

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of the
Mole VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE
 held at 2.00 pm on 4 March 2015
 at Council Chamber, Pippbrook, Reigate Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SJ.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mr Tim Hall (Chairman)
- * Mrs Clare Curran (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mrs Helyn Clack
- * Mr Stephen Cooksey
- * Mr Chris Townsend
- * Mrs Hazel Watson

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr Tim Ashton
- * Cllr Howard Jones
- * Cllr Mary Huggins
- * Cllr Valerie Homewood
- * Cllr Raj Haque
- * Cllr Simon Ling

* In attendance

42/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Chris Townsend and Mrs Helyn Clack.

43/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting held on 03 December 2014 were agreed as a true record.

44/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

No declarations of interest were received.

a PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4a]

The tabled public questions and responses are attached.

Questions from Cllr James Friend

Cllr Friend asked the following supplementary questions:

1. **Are there the necessary skills available in the community to do some modelling around the traffic lights?** John Lawlor (JL), Area

Manager for Highways responded that it might be possible although county officers would then have to check the results to see if they agreed or disagreed.

2. **Did the Highways team still believe that the works in West Street would finish in 6 weeks?** JL responded that they may be finished earlier but were aiming to complete at least by the published date.
3. **What discussions had been had with 'Bertram Bees', the landowner in question?** JL replied that he was unable to provide a response at this time as he was still waiting for information from the Highways Information Team.

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Questions from Ron Billard (Mole Valley Cycling Forum)

Mr Billard had no supplementary but expressed surprise that the safety audit had not raised significant concerns as he knew of about 45 reported items. The organisation intends to carry out another survey around early April. Chairman Tim Hall said that he had seen a 'snagging list' but that there were no 'show-stoppers' but agreed they needed to be fixed.

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Questions from Cllr Rosemary Dickson

Cllr Dickson asked the following supplementary questions:

1. **What material is now going to be used in the High Street?**
 2. **When will this be done as we are near the end of the financial year?**
- JL responded that maintenance engineers had met with Rod Shaw (MVDC) and agreed on a stronger substitute material which will blend in. The material was on order and the work will be carried out when it arrives which may be at the end of the month or if not, it will be carried over into the next financial year.

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Question from Mr Paul Fairweather

Mr Fairweather received a written reply but was not present to ask a supplementary question.

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Questions from Councillor Stella Brooks (Leatherhead Road Residents' Group)

Dr Beverley Patterson representing the residents commented that the written responses had not gone far enough in addressing the questions. She had only seen the answers just prior to the meeting and will provide a written response but wanted to know what additional information SKANSKA could provide to show the design met current guidelines for AONB areas.

JL responded that he will have to come back on the guidelines and SKANSKA's design but stood by responses provided. It has been agreed to put shrouds/shields around the lights and carry out a before and after survey and measure the 'lux' at the end of carriageway.

Dr Patterson did not accept or agree with this response as 'lux' relates to white light as the residents affected are experiencing bright orange light.

Vice-Chairman Claire Curran commented that the additional lights linked the existing lighting at the Bocketts Farm roundabout (AONB) and Bookham Village boundary and that on driving through the village and out the other side, there appeared to be no difference in the lights or level of illumination.

Councillor Raj Haque said he agreed with Dr Patterson and that he had received complaints from residents about the brightness of the new lights.

JL responded that Highways will come back with the results of the before and after survey which will show the difference and improvements that have been made.

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Questions from Mr Peter Seaward (Bookham Residents' Association)

There was no supplementary but Michael Agius on behalf of the BRA commented that he was glad to hear that gulley and soakaway cleaning in Dorking Road was now programmed and hoped it would be treated as priority.

JL reiterated that a meeting with the landowner was taking place later in the week (06 March) but that one type of work or another would take place, preferably on the farmland, however there were alternatives available.

There were no supplementary questions or comments regarding East Street but BRA would wait for response at the Bookham Flood Forum on 30 March.

JL confirmed that the maintenance engineer had asked for more survey information from the drainage team for that meeting.

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Questions from Councillor Philippa Shimmin (Mole Valley Access Group)

Cllr Shimmin received written responses to her questions but was not present.

