

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE AND GROVE
TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, WANTAGE
ON THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2009 AT 7.00 PM**

Present: Grove Parish Council Councillors W Evans, C Phillips and Mrs J Stock

 Wantage Town Council Councillors E Goldsmith, Mrs J Hannaby (Chairman)

 Oxfordshire County Council Mr P Ronald (Engineer), Ms C Browning
 Officers (Transport Policy Planner)

 Vale of White Horse District Mr G Willcox (Engineer)
 Council Officer

 Thames Valley Police Mr C Hulme and Ms S Harris (PCSO)

 Deputy Clerk Mrs H Kell

Two members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Dr ICE Turcu (Wantage Town Council), Councillors S Marchant (Vale of White Horse District Council) and Councillor Z Patrick (Oxfordshire County Council).

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2008

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Statements and Questions from the Public

a) Manor Road footway extension – Mr Graham Douglas at 2 Manor Farm Cottages, had requested that the footpath along Manor Road be extended to the youth hostel at the top of the hill. The request was to enable all those residents who live in Manor Road to walk children to school or to the Town Centre. Mr Douglas requested the Committee's support to canvass local opinion and the wishes of the residents and landowners involved. A letter with a tear-off slip for support was circulated to all members of the Committee.

b) Speeding – Ormond Road – Mrs Shirley Gallagher had requested the provision of permanent traffic calming measures in Ormond Road, following the recent 24 hour traffic survey. Mrs Gallagher raised her concern for children's safety when cycling to and from school.

5. Southern Central Oxfordshire Transport Strategy (SCOTS)

Ms Cathy Browning updated members of the Committee with the progress of the SCOTS report. Meetings had now been held with both The Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. Over the next four months, consultations with all parish councils will take place.

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Members of Grove Parish Council voiced their concerns that copies of the report had not been sent to all town and parish councils. Ms Browning reported that copies of the report would be circulated to all parish councils within the next few days. It was noted that public exhibitions will be held as follows:

27 January – Abingdon
30 January – Faringdon
5 February – Botley
12 February – Wantage

An exhibition and workshop specifically for Town and Parish Councillors, was to be held in the Civic Hall, Wantage on Thursday 22 January. An exhibition was held from 3 -7 pm, and workshops from 7-9 pm. Mr Willcox reported that formal consultation will take place from 16 January until the end of February. Ms Browning concluded by reporting that following public consultation, the SCOTS proposals will go to the County Council's Committee in July for formal ratification. Mr Willcox reminded members that as the District Council's Core Strategy will be looking at provision of 1500 houses in either Abingdon or Grove / Wantage. The County Council had undertaken numerous studies on the Drayton Road ere bridge in Abingdon and widening of the bridge was not value for money. Concerns were expressed that full consultation had not been held with local councillors, prior to the report being produced. It was also asked whether any thought had been given to the upgrading of the A338.

6. Matters Arising

(a) Undercroft car park on the Limborough Road development -Mr Willcox reported that the undercroft car park remained unopen due to design faults, requiring rectification by the builder.

(b) Willow Walk Cycle track – Consultations on the Willow Walk cycle track were continuing with local residents and landowners.

(c) Speeding vehicles around Grove Airfield – Mr Ronald reported that a traffic survey had been undertaken around the Grove Airfield from 20 – 26 November 2008 and had resulted in the average speed northbound being 37 mph and southbound 35 mph. Mr Ronald reminded members that this was a non restricted road.

7. Request from Grove Parish Council

Grove Councillors again enquired when work to extend a double yellow line, either side of the County Council's barrier gate in Cane Lane will commence. Mr Ronald reported these will be progressed in the near future.

8. Request from Wantage Town Council

(a) Pedestrian crossing at Sainsbury's – Mr Willcox reported that 106 funding had been provided by David Wilson Homes for a pedestrian crossing adjacent to their development, but the exact position had not been defined. Money had been forwarded to Oxfordshire County Council in April 2008

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor Goldsmith

IT WAS RESOLVED that consultation and site meetings be held to consider the proposed position of the pedestrian crossing.

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(b) Weed Clearing – Budget 2009/10 and (d) County Budget – Weed / Potholes

These items were taken together. Mr Ronald reported that there was no provision for weed clearing in the County Council's budget.

(c) Street Cleaning – This was a District Council responsibility.

(e) Dropped kerb by museum – Funding provision was available in 2008/09 financial year. The Chairman was to confirm the exact position for the dropped kerb.

(f) Extension of footway in Manor Road – A letter from Mr Douglas was noted. Mr Ronald reported that there was no money in the local transport budget for an extension to the Manor Road footway. However, an application could be made by the school through the Green Travel Plan. Mr Ronald agreed to undertake an accessibility survey, which will include the number of pedestrians who use Manor Road. Mr Ronald recommended that Mr and Mrs Douglas contact the school.

9. Wantage Market Place Refurbishment Plan

Councillor Mrs Hannaby, reported that the Town Council had received a presentation by BHP Harwood, the Town Council's consultants, on the Market Place refurbishment.

10. Report of Director of Environment and Economy

The attached report of the Director of Environment and Economy was received and noted.

(a) Speeding in Ormond Road – Mr Ronald reported a speed survey had been carried out from 20-26 November and had recorded an average speed in Ormond Road of 24 mph.

(b) Yellow Lanes – Vale Avenue, Grove. It was requested that this item be included on the next agenda of this committee.

Action: Clerk

11. District Council Officer's Report

All items had already been covered.

12. General correspondence

None.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 23 April 2009. The Deputy Clerk was asked to check if this date coincided with the Grove JET meeting.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

HK/ME

WANTAGE & GROVE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 15 JAN 2009

COUNTY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Newbury Street – Problem of vehicles parking close to the junction with Portway

Request for further yellow lines (by the garage) to be progressed this financial year.

Yellow lines by Church View in Main Street

To be progressed this financial year.

Additional Traffic Regulation Orders proposed for Wantage

Garston Lane – Remove 'SCHOOL' markings & extend waiting restrictions.

Priory Road – Removal of 8 – 6 restriction.

Speeding in Ormond Road

Speed survey carried out on corner of Maryfield from 20/11/2008 to 26/11/2008. Mr Ronald has the results for discussion.

Speed Survey on Denchworth Road between Mably Way and Newlands Drive / Cane Lane

Speed survey carried out from 20/11/2008 to 26/11/2008. Mr Ronald has the results for discussion.