

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)
 held at 3.00 pm on 24 January 2013
 at Haslemere Hall, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mrs Pat Frost (Chairman)
- * Mr Steve Renshaw (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr Steve Cosser
- Ms Denise Le Gal
- * Mr David Harmer
- * Mr Peter Martin
- * Mr David Munro
- Dr Andrew Povey
- Mr Alan Young

Borough / District Members:

- Borough Councillor Brian Adams
- * Borough Councillor Brian Ellis
- Borough Councillor Carole Cockburn
- * Borough Councillor Robert Knowles
- Borough Councillor Bryn Morgan
- * Borough Councillor Julia Potts
- * Borough Councillor Simon Thornton
- * Borough Councillor Brett Vorley
- * Borough Councillor Keith Webster
- * Borough Councillor Maurice Byham (substitute)
- * Borough Councillor Elizabeth Cable (substitute)

The Chairman reported that she had received a written request from Ms A Hall to record Item 7 with a view to the reproduction of the audio recording for users of the **haslemereparking.com** web-site, along with a full written transcription. She had also sought permission to take photographs and to live tweet during Item 7.

The Chairman stated that she would not permit photography or live tweeting, which she felt to be inappropriate. She sought the Committee's approval for audio recording of the meeting and this was given unanimously. A member of the public received an assurance from Ms Hall that a copy of the recording would be made available on request.

1/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Ms D Le Gal, Dr A Povey, Mr A Young, Mr B Adams, Mrs C Cockburn; Mr B Morgan's apology was submitted by e-mail

during the meeting and received afterwards. Mr M Byham and Mrs E Cable were present as substitutes for Mr Adams and Mrs Cockburn respectively.

2/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Mr R Knowles made a declaration of pecuniary interest in Item 7 on the grounds of his residence in Beech Road, Haslemere; he also informed the Committee that he is a member of the League of Friends of Haslemere Hospital.

The following members declared non-pecuniary interests in Item 7: Mr S Renshaw on the grounds of his residence in Farnham Lane and Mr M Byham on the grounds that his son lives in Kings Road.

4/13 PETITIONS [Item 4]

Mr D Pope presented a petition from residents of Courts Hill Road (West), Haslemere in support of the County Council's advertised proposals for the western section of Courts Hill Road. In his presentation Mr Pope noted residents' sustained support for the proposals and their involvement in developing a viable scheme which, he felt, represented the only realistic way of overcoming the chronic parking problems in this road. Residents felt that, if the recommended schemes for Kings Road and Longdene Road were approved, the situation in Courts Hill Road (West) would deteriorate. Mr Pope believed that some objections to the advertised schemes had been received from non-residents and urged the Committee to reject the recommendation for Courts Hill Road.

The Chairman explained that a response to the petition would be given in the course of discussion at Item 7.

5/13 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

Thirteen public questions were received. The text of the questions and tabled responses, along with details of any supplementary questions, are attached. Supplementary questions to which no immediate response was provided would be addressed in the discussion at Item 7.

6/13 MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 6]

No member questions were received.

7/13 REVIEW OF ON-STREET PARKING IN HASLEMERE: PHASE 1 - RESPONSE TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION [Item 7]

In presenting the report, the Local Highway Services Group Manager explained that the intention of officers was to improve the parking situation in Haslemere. The recommendations had been based on representations submitted during the official period of advertisement. Although expressions of support for specific proposals are not explicitly sought as part of this process, a record is made of these. Any changes agreed by the Committee would be

implemented in the next few months and Guildford Borough Council, as the County Council's enforcement contractor, would contact affected residents within an adequate timescale with arrangements for the purchase of permits.