TH suggested that there was a need to clarify communications between the Area Highway team and the Access Group and how they would be consulted in the future as there seems to be some confusion.

Question from Julia Dickinson (Mole Valley Cycling Forum)

Julia Dickinson received a written response but was not present at the meeting.

On her behalf a supplementary question was asked by Ron Billard (MVCF) who wanted to know if MVDC would be making representations to Guildford Borough Council and whether they could quote the local committee as supporting them. Chairman Tim Hall confirmed that MVCF should contact them in their own right and that SCC Transport Planning would be submitting their own comments. Cllr Friend suggested they speak to him as Portfolio Holder outside of the meeting.

b MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 4b]

The tabled written questions and responses from Members are attached.

Question from Stephen Cooksey (held over from 03/12/14)

Mr Cooksey had one supplementary:

Most of Deepdene scheme works really well but can anything be done to stop the flooding on A25 near entrance to Hillview and the bus stop?

JL responded that he will raise the issue with the drainage team.

Questions from Tim Hall

TH had no supplementary.

Questions from Mrs Hazel Watson

HW asked the following supplementary questions:

1. **Safety audit - When will action be taken to resolve these issues?**

JL responded that he will come back with dates for when it is programmed in. There is a small pot available but it will be in the next financial year.

2. **What is the timescale for work to be done in Leslie Road, Pixham and Riverside?**

JL will get the maintenance engineer to give a date but it will be in the next financial year.

3. Some work has been done in Raikes Lane and Abinger Lane but flooding has returned. **When will work be done to resolve the issue longterm?**

JL responded that some work had been done but there were further issues that needed to be addressed with the landowner. He will feedback directly to the divisional member in their regular one to one meeting.

46/14 PETITIONS [Item 5]

No petitions were received.

47/14 RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER [Item 6]

Declarations of Interest:

None

Officer attending:

Sarah Smith, Community Partnership Officer (Mole Valley)

Petitions, Public Questions and Statements:

None

Key comments and updates:

Ref 11/09/13 (p.23) - Cllr Ling requested an update. Anita Guy advised that there had been 1 objector to the proposal who had been responded to and the matter was now with the Secretary of State and she will provide an update when that information is available.

Ref 07/06/12 (p. 21) Clare Curran reminded members of the Cyclesmart event taking place in Leatherhead on 21 March 2015.

Ref 04/12/13 (p. 23) Stephen Cooksey requested an update on when signs would be erected. John Lawlor to come back with dates.

Ref 05/03/14 (p.24) Stephen Cooksey requested an update on when the consultation would be carried out. John Lawlor to come back with dates.

Ref 03/12/14-D (p. 26) Cllr Haque asked for update. John Lawlor advised that the job will be on the Project Horizon list when it is issued.

Ref 03/12/14-B (p. 26) Clare Curran suggested that since the complaints process had now been exhausted in relation to this matter, the item should be removed as there was nothing further the local committee could do.

Ref 03/12/14-C (p.26) Clare Curran asked for an update and Tim Hall confirmed that a letter had been drafted.

It was agreed that any items where actions were shown as being completed should be removed.

48/14 SOUTH EAST PERMIT SCHEME [FOR INFORMATION] [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest:

None

Officers attending: Kevin Orledge (Streetworks Team Manager) (KO), Martin Breckell (Network Coordinator for MV) (MB)

Petitions, Public Questions and Statements:

None

Member discussion – key points

TH wanted it on record that communications with MB's team had improved dramatically. The weekly updates provided were very informative and he has been impressed with the sensible and helpful answers obtained from officers.

Stephen Cooksey (SC) endorsed these comments but questioned the coordination of the West Street Closure with the works on the A24 .TH explained that he knew this had been due to a gas emergency

SC also wanted to know about the number of inspections carried out although it had increased by 59%. KO conceded that the 21,000 inspections are carried out at different stages of the work and many schemes are not inspected at all, as they do not have the necessary resources.

MB explained that with regard to West Street a complete closure had originally been requested for the whole of the works but this had been narrowed down by the project team to a more favourable option, although it may cause some delay in the works being completed. The team is waiting for an update.

SC questioned the closure of Junction Road for reinstatement works which was included in the highways update. MB advised that he thought this closure was only between 5am – 7am but would check. SC replied that if the restricted timings had been made been known he would not have queried it.

