/486 UPDATE ON CURRENT COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2014/15

The information was NOTED.

TH/15/487 ST NICHOLAS CHANTRY SCHOOL – CLOSURE OF HIGHDALE ROAD

7.44 *Cllr Geldart handed over the Chairmanship of the Committee to Cllr G Watkins, Committee Vice-Chairman for this item and did not vote and took no part in discussions.*

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to suspend standing orders to enable the invited guests to speak and answer questions from Councillors.

Cllr Garner (not a member of the T/H Committee) and Cllr Shopland had taken up with NSC the proposed 30 week closure of Highdale Road and had tried to pursue an alternative scheme. A final notice for the closure of the road had now been issued by NSC with no official alternative traffic plan.

Mr Windatt of Kier Construction was asked why it was necessary to close the road for 30 weeks. Mr Windatt, a local resident with a child at this school who regularly uses Highdale Road, replied that since May last year he had been considering access to this very awkward site. It is sloping, 2-3m below road level, with nearby school buildings in use and the adjacent highway access on the narrowest part of Highdale Road. The size of the crane needed for this work covers more than half the road and for health and safety reasons it is not possible to close the road on an ad hoc basis therefore the road will be closed from 2nd February 2015 for 30 weeks but if all goes well this could be reduced to 24 weeks. The cost of tower cranes for this 4 classroom extension is prohibitive. Night time unloading would not be possible in view of adjacent residential properties.

Karen Jarvis informed the Committee that the Highdale Road School Crossing Patrol would be moved to Chapel Hill for the duration of the project. Rob Thomson was asked whether a permanent pedestrian crossing could now be considered by NSC, this had been put forward by the Town Council in the past. Mr Thomson emphasised that highway works had to be assessed against Department for Transport criteria regarding vehicle and pedestrian flows and the number of injury accidents and a crossing in this location could not be justified especially as there is a finite budget. Every year schemes are scored and assessed however often new schemes come forward with a high score meaning schemes on the list cannot be progressed.

TH/15/487 ST NICHOLAS CHANTRY SCHOOL – CLOSURE OF HIGHDALE ROAD

Continued...

NSC had carried out a traffic count and although the traffic flow on Chapel Hill may increase by up to 50%, Mr Thomson emphasised that there is evidence that where roads are closed motorists find their own alternative routes and also drive slower due to increased traffic and unfamiliar routes. It was reported that this had been the case with the recent closure of the Long Ashton bypass.

The Committee Vice-Chairman read out an email from a resident of Highdale Avenue to the Head Teacher raising concerns about cars queuing along Highdale Avenue waiting for the school entrance gates to be opened. The resident asked what would happen if there was a serious incident at the school and emergency vehicles could not get through. Mr Treasure-Smith replied that in the event of an emergency the school gates would be opened and cars directed to the school field thereby freeing up the road. The East Ward NSC Councillor again raised the possibility of a one way system for Highdale Avenue using School Road however this would involve compulsory purchase as only 1.8m of School Road is owned by NSC.

The invited guests were thanked for their attendance and their willingness to answer all the questions raised.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to resume suspend standing orders.

RESOLVED: To inform NSC that the Town Council regrets the necessity for the lengthy closure of Highdale Road to facilitate the extension to the School. Also Members are disappointed at the lack of mitigation measures proposed to assist drivers and pedestrians following the closure of this road apart from the relocation of the school crossing patrol to Chapel Hill. VOTE: 6 FOR 1 AGAINST

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk

8.13 pm The invited guests for this item left the meeting and the Committee Chairman chaired the meeting from this point.

TH/15/488 HILL ROAD PARKING ISSUES TH/14/470

488.1 PROPOSED PAY & DISPLAY SCHEME See also informal business above
Cllr Ap Rees had replied stating that NSC is investigating the inclusion Alexandra Road in this scheme, at the request of local traders. He also states that other Police priorities had reduced the time spent on enforcement of the existing restrictions. Members were disappointed with the decision of the NSC Strategic Planning & Economic Development Panel & Scrutiny Panel on Monday to prepare a revised proposal for pay and display for Hill Road, Bellevue Road and Alexandra Road in Clevedon for consideration by the Executive Member. There was a lengthy discussion and the following main points were raised;

- Only one Clevedon NSC Councillor on the SPED Panel voted for deferment of the scheme.
- At the Special Council meeting in November 2014 Clevedon Town Council voted 17 For 1 Against, in favour of deferral of this scheme.
- Concern that pay and display may put Clevedon shops at a disadvantage as people may not be prepared to pay for parking and go elsewhere to shop.
- There does not appear to be any provision made for Residents parking on these roads.

488.1 PROPOSED PAY & DISPLAY SCHEME continued...

- Concern that residents' parking permits will be introduced.
- Residents have not been consulted, although there are probably more residents living on these roads than traders.
- Where are vehicles displaced by the parking meters supposed to park?
- It would appear a small percentage of traders had asked for this scheme.

Councillor Garner, as Clevedon North NSC Councillor, reported that he was meeting with Cllr Ashton, Leader of NSC, to discuss this scheme.

RESOLVED: To write a letter to Councillor Ashton to be delivered by Cllr Garner the next day repeating the Town Council's previous request to Cllr Ap Rees that the scheme be deferred for the reasons stated in CTC minute 14/494 of the Special Council meeting dated 19th November 2014. Also 1) To emphasise the Town Council's disappointment of the SPED Panel's decision. 2) To highlight the need for consultation with residents in this area and the Alexandra Road traders. VOTE: 6 FOR 0 AGAINST

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk

488.2 PROPOSED ONE WAY SYSTEM FOR HILL ROAD

The Police had replied that while they had no objections in principle they awaited a detailed proposal should NSC consider the benefits and costs of the proposal merit the introduction of such a scheme.

