

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **BUILDINGS AND CIVIC MATTERS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil, on **Tuesday 19 March 2013**

(7.00pm to 8.10pm)

Present:

Andrew Kendall – Chairman
Martin Bailey
Kris Castle
Bridget Dollard
Dave Greene
John Hann
Mike Lock
Manny Roper

Also Present:

Alan Tawse – Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nick Burton of Melrose Road expressed his concern about the proposed Glenthorne Avenue Area Traffic Regulation Order (agenda item 5 refers) which he felt would not work without effective enforcement. He claimed that a number of parents who had children at the nearby Milford School currently parked in restricted areas and that this needed to be addressed.

Mike Higgins of Folly Fields indicated that he did not want the proposals imposed upon local residents. He referred to the relatively high volume of vehicles which parked in Folly Fields to drop-off/pick up children during term-time, which he pointed out was a restricted area and needed better enforcement. He drew attention to the problems that arose from this practice, which included the obstruction of residents' driveways and difficulties for emergency vehicles wishing to gain access.

Mark Parsons of Ashford Grove referred to problems arising from motorists parking partly on the footway forcing parents with pushchairs onto the road and also obstructing the use of dropped kerbs.

The Chairman thanked the public for their comments, which he indicated would be taken into consideration by the Committee during their discussion of this item later in the meeting.

8/157 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 January 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8/158 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Tristan Cobb, Clive Davis, Tony Fife, Peter Gubbins and Tony Lock.

8/159 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

8/160 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

8/161 **GLENTHORNE AVENUE AREA – TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 5 refers) and the comments made by the public earlier in the meeting.

A copy of the consultation document, which included details of the draft traffic order and the Highway Authority's reasons for its proposals, was attached to the agenda.

The Town Clerk drew attention to an email from a local resident, which had been copied following its receipt earlier that day to all Members of the Committee, in which she outlined the reasons for her opposition to the proposals, and made a suggestion that a hardstanding area adjoining Milford School be used as a general drop-off/pick-up point thereby alleviating pressure on Glenthorne Avenue and the surrounding roads during term-time.

He indicated that this area was currently used by school transport vehicles and that the possibility of extending the arrangement to other vehicles had previously been explored with the School, which had ruled it out on health and safety grounds.

Reference was made to a number of comments made by local residents on a Facebook Community Forum, none of whom had expressed their support for the proposal. The reasons put forward included:

- Proposals not felt to be safe
- Access problems arising from double-parking
- Obstruction of driveways by vehicles
- Hindering access by emergency vehicles
- Encourage parking on footways

Reference had also been made to the need for greater enforcement of the present traffic regulations in the area; the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing on Mudford Road to a light-controlled crossing and the use of school crossing warden in Glenthorne Avenue.

During the ensuing discussion, Members commented on the narrowness of a number of the roads where it was proposed that the existing "no waiting" restrictions be lifted – particularly Ashford Grove and Folly Fields – and the access problems that would arise if the suggested changes were introduced.

Whilst it was acknowledged that ways of discouraging parents from using vehicles to drop-off/pick-up children would help alleviate potential problems, it was recognised that many parents travelled onto and from work, and therefore arrangements needed to be made to enable them to park nearby in a safe and considerate manner whilst retaining adequate and effective traffic management controls.

Members expressed their support of the reasons put forward by a number of local residents opposed to the proposals and, in the circumstances, felt it would not be appropriate to introduce all the planned changes.

It was also felt that the upgrading of the nearby pedestrian crossing in Mudford Road to a light-controlled crossing would encourage more parents to use the Chilton Grove Car Park thereby alleviating parking pressure on the roads around Glenthorne Avenue.

Members also expressed the need for greater enforcement of the existing traffic regulations in the area as a way of discouraging parents from parking in contravention of these regulations and creating a safer environment.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the Highway Authority be informed of this Council's concerns at the proposed revocation of various no waiting restrictions in the Glenthorne Road area which, in light of the evidence received, is not considered to be a safe and appropriate measure;
- (3) that the Highway Authority be requested to consider upgrading the nearby existing pedestrian crossing in Mudford Road to a light-controlled crossing as a way of encouraging a greater number of parents to use the Chilton Grove Car Park thereby reducing the demand for parking in the roads leading off Glenthorne Avenue; and
- (4) that the Highway Authority's attention be drawn to the apparent lack of the enforcement of the existing traffic regulations in the Glenthorne Road area, and both Somerset County Council and the Police be requested to increase their level of enforcement in this area.

8/162 **SALE OF CARS ON THE HIGHWAY**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 6 refers).

In response to a query, the Town Clerk explained how the District Council carried out checks of suspected breaches of the relevant legislation.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the District Council's ongoing enforcement of the legislation governing the sale of vehicles on the highway be noted, and they be

requested to provide a quarterly report on enforcement action taken in relation to these provisions; and

- (3) arrangements be made for an information item on this subject to be included on the Town Council's website.

8/163 **WEST COKER ROAD (A30) – PEDESTRIAN REFUGES**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 7 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their disappointment at the delay in achieving a satisfactory outcome, it being noted that the Highway Authority were reconsidering the design and looking at other options to assist pedestrians crossing the road and to help slow traffic speeds, following concerns by the Police.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that a further report be awaited and, in the meantime, the views of the Yeovil South Ward Members be sought and submitted to the County Council following the receipt of other options.

8/164 **STREET NAMING**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 8 refers).

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

8/165 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER 2012/ JANUARY 2013**

RESOLVED

that the financial statement be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no further comments from members of the public.

8/166 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

8/167 **PUBLIC TOILETS**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 10 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the draft lease document attached to the report subject to the inclusion in the schedule of service level obligations of the same minimum opening hours that apply in respect of the Peter Street toilets.

8/168 **CCTV MONITORING**

The Committee considered the confidential report (agenda item 11 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that a request be made for the number of convictions to be included in future reports.

Chairman

AT/LJ
22/03/13