Cllr Homewood asked if MB was aware of the issues in Middle Street (Strood Green). Water pipes were being laid but as each side of the road was owned by a different utility company, (East Surrey v Thames Water) the works had come to a halt. Highways were aware of the issue and KO to work with JL on coordinating the scheme.

The Local Committee resolved to agree to:

- (i) note the contents of the report.

49/14 HIGHWAY SCHEMES 2014/15 END OF YEAR UPDATE [EXECUTIVE FUNCTION] [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest:
None

Officers attending: John Lawlor (JL) (Area Team Manager, Highways) Anita Guy (Senior Engineer, Highways)

Petitions, Public Questions and Statements:
None

Member discussion – key points:

TH acknowledged that report showed what good work had gone on and JL highlighted the part played by the revenue maintenance gang in completing a lot of ancillary work.

Clare Curran (CC) queried whether the ‘decluttering in Great Bookham (p.61) had been completed. JL replied that it had been completed as far as funds would allow but would speak to her outside of the meeting.

Cllr Haque raised the issue of a broken drain on Monks Green which was causing flooding in Cobham Road and he was advised it was on Paul Mainwaring’s list to be fixed.

Hazel Watson asked for an update on the lining work in Hollow Lane (p.60) Page 60, Annex 1 refers). JL confirmed that the order had been placed and hoped it would be completed by the end of March but that dry days were needed to carry out the work.

SC asked whether the micro asphalt schemes (p. 54 s2.3) that had been deferred will happen at some stage. JL explained that that there had been issues with the surface treatment contract and they had gone out to re-tender. In the next financial year some surface treatment and anti-skid resurfacing jobs will be carried out and those schemes already on the list will have priority.

Cllr Ling wanted to know the result of the road safety audit on Ottoways Lane, Ashted (p.65). JL confirmed that they had dealt with 1 complaint from a resident but otherwise no big issues had been identified.

CC wanted in particular to congratulate the highways’ officers who spend one day a month supervising the youth offending teams and JL said he would pass on those comments.

Cllr Homewood asked whether there had been any progress on the pedestrian safety scheme for Kiln Lane, Brockham (p.65). JL had no further information and will come back with an update.

Cllr Haque asked whether the work at Fetcham Lodge was going to be done this month as planned. JL confirmed that it was on Paul’s list but had no definite date.

The Local Committee resolved to agree to

(i) note the contents of the report.

50/14 REVISED HIGHWAYS FORWARD PLAN 2015/16 - 2016/17 [EXECUTIVE FUNCTION] [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest:

None

Officers attending: John Lawlor (JL) (Area Team Manager, Highways) Anita Guy (Senior Engineer, Highways)

Petitions, Public Questions and Statements:

None

Member discussion – key points

JL pointed out that there had been some financial changes in the report and proposed that drainage be considered a priority for the Mole Valley district as a whole.

Members were asked to note that with regard to the revenue budget, funds under item 'Localism/Community Enhancement Initiative should be allocated by the earlier deadline of the end of May 2015 instead of November 2015. In response to Hazel Watson's query about the retention of the Localism budget, JL confirmed that as previously agreed, it could be used for either localism or community enhancement works.

CC wanted confirmation that the capital maintenance funding, less the 25% required for drainage schemes (p.70 s.2.4) was the only money available for the repair of roads not included in Project Horizon. She also questioned whether the £45,000 from the capital budget would be sufficient to fund the drainage schemes. JL confirmed that she was right but pointed out that there is also an additional £30,000 allocated to drainage in the revenue budget to be added to the pot.

CC asked how the minor works gang will be affected by the 2/3 cut in funding. JL was unable to say yet as they have not yet gone out to tender. CC asked if there were opportunities for partnership working and JL confirmed it may be possible to work with the district council in relation to the new countryside and horticultural and grass contracts. He is working with procurement to get a better costing now that the scheme will cover 3 areas and he is happy to consult on the issue.

Cllr Homewood requested an update on the shared pedestrian cycle path in Dorking (item 3 p. 73) at least with regard to the route between Beare Green and North Holmwood as a further stage is due within the next 2 years. JL explained that this is a long term project and might need additional funding from strategic partners such as MVCF or Coast 2 Capital. In response to her question, JL also confirmed that 2016-17 was an optimistic completion date.