NSC felt the proposal offered few advantages while having a significant implementation cost and being detrimental to road safety, congestion and public transport accessibility. North Somerset Officers therefore could not support the outline scheme.

RESOLVED: To look again at alternative measures to alleviate parking in this area ie permanent car parks at a future meeting of the Committee following the May elections.

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk

488.3 PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Police were asked for their unofficial views on parking enforcement on Hill Road. They reported that there was insufficient Police manpower to monitor Hill Road. PCSO Jasmine Chadwick had worked to enforce the Hill Road parking restrictions but she had now moved area. PC Hughes reminded Members that parking enforcement is only a small part of PCSOs' duties and this is also the view of the Police Commissioner. The Police reported that they had more complaints about parking around the schools in the town than any other area in the town.

488.4 ALEXANDRA ROAD PROPOSALS - NSC SPED PANEL – See TH/15/488.1 above *Cllr Garner and the members of the public left the meeting.*

TH/15/489 OTHER CONCERNS ABOUT PARKING IN THE TOWN

489.1 TOWN CENTRE

Members highlighted increased parking around the Salvation Army on Old Street and Lloyds Bank in the Triangle. PC Hughes reported that moving on motorists parking illegally in the Town Centre did not deter motorists as when the Police returned after a short time more cars were parked.

489.2 ALL SAINTS LANE

Parking on pavements possibly by people visiting NSC Offices had been reported to a recent PACT Committee. PCSO Caroline Harris had followed this up – posting notices on cars, talking to the receptionists at NSC and residents who also parked on the pavement in this narrow lane. It was pointed out that the designated route to All Saints School and Clevedon School is along Carey Close and the adjacent footpath.

It was unanimously agreed to take Station Road Bollard as the next item to enable the Police to comment.

TH/15/490 STATION ROAD BOLLARD TH/14/481

Clevedon Pride had raised concerns that the bollard was being left in a down position. Individual Councillors and the Police raise the bollard when they see it in a down position however the mechanism is more difficult to raise at present. A resident had written highlighting safety concerns. She felt people consider Station Road to be a pedestrian area but vehicles are regularly driving into the road to access cafes and the bookmakers. The worst day appeared to be Thursday, Market Day. The Police felt it was unlikely that the CCTV camera in Queens Square could assist in identifying vehicle number plates.

RESOLVED: The Committee Chairman to speak with the traders in Station Road and ask them to raise the bollard as and when it is necessary.

ACTION: Committee Chairman

TH/15/491 CHARGING STRUCTURE SEAFRONT CAR PARKS TH/14/475.2

This item had been raised at the NSC SPED Panel meeting on Monday and had been referred to Cllr Ap Rees.

TH/15/492 REVIEW OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS IN CLEVEDON CASTLE ROAD DOUBLE YELLOW LINES TH/14/473

NSC had replied that this request could not be added to the list of waiting restrictions to be reviewed by NSC. The Highways Officers stated that ‘if vehicles choose to park at this location then drivers travelling along the road must negotiate the parked vehicles. The forward visibility is not considered restricted by the bend, drivers approaching the bend should proceed with caution as they should at any deviation of their route and not assume that the road ahead is clear’.

TH/15/493 WESTWAY HOUSE NORTHERN WAY DEVELOPMENT OF ALDI SUPERMARKET – HIGHWAY CONCERNS TH/14/476

NSC had replied stating that;

- The S106 works to improve pedestrian access are currently being constructed.
- NSC will be proposing a TRO for additional parking restrictions on Hither Green. The exact extents of these are yet to be determined.
- NSC do not currently have any plans to implement a pedestrian warning sign on Ettlingen Way, however this is something NSC can consider if there is any budget remaining from the other works.

RESOLVED: To ask NSC to consider as a priority the request for 1) ‘Turn left only’ coming out of the estate onto Northern Way; 2) a pedestrian warning sign on Ettlingen Way.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk

TH/15/494 OVERHANGING VEGETATION TH/14/477

No concerns.

RESOLVED: To put this on a future agenda of the Committee when the vegetation is growing again.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk

TH/15/495 BUS SHELTER HOLLY LANE/CASTLE ROAD OPPOSITE ENTRANCE TO CLEVEDON GOLF COURSE

A resident had written asking that this bus shelter be removed. She feels very few people use the bus shelter as most people get off the bus at this stop. She is concerned about litter around the shelter and the fact it is sometimes used as a meeting place for young people. She feels it is inappropriate to have a bus shelter next to a historic listed building.

RESOLVED: The Committee were unanimously in favour of retaining the bus shelter and therefore felt it was not necessary to visit the site.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk

TH/15/496 CHANGES TO LOCAL BUS SERVICES FROM 11 JANUARY 2015

The information was NOTED.

TH/15/497 BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT MONTHLY REPORTS

No concerns raised by the Contractor in November and December 2014 – noted.

TH/15/498 NAILSEA & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Cllr Hill reported that the next meeting is in two weeks' time.

TH/15/499 GORDANO GREENWAY PROJECT STEERING GROUP

No report from the Town Council Representative as Cllr Hatch was not in attendance.

TH/15/500 BRISTOL AIRPORT WINTER NEWSLETTER Noted.

Cllrs Hill and Hatch attended an event for local councillors at the Airport before Christmas. The main subject discussed had been road improvements. In view of the new A2 bus service from Nailsea to the Airport it was;

RESOLVED: To ask for consideration of a bus service from Clevedon to Bristol Airport.

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk

TH/15/501 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were no items.

TH/15/502 TO DETERMINE PART I ITEMS

There were no Part I items.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD *The meeting finished at 9.35 pm*

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