The report contained a response to the petition presented to the Committee's previous meeting on behalf of residents in Lower Street and Shepherds Hill, requesting the inclusion of these roads in any residents' parking scheme introduced in Haslemere. Mr J Leake accepted an invitation to respond on behalf of the petitioners and expressed his concern at the piecemeal approach adopted in the report which he felt lacked an assessment of the cumulative impact of the proposals. Mr Leake suggested that the proposals did not represent a viable solution to the two fundamental parking problems confronting the town: (i) there are too many vehicles for the number of available spaces – a situation which is worsening as the volume of commuter parking increases; (ii) the concentration of commuter parking in the roads close to the station. Mr Leake believed that the reliance on residents' only parking schemes as the only proposed solution in this area would result in significant displacement of commuter parking and that the failure to fully assess this had resulted in other options not being considered, e.g. a one-hour "curfew".

The Chairman explained that the Committee would consider in turn each of the detailed recommendations set out at Annex 2 in the report. The operation of all residents' only parking schemes would be reviewed as part of Phase 2.

Bunch Lane

The recommendation was to proceed as advertised and to make adjustments to maintain access to Hawthorn Cottage.

It was estimated that displacement from this location would amount to approximately ten vehicles.

It was **resolved** to proceed as recommended with 13 votes in favour and one abstention.

St Christopher's Green

The recommendation was to proceed as advertised and investigate a limited waiting bay on the north side of St Christopher's Green in Phase 2.

It was noted that representations had been received to extend the operational time of the proposed residents' only parking scheme beyond 5.30pm. Officers explained that it would be possible to raise the cost of permits to fund extended enforcement times and that the Committee may wish to consider this in Phase 2. Permits would be available to residents and householders on the west side of St Christopher's Green (excluding the garage) and it was estimated that displacement would be very low. Mr P Martin felt that, in general, there was a risk that residents' only schemes would remove parking opportunities from other road users, but that he would support proposals which had attracted sufficient support.

It was **resolved** unanimously to proceed as recommended.

Lion Green, Lion Mead and Junction Place

The recommendation was to proceed as advertised.

The Committee noted the extent of objections to the proposed double yellow line in front of the Methodist Church. The position of officers – that obstructive parking was a concern at this location and that “blue badge” holders would continue to have some ability to park here – was understood, but members nevertheless wished to permit parking outside of working hours and on Sundays. Officers reminded the Committee that the installation of single yellow lines would require signage to advertise the times of operation. It was confirmed that the possibility of allowing parking on the apron in front of the shops had been examined, but the cost of moving utilities’ installations would be prohibitive.

Mr P Martin proposed an amendment to the effect that the section of Lion Green in front of Haslemere Methodist Church should remain unrestricted. The motion was seconded by Mr K Webster and defeated by eleven votes to three. Mr P Martin then proposed to amend the recommendation such that this section be provided with a single yellow line prohibiting parking on Monday-Saturday, 8.30am-5.30pm. The motion was seconded by Mr D Harmer and carried by eleven votes to three.

It was **resolved** by 13 votes to one to proceed with the recommendation, as now amended for the section of Lion Green in front of Haslemere Methodist Church.

Lion Lane

The recommendation was to proceed as advertised.

It was **resolved** unanimously to proceed as recommended.

Hill Road and College Hill area

The recommendation was to proceed as advertised.

It was **resolved** unanimously to proceed as recommended.

Kings Road and Longdene Road

The recommendation was to proceed as advertised in Longdene Road and in Kings Road, except that two one hour limited waiting bays would be retained outside of 2 Kings Road.

Members acknowledged that the proposals were popular with residents. It was noted that there would be a separate issue of permits for each road and confirmed that the balance of restricted and free spaces in Kings Road would be reviewed as part of Phase 2. There was some concern about the level of displacement, e.g. into Courts Hill Road (if, as recommended, that was to remain unrestricted) and officers estimated that up to ten vehicles may be displaced from Kings Road.

It was **resolved** to proceed as recommended with 12 votes in favour and two abstentions.

Courts Hill Road

The recommendation was not to proceed with proposals in Courts Hill Road, except for the provision of double yellow lines at the junctions of Courts Mount Road and Shepherds Hill and at the entrance to Hedgehog Lane.

