

Gorleston Area Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, 21 June 2016 at 18:30

PRESENT:

Councillor Wainwright (in the Chair); Councillors Borg, Fairhead, Flaxman-Taylor, Pratt, Walker, Williamson and Wright.

County Councillors Plant and Walker

Mr P Gallop and Mr M Roper (NCC Officers)

Mrs C Webb and Mrs J Woods (GYBC Officer)

29 Members of the Public in attendance.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Member Services Officer opened the meeting, welcomed those present and asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Gorleston Area Committee.

Councillor Wainwright was proposed and seconded for the position of

Chairman of Gorleston Area Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Wainwright be elected as the Chairman of the Gorleston Area Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Walker was nominated and seconded for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Gorleston Area Committee.

RESOLVED;

That Councillor Walker be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Gorleston Area Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was reported that no Declarations of Interest were declared at the meeting.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor A Grey and Councillor K Grey.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2016 were confirmed.

5 MATTERS ARISING

The Chair reported that the issue of signage on the A12/A143 link road was still on-going. Councillor Plant reported that he had been assured that the signage would be installed this municipal year.

The Chair reported that a paper on Devolution would be presented to Council on 30 June 2016, which would be followed by a full public consultation.

Councillor C Walker reported that she contacted John Cotton, NCC Highways, on a daily basis to lobby him to arrange for Highways England to inspect the two roundabouts on the A12 in Gorleston, and the Gorleston bypass, and to arrange for them to be cut and tied up and to secure a long term maintenance plan.

6 TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSALS FOR GORLESTON HIGH STREET

Paul Gallop, Norfolk County Council, presented his report regarding proposed traffic calming measures along Gorleston High Street. In the previous six years, there had been 18 accidents, none were fatal, two were serious and sixteen were slight, with two being cyclists and ten pedestrian. Following a desktop review of accident data supplied by the Police on a monthly basis, Mr Gallop had been tasked with designing a traffic calming scheme for the High Street.

Mr Gallop reported that he had consulted with 200 shop and house frontages along the High Street together with other stakeholders and the consultation would run until 1 July 2016 and he requested the views of the residents who were present at the Committee.

Mr Ward asked for the data which showed the number of accidents which had been caused by vehicles travelling along the High Street at speeds of between 20 and 30 mph. Mr Gallop reported that he did not have this data to hand. The Chair reported that the Police would hold this data.

Councillor Plant reported that he felt that Inset B & C were too close together, which would result in the High Street becoming jammed solid with traffic. At the moment, traffic along the High Street was self-regulating as busses and lorries which used the High Street, naturally slowed the traffic down. Councillor Plant reported that the High Street was one of the few vibrant High Streets in the Country, and residents liked to drive to the High Street, park, do their shopping and leave. If residents got stuck in traffic jams along the High Street on a regular basis, they would choose to do their shopping elsewhere which would lead to a decline. Councillor Plant had no objection to the introduction of a 20 mph scheme but was not in favour of the physical restrictions.

Councillor C Walker reported that she agreed with Councillor Plant that the traffic along the High Street was self-regulating and that pedestrians would cross the road where they wished, and would not necessarily use the insets, as they often would not use the pedestrian crossings.

Mrs Ward reported that she was concerned for public safety whilst trying to cross the road at Inset C, which was in an area of parked cars which would drastically reduce visibility for mothers with pushchairs, wheelchair users and mobility scooters. She felt that this was a dangerous proposal.

Mr Ling reported that most of the accidents had occurred 20 yards from a zebra crossing and that expecting people to cross using the insets was unrealistic. Councillor Fairhead reported that the Police were concerned regarding illegal parking on traffic calming insets which often caused more accidents in an area than before they were introduced.

A resident was concerned about the proposed loss of parking spaces along

the High Street which would push parking out onto adjoining roads which were already experiencing severe parking issues.

A local business owner reported that the proposed scheme would make deliveries to her shop impossible. Another resident reported that the general feeling of the meeting was to keep the status quo along the High Street, so leave things alone and save public money.

Mr Ward reported that he thought that the scheme should have gone out for consultation to the whole of Gorleston and not just properties along the High Street. He reported that if the story had not been reported in The Mercury, residents would have had no knowledge of the scheme. Mrs Ward reported that the consultation should have included the Police and all persons/organisations who used or would be affected by changes to the highway.

The Chair reported that Councillor Plant, as the Portfolio Holder at County, would ultimately sign the scheme off. Mr Gallop reported that he had received 45 responses to date, and that every objector had seen the proposed plans; 37 had not objected, 4 businesses objected to traffic calming measures but not the introduction of a 20 mph scheme, and 4 had objected outright.

Councillor B Walker reported that the views of the traders along the High Street must be given priority.

Councillor Plant reported that the majority of accidents occurred opposite Palmer Road and he therefore suggested that a railing be installed opposite Palmer Road to try and stop this. Councillor Plant reiterated that he agreed with the introduction of a 20 mph scheme but not the traffic calming measures.

The Chair thanked Mr Gallop and Mr Roper for attending the meeting. Mr Gallop reported that he welcomed the valuable feedback obtained from both Members and local residents.

7 UPDATE ON WADHAM ROAD/KENNEDY AVENUE PARKING PROPOSALS

The Chair reported that the final scheme for the proposed restrictions in Wadham/Emmanuel and Kennedy Avenue had been agreed and the Traffic Order Schedule had been sent to NP Law, Solicitors, to advertise to the public. This had taken more time than expected as the new proposal made amendments to the existing orders which needed to be correct to the metre on the ground.

As soon as the date is known for the legal advert, this will trigger a leaflet drop to residents.

Councillors Plant and Walker assured the residents that this scheme would come into operation as soon as possible as the funding was in place.

Councillor Plant reported that he was still in dialogue with County officers to secure wooden bollards along the length of the Lowestoft Road side of Kennedy Avenue. he had also secured parking restrictions at the garages just off of Kennedy Avenue, but that the hammerhead had to be kept free of restrictions as it was a turning head.

A local resident reported that the reduction in frequency of bus services along Kennedy Avenue had made a difference to their quality of life and he thanked the Councillors for all their help in getting the parking issue sorted. The resident then asked if a 20 mph scheme could be introduced along Kennedy Avenue to assist parents/schoolchildren crossing the road.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Plant to approach NCC Highways to discuss the possible implementation of a 20 mph speed restriction along Kennedy Avenue.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident asked the Chair if cycling on the pavement was an offence as this was becoming an issue in certain parts of Gorleston, especially the High Street. The Chair reported that this was an offence but Police resources were stretched due to budget cuts and these issues were not being addressed. The Chair suggested that a Police Officer should be invited to attend all future meetings to respond to residents concerns directly.

A resident asked for clarification as to why chemical weedkillers were being used in place of strimmers in the Borough as dead and dying weeds especially along Gorleston Promenade were an eyesore and the area looked a disgrace. Councillor Plant reported that all Councillors were unhappy with the present streetscene in the Borough and that remedial talks were in progress.

A resident was concerned that blue badge holders were parking their vehicles on dropped kerbs and obstructing access for near-sighted and disabled people. The Chair reported that this was an offence and should be reported to the Police.

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Gorleston Area Committee was confirmed as Tuesday, 20 September 2016 at 6:30 pm at Gorleston Library.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair reported that there was no other business of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration at the meeting.

The meeting ended at: 19:45