

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **BUILDINGS AND CIVIC MATTERS COMMITTEE**
meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil, on
Tuesday 20 May 2008

(7.00pm to 8.55pm)

Present:

Steve Hawker (In the Chair)
Philip Chandler
Clive Davis
Tony Fife
Dave Gooding
Pete Goodman
Andrew Kendall

Also Present:

Ian Ross - PCSO Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Sally Bing - Assistant Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Teresa Lury, Headteacher of Holy Trinity School, Clare Hillier-Nichols, Deputy Headteacher of Holy Trinity School and Louise Collins, Childminder and local resident, attended the meeting to address the Committee on item 10 of the Agenda, the suggestion of a push button pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Forest Hill.

Louise explained to the Committee that, in her opinion, there was no safe place to cross along Forest Hill. She explained that to cross at the bottom of Forest Hill, pedestrians had to anticipate when the best time was to cross between the light changes, judging traffic from both directions off Lysander Road as well as vehicles coming down Forest Hill.

She stated that further up the hill it was very often necessary to cross between stationary traffic queuing for the lights and further up again, parked cars caused a danger for pedestrians. Continuing up the road pedestrians would need to take into account vehicle movement from side roads and therefore it was necessary to request a push button crossing at a convenient location to assist in a safe route for all pedestrians.

Teresa Lury added that parents had raised concerns regarding this crossing and that the school was involved in the promotion of Safe Routes to School and the Healthy School Initiative. She informed the Committee that the school would be involved in a record breaking attempt on 10 June for the most number of children walking to school. However, the route across Forest Hill would not be included for safety reasons.

7/79 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 March 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2008 were not yet available so would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

7/80 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from J Vincent Chainey, John Cruddas, Bridget Dollard, Tony Fife, Peter Gubbins, John Hann, Tony Lock and Wes Read.

7/81 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Steve Hawker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6 (Lower Middle Street Parking and Loading Restrictions) as he carries out contract work for one of the proprietors whose shop fronts Middle Street.

Dave Gooding declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6 (Lower Middle Street Parking and Loading Restrictions), Agenda item 7 (Proposed Parking Restriction, Westland Road, Yeovil) Agenda item 9 (Seaton Road Parking) and Agenda item 15 (Saturday Closure of Middle Street) as decisions taken within those Agenda items may effect the duties which form part of his daily work.

Phil Chandler declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9 (Seaton Road Parking) as he is employed as a driver by one of the companies who alerted the County Council to this problem.

7/82 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7/83 **PRESENTATION OF SPONSORSHIP CHEQUE TO YEOVIL TOWN BAND**

The Deputy Mayor and the Vice Chairman jointly presented a cheque for £4,000 to the Chairman of the Band, Paul Armstrong, and Band Secretary, Christine Buckland.

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/84 **LOWER MIDDLE STREET PARKING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS**

Steve Hawker, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this Agenda item left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon and Phil Chandler was elected to take the Chair for this item.

Discussion took place regarding the suggestion to introduce a Road Traffic Order to restrict loading on the south east side of Lower Middle Street between 8am and 10am and between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

Ian Ross PCSO, mentioned that the most problematic time for congestion along that road was from 11am onwards so the restriction between 8am and 10am would not address the problem. This observation was supported by the Committee.

It was generally felt that the congestion was partly caused by the traffic lights from Lower Middle Street onto Wyndham Street which coupled with parking on the south east side of Lower Middle Street meant that drivers heading towards Stoford were often caught up in traffic unnecessarily.

Discussion took place regarding the enforcement and Ian Ross PCSO explained that Police had traffic enforcement powers but as PCSO's their workloads required prioritisation.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters and current position be noted; and
- (2) that the no loading ban be supported but that the suggestion of a no loading restriction between 11am and 6pm be forwarded to Somerset Highways for consideration and their response be reported to a future meeting.

7/85 PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTION - WESTLAND ROAD, YEOVIL

The Committee considered the report by the Area Traffic Engineer (Agenda item 7 refers) and the Assistant Town Clerk clarified that complaints about parking along the stretch of road in question had been received by AgustaWestland from the residents of Westland Road.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that the implementation of a Prohibition of Parking Order on the north side of Westland Road from the entrance of AgustaWestland site and the first junction with the side road, be supported.

