

MINUTES OF THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

**23 March 2011 at 7.30pm
The Harlington**

Councillors

R. Appleton (Chair), R. Schofield, S. Fisher, S. Forster.

Also Present

Cllr Sharyn Wheale

2 members of the public – Representing Fleet and Church Crookham Civic Society

Shar Roselman – Clerk

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Cllr Macallan.

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Forster declared a personal interest in that he lives in Birch Avenue.

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from members of the public.

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 4: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Highways and Transportation Committee meeting held on the 26 January 2011.

Prop: SF Sec: SueF

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 5: CHANGE OF SPEED LIMIT READING ROAD NORTH

Following discussion with a number of residents, a motion was proposed to call for a uniform 30 mph speed limit along the length of Reading Road North.

Cllr Wheale indicated that Hampshire County Council Highways had considered the matter, but that there was reluctance to move towards the change because in a 30 mph limit there are no signs and existing 40 mph signs will have to come down. HCC Highways policy was not to change the speed limit on a road unless there was support from the police and, at the moment, there was little support from police towards this move.

Cllr Appleton mentioned a police woman who had been found riding her bicycle on the pavement, who commented that the road was too dangerous for her to ride on.

Resolved to write to Hampshire County Council Highways department to propose that there should be a reduction in the existing 40 mph speed limit, to a 30 mph speed limit from just before the Elvetham Health Roundabout coming from Hartley Whitney along the whole length of Reading Road North.

Prop: SF Sec: RA

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 6: VISIBILITY FROM BIRCH AVENUE

The committee noted that visibility was poor at this junction if someone parked in the bay outside the laundrette. Large delivery vehicles often parked in this last bay. There have been several minor accidents at that point.

Action: The clerk to establish from Hart District Council whether they have the power to remove this parking bay.

Action: Cllr Forster will talk to the retailers along this road to establish their opinions about the matter.

Resolved that, should retailers in general support this, Fleet Town Council will approach either Hart District Council, or Hampshire County Council, requesting removal of this parking bay.

Prop: RA Sec: SF

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 7:

The committee received a revised list of proposed grit bin locations from Cllr Fisher.

Resolved to write to Hampshire County Council to propose that additional grit bins be placed in all the areas on Table II, excluding the alleyway that leads to the canal towpath, before next winter.

Prop: SF Sec: RA

Action: The clerk

Action: The clerk to place an item on the grit bins on Table III onto the agenda for the next the Highways Partnership meeting. Date of the next meeting: 5th April 2011 at 3pm at the Harlington.

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 8: NAMING OF NEW ROAD ON DEVELOPMENT SITE OFF ST JAMES ROAD

The committee debated the name proposed by the developer building the new dwellings at 7 – 11 Crookham Road, Fleet. It was felt that Woodlark Place was not a suitable name for the area. A proposal was to name the Road St James Close.

Resolved to write to Hart District Council recommended that the road be called St James Close, and that in future The Fleet Town Council be consulted about

new road names. Resolved also to mention that it would be more appropriate to name roads after people who have contributed something to Fleet, such as famous residents and past Councillors and that it would be appropriate to consult with the Fleet and Church Crookham Historical Society to acquire a list of suitable names for future road.

Prop: RA Sec: SF

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 9: S106 FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

The clerk reported that she had written to Chris Murray of Hampshire County Council Highways, requesting information on the cost of putting pedestrian phase lights on Fleet Road at the Waterfront Business Park exit on Bramshot Park.

Chris Murray had replied that the query had been passed onto Helen Merrills, but no reply had as yet been received.

Action: The Clerk will email Helen Merrills to make further enquiries.

A new development on the Waterfront for which planning permission was being sought might also be able to contribute some developer funding towards this project, as might the FTAP proposals.

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 10: NETWORK RAIL AND SOUTH WEST TRAINS MEETING WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The committee discussed items that could be raised at this meeting on behalf of Fleet Town Council.

Resolved to write to Hart District Council to request that the following list of items be raised at the meeting:

Prop: RA Sec: SF

Fleet Town Council would like to know why no response has been received to their letter of the 27th January 2011.

Fleet Town Council would like to request a discussion with South West Trains about improving access to the Station, including the problem of the traffic now flowing the wrong way round following the re-organisation of the car park. It is believed that this new routing is dangerous to pedestrians, motorists and cyclists.

