



Minutes of a Meeting of the Traffic Management, Parking & Pedestrian Safety Committee of the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Tuesday 15th October 2024 at 10.30am, Council Office, Old School

Members Present: Cllr Robin Williamson (Chair)
Cllr Sonia Lofthouse
Cllr Nick Mallen
Cllr Toby Thurston

Officers Present:

Assistant Clerk Mike Harper

Public and Press:

3 MoPs

Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting

MoP 1 complained about the visibility at the junction of Red Cross Rd and the High Street; vehicles coming from Red Cross Road have difficulty seeing oncoming traffic on the High Street, especially cyclists. It was likely that the junction would be increasingly used once the new development on Manor Road was fully occupied. In response the Chair said that the Committee had met with a OCC Highways officer at the junction; OCC would do nothing without evidence of an accident risk. The MoP suggested putting a mirror opposite the junction, but the Committee explained that OCC Highways' policy was not to install mirrors.

MoP 2 raised the need for a community speed watch, principally because of traffic speeding up the High Street out of the Village towards the junction with Wallingford Road. The discussion continued under Agenda Item 8 which was brought forward.

Mop3 wanted an update on progress with the Pedestrian Priority Lane in Station Road. It had been more than six years since MIGGS put forward the proposal; four years since MIGGS offered a contribution to costs and provided survey data; and nearly a year since the OCC consultation on changes to parking restrictions in the Village including the Station Road PPL.

The Assistant Clerk explained that there had been a delay in implementing the changes to parking restrictions (yellow lines) because of other pressures, however OCC were now saying that the work would be done after Christmas. While a commitment had been given to repair the surface of Station Road before the changes to yellow lines and putting the PPL in place, the extent of the work needed is greater than was initially anticipated. OCC are now considering the options for re-surfacing. It is currently hoped that Station Road can be made suitable for pedestrian use in time for the expected implementation of the changes after Christmas.

Meeting Started at 10.50



GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

24.30.1. To receive apologies for absence and substitutions. (LGA 1972 s85(1))

None

24.30.2. Declarations of Interests (LA 2011 s31)

None

24.30.3. To consider requests for Dispensations (LA 2011 s33)

None.

24.30.4. To approve the minutes of previous committee meetings [LA 1972 Sch 12. Para41(1)]

24.30.4.1. Meeting held on 17th September 2024.

It was agreed the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed.

24.30.5. To consider action to ensure effective enforcement of parking restrictions.

It was noted that there appeared to be an increase in illegal parking and that this was due to the absence of any enforcement action by OCC. The Committee recognised that, while attempts had been made in the past to link up with neighbouring parishes to employ an enforcement officer, the Council had no powers to enforce fines. It was suggested that a newly formed speed watch group could also report illegally parked vehicles using the OCC weblink which is on the Parish Council's website and now publicised through its Facebook page. The Assistant Clerk reported that he had asked the Highways Engagement Team to provide a contact who dealt with enforcement so that the Council could pass on its concerns, including, the need for action once the changes to yellow lines in the Village were completed. This was a matter that could also be raised with the Engagement Officer when she visits (see Agenda Item 7).

24.30.6. To appoint a nominee to attend the Public Transport Representatives meeting.

24.30.6.1. It was unanimously agreed to nominate Cllr Mallen to join the group.

24.30.7. To consider arrangements for meeting the Highways Engagement Team.

An approach had been made by the Highways Engagement Team asking for a face-to-face meeting to hear the Council's concerns and provide a channel for communications with OCC Highways. It was agreed that Cllrs Williamson and Thurston should meet with the Engagement Officer and that the Highways officer responsible for the Station Road PPL should also attend if possible. The meeting should be arranged for immediately after the next TMPPS Committee meeting. Action: Assistant Clerk to arrange a meeting.

24.30.8. To consider a request to form a Community Speed Watch Group.

MoP 2 had been in touch with Thames Valley Police about setting up a group and funding a radar gun, but thought the Parish Council should be contacted first. The Committee were supportive of the proposal and would consider funding a radar gun and reflective jackets. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would



liaise with the MoP to take this forward. Action: Assistant Clerk.

24.30.9. To consider draft revised terms of reference for the Committee.

Appendix A

Cllr Thurston said that the starting point was the OCC Active Travel Strategy. Parish Councils are asked to develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, these are not expected to be overly ambitious but to identify achievable, local improvements in accessibility. At the same time, the Terms of Reference needed to reflect the policies and objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan (GNP). He noted that the Plan's objectives 14 and 20 were not currently reflected in the Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR). It was important to develop a ToR that took a 'whole view' of the needs across the Village, taking account of the new housing developments coming on stream.

An accompanying report for Full Council would be needed to provide the background to the new ToR and an account of progress in delivering the GNP objectives and what remained to be done. However, progressing the work on the remaining GNP Objectives should not delay developing a fresh agenda to reflect changing priorities.

Drafting points were discussed and it was agreed that the ToR should state the GNP policies and objectives in full and not summarise them as in the current draft. It was agreed that the ToR should include the four specific actions from the GNP (Actions 06,07,08,09) and that the section on sub-committees be retained. A provisional name for the Committee should be 'The Travel Infrastructure Committee'. Cllr Thurston should re-draft accordingly. It was agreed that Cllr Lofthouse should draft the accompanying report for Full Council.

24.30.10. To review the Action List and agree any further actions.

Following the points raised by MoP3 there was a discussion on pedestrian safety in Station Rd if the PPL were to be delayed. There was a concern that if the parking bays were removed without the PPL, traffic speeds would increase. Cllrs wanted to see the yellow line changes done as soon as possible. It was recognised that other traffic calming measures had been considered in the past but received no support; in any case to introduce any such measures would require consultation which would take longer than waiting for the resurfacing to be done.

It was suggested that MoP3 might contact the Press and the MP to highlight the delay and provide the Committee with a copy of his timeline of events.



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24.30.11. Matters for future discussion.

None.

24.30. To confirm the date of the next meeting: 19th November 2024.

Confirmed.

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 12.30