A number of members expressed their concern that the distinctions revealed in the statutory consultation between the western and eastern sections of Courts Hill Road (divided at the junction with Courts Mount Road) had not been adequately reflected in the recommendation. It was noted that the majority of residents in the western section of the road wished to proceed with a residents' only schemes and that disproportionate weight had been given to the response from Haughton House, which is in multiple occupation.

Mr P Martin proposed an amendment to the effect that residents' only parking be implemented as advertised in Courts Hill Road (West). The motion was seconded by Mr S Cosser and carried by eleven votes to two with one abstention. Officers were requested to agree appropriate arrangements for the issue of permits at Haughton House.

In relation to Courts Hill Road (East) there was a view that, since few objections had been received, the advertised restrictions should go ahead. However, members noted that there had been few responses in total from this section of the road and that the proposal had only been developed on the basis of feedback from the informal consultation held in the summer of 2012 at which stage the two sections of the road had not been distinguished.

It was **resolved** by twelve votes to none, with two abstentions, not to proceed with proposals in Courts Hill Road (East), but to introduce residents' only parking restrictions as advertised in Courts Hill Road (West) and provide double yellow lines at the junctions of Courts Mount Road and Shepherds Hill and at the entrance to Hedgehog Lane.

Courts Mount Road

The recommendation was to proceed as advertised.

It was **resolved** unanimously to proceed as recommended.

Sandroek

The recommendation was to proceed as advertised, but following implementation review the capacity and eligibility of other nearby residents to apply for a parking permit as part of Phase 2.

It was **resolved** unanimously to proceed as recommended.

Popes Mead, Chestnut Avenue, West Street and Bridge Road (and access road to Telephone Exchange)

The recommendation was to:

- proceed as advertised, except that properties 1-11 Bridge Road (odd numbers) would be allowed to purchase permits for one scheme

encompassing the two previous schemes proposed for Chestnut Avenue and Popes Mead;

- review the operational hours of the residents' parking schemes as part of Phase 2;
- proceed as advertised in West Street

Officers were confident that the recommendations as presented answered the concerns of objectors. It was clarified that the loading restrictions in West Street would allow continuous access and egress at the Fire Station.

It was **resolved** unanimously to proceed as recommended.

Tanners Lane (North), Church Lane, High Lane and Derby Road (East)

The recommendation was not to proceed with proposals in Derby Road (East), High Lane, Church Lane, Church Green and Tanners Lane (approximately north-east of the boundary between Crane Cottage and Rosemary Court) but to provide residents' parking opposite Railway Cottages and double yellow lines east of Crane Cottage.

It was clarified that the residents' scheme would be restricted to the houses specified. It was acknowledged that the area is complex and that the proposals address the road safety concerns.

It was **resolved** unanimously to proceed as recommended.

Beech Road, Grayswood Road, Church Lane

Mr Knowles left the meeting for this section (see Item 3).

The recommendation was not to proceed with proposals in Beech Road and Grayswood Road, but to proceed as advertised in Church Lane opposite the hospital access.

Members expressed considerable sympathy with the needs of users of Haslemere Hospital and gave consideration to the suggestion that a one-hour restriction in the middle of the day may alleviate their concerns. However, in view of the complexity of the situation and the lack of consensus on timing, there was unease about making amendments at this stage. Officers reminded the Committee of the commitment to review the situation in Phase 2.

It was **resolved** to proceed as recommended with ten votes in favour and two abstentions.

THE CHAIRMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING FOR FIVE MINUTES

Three Gates Lane

The recommendation was to proceed with the advertised proposals but to allow unrestricted parking for four vehicles in front of Fairfield.

Members noted the officers' view that the proposals should go ahead on safety grounds, but noted that there was no history of accidents or high speeds. Some members felt that the extent and nature of the objections were

such that the proposals should not be implemented. When put to the vote the recommendation was defeated by seven votes to five with one abstention.