7/86 TRAFFIC MOVEMENT FROM LOWER MIDDLE STREET INTO WYNDHAM STREET

The Committee considered the report by the Area Traffic Engineer (Agenda item 8 refers).

It was observed that whilst Somerset County Council had explained within the report that Yeovil signals were linked and computer controlled, very often only three cars were allowed through the lights from Lower Middle Street onto Wyndham Street whilst the lights stay green long enough for more than 30 cars to exit from Sherborne Road direction onto Wyndham Street.

The Committee anticipated the improvements which would be made to the traffic flow when proposed future developments in this area take place.

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/87 **SEATON ROAD PARKING**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Traffic Engineer (Agenda item 9 refers).

Committee Members recognised the problem and felt that the loss of one parking space was a small price to pay for the safety of drivers and passengers on the coaches.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the advertisement of the required order to remove one parking space from Seaton Road, close to the junction of Seaton Road and West Hendford, be supported.

7/88 **PUSH BUTTON PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT THE BOTTOM OF FOREST HILL**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda item 10 refers) and noted the points raised by the members of the public at the commencement of the meeting.

During the ensuing discussion it was recognised that Forest Hill had become an extremely busy road as it was the only road between Bunford Hollow and Hendford Hill which connected West Coker Road to Lysander Road. It was recognised that there were a number of shops and amenities in the area and a proposal for a new play area at Yew Tree Park which would generate additional pedestrian movement. Together with the cycle way along Lysander Road and the requirement to provide safe routes to school, it was agreed that a push button pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Forest Hill was extremely important.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that the Highways Authority be approached to request a push button pedestrian crossing in this location.

7/89 **DROPPED CROSSINGS**

The Committee considered the letter from Somerset Highways (Agenda item 11 refers) and it was stated that there were numerous additions required to the list of dropped crossings registered with the Highway Authority.

Clive Davis had been working on improving the main arteries around Town and suggesting many routes and dropped crossings to the County Council. It was noted that many of these suggestions had not been included in the list.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that additional requirements for dropped crossings in the Yeovil area be collated and a letter sent to Somerset Highways, copied to all Members of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee, to Yeovil County Councillors and to Tony Shire, Portfolio Holder for Highways.

7/90 **STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING - FOOTPATH FROM THORNE LANE TO PRESTON SCHOOL FIELD**

The Committee considered the letter from South Somerset District Council regarding the naming of a length of footpath (Agenda item 12 refers) and suggested that the footpath be named Lawrence Walk.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that a suggestion be put to South Somerset District Council that the footpath be named Lawrence Walk.

7/91 **STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING - NEW DEVELOPMENT AT PRESTON GROVE**

The Committee considered the letter from South Somerset District Council requesting suggestions for the naming of a new development off Preston Grove (Agenda item 13 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the suggestion of Cooksons Orchard be forwarded to South Somerset District Council.

7/92 **STOPPING UP OF LAND AT 122 PRESTON ROAD**

The Committee considered the request as set out in the letter from Somerset County Council (Agenda item 14 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that no objections be made to the stopping up of land at 122 Preston Road as set out in the letter from Somerset County Council of 13 May 2008.

7/93 **SATURDAY CLOSURE OF MIDDLE STREET**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda item 15 refers) and Ian Ross PCSO explained that he had been on duty on the first day and no problems had occurred.

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/94 **AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY**

Discussion took place with Ian Ross PCSO regarding traffic enforcement in the town centre. Ian explained that a new PCSO had started at the beginning of the month and another new PCSO was due to start at the end of the month. Ian informed the Committee that he had created a list of proposals for highway improvements around the town centre including maintenance of lines, improvement to signs, an addition of time plates in the locality of double yellow lines etc., to improve enforcement in the area. The collated list had been attached to a letter and handed to the Area Traffic Engineer at a meeting in January at which he had agreed to investigate the merits of the proposals.

Specific areas of problem around the Town including vehicles parking on the pavement in Wyndham Street were also discussed and Ian Ross explained that he had suggested bollards be erected in Wyndham Street to prevent this from happening.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that a copy of the letter produced by Ian Ross be forwarded to Somerset Highways via email.

7/95 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2008**

The Committee considered the report by the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 17 refers).

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement for February and March 2008 be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

Chairman