

# Highways & Public Transport Committee

**28 June 2011, 20.00hr**

Present	Councillors	J Shardlow A Brewster G Clark N Clements D Davies D Johnston	Chairman
		Julia Warren	Clerk
		Press	0
		Public	0

## **1982 -11 Apologies & Substitutions**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Brewster (late arrival), Cllr Fletcher (personal reasons) and Julie Bell (WDPS).

## **1983-11 Questions from the Public**

None

## **1984-11 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Clark declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Minute 1991-11 (the contractor being her husband) and withdrew during all discussion of this item

## **1985-11 Election of Vice Chairman**

Councillor Clements proposed himself as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Davies and his election was agreed.

**Resolved To appoint Councillor Clements as Vice Chairman of the Highways and Public Transport Committee**

*Councillor Brewster arrived following this item.*

## **1986-11 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2011 were approved.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2011 as a true and fair record, and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

## **1987-11 Signage Design Statement**

The draft Signage Design Statement prepared in 2010 by the

Wheathampstead & District Preservation Society had been re circulated to the new committee as agreed at Minute 18717-11. Its purpose was to achieve greater consistency and quality of signage, particularly in the conservation area. It would form part of the wider Village Design Statement which would then need to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance. Feedback on the draft was waited for from WEB (Wheathampstead for Enterprising Businesses). A representative from WDPS would attend next meeting. Members were asked to study in detail the draft statement ready for approval at its next meeting.

- Recommendation**
- 1 To note the report**
  - 2 To consider and approve a Signage design Statement at the next Highways and Public Transport Committee**

**1988-11 East Lane Car Park – Request from owners of Loufenway**

It was reported that the Clerk and Chairman of the Highways Committee had met with the new owners of Loufenway to discuss their requests. The fence bordering the property was owned by, and the responsibility of, the homeowners (L'Estranges). Their request was to replace this with a brick wall and had accepted that no contribution would be forthcoming from the Parish Council. Subject to SADC approval and a height limit of 5' the committee recommended approval to Council. The L'Estranges had also requested that they plant and maintain flowering shrubs on the car park side (west) of the fence.

- Recommendation**
- 1 To note the report.**
  - 2 To confirm that the fence was the property and responsibility of the L'Estranges**
  - 3 To confirm, subject to agreement from SADC (Planning Authority and owners of the car park), that the fencing be replaced by a brick wall not exceeding 5ft high**
  - 4 To allow permissive planting of flowering plants placed on WPC side of the wall, but that maintenance of the plants would be the responsibility of L'Estranges, and that permission may be withdrawn if, for example, any climbing shrubs become overgrown or a nuisance to the public.**

**1989-11 East Lane Car Park including Survey**

The Car Park Survey, conducted over two weeks in February 2011 and coordinated and analysed by Cllr Johnston had been circulated. The results were communicated to a packed public meeting in April. Councillor Johnston outlined the results emphasising the appreciation felt by businesses and residents of the free parking facility. A capacity problem currently arose mainly between 10.30 and 12.30 hours weekdays; about 30% capacity was utilised by those working locally

and 60% by people parking for less than one hour. 60% of users came from outside the Village.

Consideration was also given to River access and the adjacent properties to the car park, and the need to have an accurate ownership plan. In light of the result of the current usage of the car park Members considered that expansion onto SADC's underutilised adjacent strip be considered. Attention was drawn to two trees which required pruning so as to avoid the sight lines of the CCTV camera

The chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Car Park Survey Report be noted and that WPC write (email) all survey volunteers thanking them for their valuable work and excellent report. St Albans District Council would be advised to check its deeds and SADC/The Bull asked to prune the necessary trees. SADC to be further notified that the Parish Council wishes to have the option to expand the car park area following lease renewal. Concerns raised regarding the upkeep of this area were to be forwarded to the District Council

- Recommendation**
- 1 To note the report**
  - 2 Clerk to write (email) all survey volunteers thanking them for their valuable work and excellent report.**
  - 3 Clerk to write to SADC asking that the deeds be reviewed with particular note to the area which the Parish Council would like an option for expansion over.**
  - 4 To ask SADC / The Bull to prune the overgrown trees.**
  - 5 To advise SADC of concerns regarding upkeep and maintenance of their area adjacent to the car park**

## **1990-11 Update on Matters discussed with HCC as responsible authority**

The notes of the meeting on 21 June with Hertfordshire Highways (HH) Officer, Damian Higgins and County Councillor Maxine Crawley had been circulated. An update had not been received prior to the meeting but subsequent information is italicised.

