

PLANNING & ECONOMIC REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of the meeting held in the Large Hall of the Town Hall, Calne on Monday 10 December 2007

PRESENT: Councillor R Golding – Town Mayor – Ex Officio
Councillor M J Baggs – Deputy Town Mayor – Ex Officio
Councillor A J Trotman – **Chair**
Councillor A K Hill
Councillor H R Marshall
Councillor Mrs C A Robinson
Councillor Mrs A J Venton

OFFICERS: Mrs L Roberts – Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs D Saville-Brown – Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs A Cawkwell – Committee Clerk

31/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor D F Short.

32/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

33/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Committee held on Monday 15 October 2007, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34/07 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Sally Barnett, Highways Management Technician, had nothing to report to this meeting.

35/07 EARMARKED RESERVES

The Chair, Councillor A J Trotman, observed that the £5,000 earmarked for Conservation Areas would be vired to a Policy & Resources cost heading as agreed at a previous meeting. This would be done at the Accountants next visit in January and therefore still showed on the Earmarked Reserves.

36/07 20 MPH ZONE, CURZON STREET, CALNE

Members discussed the correspondence received and the following points were raised:

- It was felt that Mr Tilley and Wiltshire County Council Officers should come to the town and view for themselves the reasons why the statement that “The scheme appears to be working relatively well” is certainly not true.
- There is mention in Mr Tilley’s letter about “secured funding” which was “re-allocated towards town centre traffic calming works” – how much was this?, at what cost? Where is the rest of the money?
- The situation at Curzon Street is very dangerous, with impatient drivers mounting the pavement, sounding horns and people actually getting out of cars to argue.
- There is a requirement for Wiltshire County Council Officers to visit the town during peak times to see an accurate view of what actually happens in Curzon Street. It was felt that previous viewings had been when traffic was flowing, in between the peak times, when there are few problems with this system.
- A strong letter was required from the Deputy Town Clerk, Mrs Roberts.
- There were also fears from shop owners that the traffic buildup, which can be very frustrating, and the lack of movement of traffic could cause people to do their shopping elsewhere.
- Fire Engines and Ambulances have also been affected by this system and are often stuck waiting to get through. There was a need for WCC Officers to see this problem and if necessary Councillor Marshall would be prepared to write a personal letter about this issue.
- It was suggested that perhaps drivers are unaware what the signs mean at the end of Curzon Street, these should be clearer and need to be emphasised.
- From the A4 there is no indication of oncoming traffic, the signage is not good enough.
- If County Officers are not prepared to come to view the situation then the Town Council as a body will go to see them.
- As decided at a previous meeting the erection of bollards in this area is a priority and needs to be assessed.
- The Town Council have written numerous letters and followed up these letters, unfortunately, producing nothing from the County Council. Perhaps it is time to carry out our own consultations and provide hard evidence to support our case.
- A petition should be distributed in each ward to show how unhappy the townspeople are with the Curzon Street system.
- A questionnaire would appear in the Calne Connection in January as an ideal indication of what the public think about Curzon Street.
- The possibility of using CCTV cameras to cover this area of Curzon Street should be investigated.

37/07 NORTH STREET/LICKHILL ROAD FOOTWAY ENHANCEMENTS

The Deputy Town Clerk, Mrs Roberts, informed members of the following:

- Wiltshire County Council have now advised they need a response concerning restricted access at Duncan Street and are therefore unable to progress further

with the footway enhancements. Duncan Street cannot be blocked off permanently as it is to provide a new public transport link for the town bus service.

- There is mention of Section 106 funds which may be able to be transferred to North Street and Lickhill Road if the need for traffic calming on Duncan Street is deemed unnecessary. This was considered to be doubtful and it was suggested that this issue concerning Duncan Street should be left for the time being and there was a need to progress with what we know is possible.

It was proposed by Councillor A K Hill, seconded by the Town Mayor, Councillor R Golding and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to write a letter to Wiltshire County Council requesting that the funding from the Section 106 Agreement for Duncan Street be left for any work necessary at Duncan Street and to proceed with the Footway Enhancements at North Street/Lickhill Road from the remaining Section 106 funding.

Members raised the following additional comments:

- A letter had been sent to Wiltshire County Council detailing which houses had foliage overhanging and blocking the limited footway, however, no response had been received. Another letter had been sent recently as a follow up to the original letter.
- There was despair at the lack of feedback received from the County Council.
- The Chair, Councillor A J Trotman, as County Councillor suggested that he and Mrs Roberts should make an appointment to see the Chief Executive, with all issues of concern.

It was proposed by Councillor A K Hill, seconded by the Town Mayor, Councillor R Golding and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to write a letter to the Chief Executive of Wiltshire County Council, stating that the Town Council are extremely unhappy with the lack of service provided by County Council Officers.

38/07 DOUBLE YELLOW LINES, STATION ROAD

Members discussed this item and the following comments were made:

- The Chair, Councillor A J Trotman, informed members that this issue may have been delayed due to a planning application which has been submitted for the construction of 115 houses at the old Cams Circuits site. Funds from the developer may be available if this plan is approved.
- There was concern – is there a schedule router for receiving towns?, what other towns have asked for a review?, where do we stand and how long before they get round to do their job?
- The response received from the Highways Department was positive, however, there is a different response each time.

- A letter would be sent requesting more information.
- The Chair informed that Corsham had been completed, Chippenham was half way through completion and Calne was next on the list.
- Councillor A J Trotman was requested, as County Councillor, to voice the Town Council's displeasure. He stated that he would do so at the meeting with the Chief Executive and Mrs Roberts when all issues will be raised.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

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