

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held on Friday 5th June 2020 at 10am

The meeting took place in a virtual environment using “Zoom” video conferencing technology and members of the public and press were given the opportunity to observe or participate in the meeting by pre-registering.

PRESENT: Cllr Philip Day (Chairman)
Cllr Rae Frederick (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Tony Ring
Cllr Glenys Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator
Cllr Jeremy Heron (*until 10:35am*)

ABSENT: Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Hilary Edge

P/5705 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 3 members of the public present and interested in agenda items.

P/5706 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Briers.

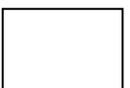
P/5707 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

P/5708 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st May 2020, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

P/5709 PLANNING APPLICATIONS



With the agreement of Members and for the benefit of the members of the public present, application 20/10428 was brought forward and item 7 on the agenda was considered next.

The remainder of the planning applications were dealt with in list order.

Although it was not a disclosable pecuniary interest, it was noted that in respect of application 20/10439 23 & 23A Market Place, Ringwood Events Team (RET) use these premises during events held in the Market Place. Cllr Ring and Day are also members of RET.

RESOLVED: That the observations summarised in *Annex A* be submitted and the decision made under delegated powers be noted.

ACTION Nicola Vodden

P/5710

WALKING AND CYCLING ISSUES

The Deputy Town Clerk presented her report (*Annex B*) which provided an update on walking and cycling issues.

Government funding

She referred to the recent government announcement of funding to help local authorities improve walking and cycling infrastructure, to encourage healthier and greener travel habits. HCC is expected to be allocated a share of this money, but at this stage, town and parish councils have not been consulted.

In addition, NFDC will be able to apply for funding to help towards the safe opening of high streets and are inviting suggestions from town and parish councils.

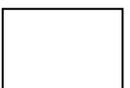
Castleman Trailway

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on progress made to extend the Castleman Trailway between Crow Lane and Embankment Way. HCC is in the process of creating a bridleway on the length from Crow Lane to the railway bridge.

Although they were not declarable pecuniary interests, Cllr Deboos and Frederick indicated that they were members of RACE.

A representative of Ringwood Action on Climate Emergency (RACE) explained that the group wished to work with the Council in implementing measures for pedestrians and cyclists, in response to the Covid-19 situation and gave examples of improvements, which could be made, referring to some specific aims in Ringwood's Town Access Plan. It was suggested that any proposals be formed and referred to the Ringwood Environmental Action Leadership (REAL) Working Party for consideration.

Another member of the public was concerned with the speed of vehicles travelling on roads between Gorley Road and Gravel Lane. A temporary speed indicator had been installed a while ago, but he advised more lasting measures were required, for example, pinch points or a speed camera. With more people walking and cycling and with the



increased traffic from housing developments, he feared that the likelihood of accidents would increase.

The members of the public were thanked for their contribution.

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Town Clerk's report on walking and cycling issues (*Annex B*) be received.

At the end of this item, the Committee returned to considering the list of planning applications.

Cllr Heron left the meeting at 10:35.

ACTION Jo Hurd

P/5711

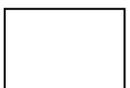
A31 IMPROVEMENTS

Members received the notes of the meeting with Highways England held on 12th March 2020 (*Annex C*). A survey will be carried out underneath the road bridges and design consultants are working on the scope of works expected to take place. Some vegetation will have to be removed in Jubilee Gardens and further information is awaited on the ground investigations needed (which includes 4 boreholes).

Referring to paragraph 5 of the notes, regarding Traffic Management Planning and the closure of West Street, it was felt that assurances should be sought at the next meeting (in September) regarding signage for A31, A338 and Christchurch Road, to indicate that there is no route through the town.

The Deputy Town Clerk also provided a verbal update on town centre improvement schemes enabled by Designated Funds.

- 1) Strides Lane footpath: Work to resurface and widen the existing footpath to 1.8m - 2m and install new dropped kerbs completed.
- 2) West Street: Work to install build-outs to create a gateway at the Market Place end of West Street to commence 8th June.
- 3) Linden Gardens/Gravel Lane: Work on minor improvements to improve the footpath on the approach to the zebra crossing and address drainage issues completed.
- 4) The Furlong: Work is in progress to construct an improved pedestrian crossing between the Furlong Shopping Centre and Ringwood Gateway/the town centre car parks and expected to be completed by Friday 12th June.
- 5) Meeting House Lane: Improvements to the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Ringwood Meeting House are included in The Furlong scheme (as 4 above)
- 6) Mansfield Road: Installation of a gateway on the approach to the roundabout – resurfacing of central reservation, removal of weeds and sealing to prevent re-growth (now agreed) – start date is to be advised
- 7) Hurn Lane: Upgrading of the existing crossing island to accommodate cyclists – pending permission from Dorset County Council and Highways England
- 8) Installation of cycle parking in key town centre locations: Locations identified in Market Place (demountable), Friday's Cross and Gateway Square. 3 stands have been installed in Gateway Square, others still to be installed



9) Signing of and minor improvements to cycle routes linking the town centre and outlying areas: Signs due to be installed this week, after which the safety audit team will review the cycle route.

The Committee felt, given the current coronavirus situation and imminent re-opening of high streets, that it would be beneficial to the town to bring forward the closure of West Street, as it would mean a reduction in traffic using the High Street, as a rat-run to the A31. The Deputy Town Clerk indicated that HCC had not yet submitted the Traffic Regulation Order required and it was a lengthy process, however there may be some provision in the new coronavirus legislation.

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting with Highways England held on 12 March 2020 (*Annex B*) and verbal update on town centre improvement schemes (enabled by Designated Funds) be received.

ACTION Jo Hurd

**P/5712
PROJECTS**

A1 – Neighbourhood Plan

The Committee felt that progress can be made, with the next stage, and a consultant should be selected to assist with scoping, public consultation, presentation of evidence, etc. The Working Party would be consulted on whether presentations can be considered via video conferencing.

Cllr Ring left the meeting briefly due to a technical problem.

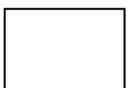
A3 – Human Sundial – Funding is in place for the project. The stones and benches had been purchased. A commencement date was awaited from HCC. Members asked that the question of re-locating the Christmas Tree socket be re-visited.

A4 - Cycle Stands – Three new cycle stands had been installed in Gateway Square. More were planned next to the loading bay, along with demountable ones at Fridays Cross and the Market Place. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to look at provision of cycle stands, at the shopping area at Butlers Lane, Poulner from the available funding and that this be added to the project list.

A5 – Street Lighting in Kings Arms Lane – The residents who made the initial request had since moved and in view of the difficulties encountered in progressing this project, Members agreed that it be deleted. This was due to be funded from CIL receipts.

C1 – Pedestrian Crossings Christchurch Road – The Deputy Town Clerk had spoken to the project engineer and the scheme is awaiting approval and, subject to that and availability of resources and permits being granted, work could be carried out in August/September.

C3 – Moortown drainage improvements – No update was available. The Deputy Town Clerk indicated that she would be pressing for information on this, given recent flooding and increased usage from the occupation of houses on Beaumont Park.



C6 -Shared use path across Carvers – Works should commence at the end of July. In addition, approval had been given for a small eco-area to the side of the path.

RESOLVED: That the update in respect of projects (*Annex D*) be received.

ACTION Jo Hurd

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.10pm.

RECEIVED
24th June 2020

APPROVED
3rd July 2020

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Note: The text in the Action Boxes above does not form part of these minutes.