Better signage at the station is needed.

The automatic ticket machine requires a sun visor as it cannot be seen when the sun is out.

Fleet Town Council would like to enquire further about the cycle and pedestrian path leading into the station.

A meeting is sought between South West Trains and Fleet bus companies to discuss the need to provide bus services after 7 pm, when many daily commuters arrive in back in Fleet.

Whilst it is appreciated that trains arrive from different stations, Fleet Town Council would appreciate a review of train timetables as currently trains scheduled to leave

Fleet depart within a period of twelve minutes rather than being spaced out across the hour.

An answer is sought as to when the smart ticket readers are anticipated to go live. Currently the steps into the station are not gritted on snow days, and Fleet Town Council would appreciate this being done by station employees.

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 11: CONCERNS REGARDING INCREASES IN PARKING IN LEAWOOD ROAD AND STANTON DRIVE, AND PARKING ON GRASS VERGES AROUND BASINGBOURNE PARK

The committee discussed whether in future there might be a need to consider controlled parking zones around Fleet. Generally the method of stating no parking for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon was preferred to prevent long term parking. However, residents opinions would have to be considered.

On the matter of Leawood Road it was suggested that members go back to residents to ask whether there was support for yellow lines and non parking restrictions.

Action: Cllr Schofield will make enquiries of residents.

Regarding Stanton Drive it was recommended that a meeting be arranged with the Resident's Association of Stanton Drive.

Action: Cllr Appleton will provide the clerk with contact details for the Association. A meeting will then be set up with Cllr Appleton and the residents.

On the matter of the verges at Basingbourne Park being destroyed by parked cars, various strategies were discussed.

Resolved to request the working party on the Strategy for Basingbourne Park to consider cutting a lay-bye into the verge to provide parking for football users.

Prop: RA Sec: BS

The items on the agenda were reversed to accommodate the representatives of the Fleet and Church Crookham Historical Society who had produced the report.

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 13: STREET PRIDE REPORT

The representatives of the Fleet and Church Crookham Civic Society mentioned that the report had been developed as a result of urging from Civic Voice along with English Heritage to provide such reports.

Overall the impression of the Society was that most signage was needed. Some bus stop signs were duplicated. It was generally appreciated that the only close fencing was in the vicinity of the bridge over the canal.

The Society appreciated that Fleet Town Council had no direct responsibility for the signage in the Fleet but they would be grateful for the use of influence on primary councils who held that responsibility.

Cllr Wheale reported that she had spoken to Rolly Skelton regarding the ownership of the finger signs. Hampshire County Council will be repairing these.

Cllr Appleton mentioned that he would be grateful if utilities contractors could avoid placing signs in the cycle path when digging up pavements.

The chair thanked the Fleet and Church Crookham Civic Society for their work.

Resolved to endorse the conclusions of the report apart from the need for bollards on Reading Rd South, which were considered essential.

Prop: RA Sec: SF

H&T MAR 2011 ITEM 12: TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The committee debated the items that should be placed on the agenda for this meeting.

The following items were identified for discussion:

- Speed Enforcement. The need to set up a working group to develop an overall plan for the reduction of speed in Fleet to avoid relying on the police to enforce speed control.
- Restriction of HGVs through the town. To establish who has the legal authority for fining HGV's and to seek information on how the Pyestock controls work.

Action: The clerk to request Tim Wall to provide a briefing to be brought to the Highways and Partnership Meeting.

- Pavement cleanliness. With specific reference to gritting on Fleet Road, Stockton Avenue and Birch Avenue.

Action: The clerk to contact Cllr Parker regarding the comment of the depot manager missing a crew which had resulted in the grit not being cleared from the pavements between King's Road and the Station.

- Grit Bins requested.
- Potholes on the Junction of King's Road/Fleet Road, New Road and Stockton Avenue.
- Street Pride report.

- The need to require of contractors digging up open amenity land such as the green space at the Corner of Velmeed/Fleet Roads, that they reinstate plantings and bulbs.
- The response from ITS on the phasing of the lights at the Fleet Road/King's Road junction which has not been received as yet.

Please note that, in accordance with the decision to hold these meetings bi-monthly the next meeting will be held on 25th May 2011 at 7.30 at the Harlington.

Signed.....

Date:.....