### **Parking**

Concerns had been raised regarding the barrier across Brocket View particularly in relation to emergency access. HH continued to investigate this matter.

*Post meeting Mr Higgins confirmed that the highways register did not show any fs106 funds for East Lane or Butterfield Road.*

### **Marford Crossing**

Hertfordshire Highway's initial assessment suggested that the area outside the Memorial Hall as being the only suitable area to accommodate the crossing. Pedestrian data collected by the Parish Council also supported the provision of the crossing at this location.

HH further advised that in order to overcome some site constraints and

meet some visibility and safety criteria in design guidelines, a signal controlled crossing may be the most suitable for the site. There may also be a need to relocate the bus stops in the vicinity of Memorial Hall to accommodate the crossing. County Cllr Crawley supported the proposals in principle.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the draft response (circulated) from the Parish, as amended be approved. This would enable the formal consultation process to begin as soon as possible.

### **Road Surface**

HH had acknowledged that contractor problems had prevented pot hole filling to be undertaken prior to resurfacing. Marford Road would be patched and re-lined in July. All white and yellow lines would be remarked

### **Roadworks notification**

The Elgin Website had been demonstrated showing planned works.

### **Salt bin provision**

An outstanding request for a salt bin at the junction of Sheepcote Lane and Marford Road remained. HH had advised that few if any bins would be provided in 2011-12. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Clerk ensure HH have an up to date location list of Wheathampstead bins, and that quotations be obtained for the next meeting in anticipation that the additional bin may not be funded by HH.

### **Streetlighting**

The chairman proposed, and it was agreed, to recommend sending the circulated draft response to the policy review and energy saving for street lighting in Hertfordshire.

### **Speeding & Public transport**

It was reported that County Cllr Crawley was utilising £10,000 of her local budget to fund traffic calming rumble waves outside Wheathampstead House School. The new neighbourhood sergeant was very aware of speeding issues within the Village and police Traffic management Unit was looking at speed restrictions on the Kimpton Road, near the Slype. HH were investigating the Gustard Wood – Slype crossroads.

Complaints were fairly regularly received regarding problems with buses. Records would in future be kept of highways issues in the form of a log. Members were not clear as to the minimum standards for public transport and agreed to research these

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that a small working group look in detail at speeding and public transport – Councillors Brewster, Clements, Johnston, Shardlow

### **Children at play signs**

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that the residents of the Broadway be asked to approach SADC direct for signage

### **Footway Maintenance**

Mr Higgins had agreed to provide a footway map. He had also been asked to undertake a rolling footway repair programme prioritising

pavements around East Lane flats *but had undertaken to inspect these as the 2011-12 JMP budget had been allocated elsewhere.*

Footpath maintenance would be itemised on the office log

- Recommendation**
- 1 To note the reports**
  - 2 the draft response to the Marford Crossing consultation , as amended be approved**
  - 3 Clerk ensure HH have an up to date location list of Wheathampstead salt bins**
  - 4 Quotations be obtained for the next meeting in anticipation that the additional salt bin may not be funded by HH**
  - 5 Clerk to send the draft response to the policy review and energy saving for street lighting in Hertfordshire**
  - 6 A small working group look in detail at speeding and public transport – Councillors Brewster, Clements, Johnston, Shardlow**
  - 7 The residents of the Broadway be asked to approach SADC direct for signage**
  - 8 Office to maintain a log to show progress of issues**

#### **1991-11 Bus Shelters**

Councillor Clark declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the meeting. She returned once the recommendation had been made.

Five companies had been approached to quote to refurbish the bus shelters. Members considered the single response and the Chairman recommended approval of the estimate to paint 5 bus shelters (£880). This was agreed. This would be financed from the £4,200 which had been carried from 2010-11 for bus shelter improvements.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the purchase of heritage type shelters. This would be considered at a future meeting. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that this be put forward as a potential use for the insurance money obtained from EDF's (UK Power Networks') contractors unauthorised felling of the Meads willow trees.

- Recommendation**
- 1 To approve the estimate to repaint 5 bus shelters at £880**
  - 2 To suggest that funds from the willow compensation money be put towards heritage bus shelters for the Village**

#### **1992-11 Floral Works**

The planting by the Swan roundabout on Marford Road adjacent to the zebra crossing was discussed. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that this needed to be regularly maintained and complaints regarding its height be logged. The Clerk would also enquire of SADC