The Local Committee resolved to agree:

- i. To note the contents of the report;
- ii. That the capital Integrated Transport Schemes budget be allocated as set out in Annex 1 of this report:
- iii. That the capital maintenance funding dedicated to drainage schemes be allocated on a priority basis, to be agreed by the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman;
- iv. That the revenue maintenance budget be allocated as set out in Annex 2 of this report; and
- v. That bids for Localism/Community Enhancement Initiative funding should be received by the end of May 2015, after which any unallocated funding reverts to the relevant divisional Member.

Reason for decision: To revise the 2015/16 – 2016/17 forward programme of highways works for Mole Valley to reflect the expected reduced level of revenue funding.

51/14 LOCAL PREVENTION - AWARD OF CONTRACTS AND GRANTS FOR SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE [EXECUTIVE FUNCTION] [Item 10]

Declarations of interest:

Tim Hall – Trustee Leatherhead Youth Project Board

Hazel Watson – Member of YMCA East Surrey Youth Services Committee

Officer attending: Jeremy Crouch, Lead Youth Officer (East Surrey) (JC)

Petitions, Public Questions and Statements:

None

A new recommendation previously discussed by TH and JC was proposed by TH and seconded by SC.

Reasons for change: The LC was inquorate due to absences and conflicts of interest. The change was supported as:

- i. It would allow SYP to keep to the procurement timescales that have been set to ensure the providers can start on time.
- ii. There has been considerable Member involvement (County and District) throughout this process up until this point and so there is already broad support for the recommendations.
- iii. All Members would be able to have a say on this recommendation and vote because the change was to approve a process.
- iv. There is a precedent for this change of recommendation in another District of Surrey.

TH and HW remained in the meeting and voted as there was no longer a conflict of interest.

CC said she was pleased to be able to help steer this through. The YTG had fed back information on the wide range of bidders and that there had been a clear winner from a good competition. It was noted that young people had been involved in both the presentation of the successful bids as well as the decision making.

The Local Committee therefore resolved to agree:

(i) To delegate the decisions to award the contract for one to one work and the award of the two grants for neighbourhood work, from 01 September 2015, to the Head of Commissioning and Development, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and Youth Task Group members.

Reason for decision: To allow the commissioning of Local Prevention services to move ahead without delay.

52/14 LEATHERHEAD TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS [SERVICE MONITORING & ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN] [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest:

None

Officer attending:

Rod Shaw, Principal Conservation Officer, Mole Valley District Council

Member discussion – key points

The point was made that the aim of these improvements was to better the amenity and the appearance of the town centre, but that it was important that they did not conflict with the 'Transform Leatherhead' masterplan.

Cllr Dickson welcomed the paper and acknowledged how difficult a job it was to take account of all opinions. She stressed the importance of making a start as soon as possible.

Cllr Ashton expressed his full support for the plan and suggested that lifting the barrier at 4pm instead of 4.30pm would contribute to making the town centre more vibrant in the evening.

Mr Carr from the Community Reference Group spoke out in support of the plans. He has previously been involved in talks with Rod Shaw and referred to recommendations made in a report by Colin Davies Associates on the development of Church Street.

The Local Committee resolved to agree to:

Give support to the designing and implementing of a programme of short term measures for environmental enhancements in Leatherhead town centre, as outlined in this report, working with officers from Mole Valley District Council.

Reasons: Section 106 and LEP Growth Deal funding is available from the District Council for environmental enhancements in Leatherhead town centre. Despite the onset of the master planning exercise for Leatherhead that will assist in establishing a long term vision for the town, it is considered that both councils will wish to demonstrate a commitment to a better future for Leatherhead in the short term by investing immediately available funds in ways that will upgrade the public realm.

53/14 MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS [EXECUTIVE FUNCTION] [Item 12]

TH thanked the Community Partnership team for processing member allocations and confirmed that MV was the first LC to allocate all their funds and suggested that it should be the aim, to complete next year's before Christmas 2015 if possible.

Meeting ended at: 3.36 pm

Chairman