The proposed restrictions in Three Gates Lane will therefore not proceed.

High Street

The recommendation was to proceed with loading restrictions in the lay-by to the north of West Street as advertised.

The recommendation was agreed by 13 votes to none with one abstention.

The Committee discussed officers' published intention to implement the provisions of the current Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which requires vehicles to park parallel to the kerb in the on-street parking spaces outside Costa Coffee and at the bottom of Shepherds Hill, where the practice of parking at an angle to the kerb (echelon parking) had developed. The professional view was that the consequent necessity for vehicles to reverse into the flow of traffic on a heavily used A-road should not be supported. Members understood the officers' position but felt, nevertheless, that the case made by traders and residents -- that the reduction in free parking may have an adverse effect on local businesses and the vitality of the town -- was convincing. Officers explained that a proposal to revoke the existing TRO would need to be considered by the Committee in due course and that options could be investigated for highway improvements to enhance the safety of the current echelon parking arrangements. Officers confirmed that, in the meantime, no enforcement of the current TRO would be undertaken.

A motion was proposed from the chair and agreed unanimously such that the Committee **resolved** to request that officers investigate ways of ensuring that echelon parking (i.e. at an angle to the kerb) continues in the on-street parking spaces outside Costa Coffee and at the bottom of Shepherds Hill, with a view to bringing a proposal to revoke the existing Traffic Regulation Order to the Committee as part of Phase 2.

The recommendations having been considered and resolutions agreed on a street-by-street basis as above, recommendation (iii) was put to the Committee and agreed.

The **resolution** of the Committee was therefore:

- (i) That residents' parking schemes are implemented in:

St Christopher's Green
Kings Road
Longdene Road
Sandrock
Chestnut Avenue
Popes Mead/ West Street (near the fire station)
Tanners Lane (opposite Railway Cottages)
Courts Hill Road (West)

- (ii) That:

- Waiting restrictions are introduced for road safety and parking management purposes as shown in Annex 3 of the report (the January 2013 proposals), except in front of Haslemere Methodist Church, Lion Green, where single yellow lines will be installed (prohibiting parking Monday-Saturday 8.30am-5.30pm), and in Three Gates Lane;
 - Officers be requested not to implement the signs and lines required for the parallel parking outside Costa Coffee in the High Street and at the bottom of Shepherds Hill as required by the existing Traffic Regulation Orders, but to investigate options for highway improvements to improve the current echelon parking in these locations and to bring a proposal to revoke the existing Traffic Regulation Orders to the Committee as part of Phase 2.
- (iii) That the allocation and cost of residents' and visitors' permits in these schemes is as described in section 3 of the report.

Reason for decisions

The introduction of parking controls can help improve road safety, reduce obstructive parking and improve sight lines at junctions and access points. Resident permit parking helps those residents find parking spaces near to where they live, particularly those with limited or no off-street parking. The background to decisions of the Committee which vary from the officer recommendations is set out above.

8/13 LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGETS [Item 8]

The Committee was informed that the application presented as Annex B had been withdrawn. The Chairman had agreed that additional applications set out in Annexes F-L should be presented to the Committee to enable arrangements for the transfer of funds and the implementation of projects to be put in hand as soon as possible.

Resolved to:

- (i) Agree the items presented for funding from the Local Committee's 2012/13 revenue and capital budgets as set out in paragraph 2 of the revised report and contained in Annexes C, D and E, also in Annexes F, G, H, I, J, K and L which were tabled at the meeting (and attached to the minutes).
- (ii) Note the expenditure approved since the last Committee meeting by the Community Partnerships Manager and the Community Partnerships Team Leader under delegated powers, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

Reason for decisions

The Committee was asked to decide on these bids so that the Community Partnerships Team can process the bids in line with the wishes of the Committee.

INFORMAL PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting was preceded by an informal public question time. Details of the matters raised are attached. The summary does not form part of the formal minutes of the meeting.

Meeting ended at: 5.45 pm

Chairman

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