

Draft MINUTES of the Rights of Way, Highways and Lighting Committee Meeting held on Monday 15th July 2019 at 6:30pm in The Cell, The Old Court House, Bridge Street

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Simpson.
Cllr Fisher was not present.

2. Present:

Cllrs. D Beal, D Carter, C Eastwood (Chairman) J Jones and P Wraight.

3. In Attendance:

Mr J Overbury (Deputy Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

4. Declarations of Interest:

None.

5. Minutes of previous meeting:

Cllr Eastwood proposed to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (circulated in draft form prior to the meeting) as an accurate record, which was seconded by Cllr Jones and all were in favour.

6. Public Comment:

6115719 Cllr Eastwood proposed to suspend the meeting for public comment which was agreed.

The member of public said he wanted to raise two points. He said that there was a debate on the 'Nextdoor' web forum about the need for a pedestrian crossing on College Road. His second point was to ask the Town Council what their view was on supporting a group of volunteers to operate a community speed camera.

Cllr Eastwood answered the points by describing the work the Town Council was doing on trying to get a pedestrian crossing on College Road, and by saying that the issue of a community speed camera would form part of the next meeting's agenda.

Cllr Eastwood then reconvened the meeting.

7. Rights of Way:

7.1 Footpath from Fairfield Road development to Fore Street (#38) - Update on progress.

Cllr Eastwood reported that he and the DTC had met the SCC Rights of Way officer on site and had repeated the request for quotes for the installation of the footpath.

7.2 Proposed hard surface footpath leading from Castle Brooks to the play area across a grass area – Update:

Cllr Eastwood reported that the DTC was seeking clarification of the exact costs for the easement from ESC and was awaiting the quote for the construction from SCC. The DTC was asked to continue to seek these costs but also to seek two or three quotes direct from contractors for the work.

7.3 Taylor Wimpey Footpath concerns:

Cllr Eastwood reported that he and the DTC had met with the representatives from Taylor Wimpey on site. It was explained that the strata used was originally not up to the required standard and Taylor Wimpey were re-dressing some sections of the footpath. At the lower end, towards Fairfield Road a higher grade of strata had been used which was less likely to wash away. At this lower end it was noted that the step to the road could not be moved due to services running underneath it but that a flatter route was available around the electric substation. The DTC recommended that whenever the Town Council commissioned any footpath that it should reserve the right to examine, and reject if necessary, the material used as it was delivered.

8. Highways:

8.1 Update on TRO considerations:

It was agreed that for future agendas that the TRO issue be split into two items. 'TRO consideration' and 'Pedestrian Safety initiatives'.

8.2 Parking outside Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary school:

Cllr Eastwood reported that the DTC had received no replies from either of the emails he had sent, but Cllr Evans had replied to another email and had reported that she would ask the relevant officer to respond. The DTC was asked to maintain the efforts to improve pedestrian safety outside the school.

8.3 New Grit Bin Castle Brooks – Update:

The DTC reported that this had at last been adopted by SCC Highways and the way was clear to apply for a grit bin at that location.

83115719 Cllr Jones proposed to purchase a grit bin for this location at a cost of £148.19 which was seconded by Cllr Beal with all in favour.

8.4 Grit Bin Bibby's Way – Update:

The DTC reported that the management company were to collect the grit bin the following week.

8.5 Community bus transport - Update on link to station:

The DTC reported that the online survey was approaching 100 responses with a similar number of hard copies being completed. Cllr Wraight reported that the FBA had questioned why the proposed route was to Campsea Ashe. Cllr Eastwood said that the route was not finalised but Campsea Ashe was chosen to be the focus of the survey as it was the cheaper option to explore. Should the survey reveal the majority of people wished to travel in the Lowestoft direction then a service to Saxmundham could be considered.

8.6 Bus shelters and improvements:

The DTC reported that SCC were continuing with their design but there was an issue of work force safety for the shelter on the College Road/Pembroke Road location. The SCC Officer was hopeful of resolving this issue.

8.7 S.I.D: - To consider data analysis:

This was noted and it was reflected that there was a 20% increase in traffic numbers over the past two years.

8.8 Blocked Gullies – Fore St, Victoria Mill Road, Fairfield Road. – report after rain and progress:

Cllr Eastwood reported that the problems on Fore Street and Fairfield Road appeared to have been rectified and these would be removed from the next agenda. Victoria Mill Road would remain as it had yet to be cleared and was still overflowing after heavy rainfall.

9. Parking:

9.1 Update from Parking Working Group:

It was agreed that this group had completed its work and would be disbanded. Cllr Jones would write to the members advising of this and thanking them for their work.

9.2 Provision of charging points for electric vehicles on Market Hill:

92115719 Cllr Eastwood proposed to suspend the meeting for further public comment and this was agreed. The member of public present informed the meeting of a very recent change in legislation which stipulated the requirement of the necessary preparatory work on all new houses for an electric vehicle charging point. Cllr Eastwood thanked the member of the public for this information and reconvened the meeting.

The DTC was asked to write to CCllr Burroughes and express the Town Council's ambition for electric charging points in the town.

9.3 Progress report on Sports Club Parking:

Cllr Jones reported on the progress and illustrated the planned 103 X 1.2M hard surface footpath. This had been given an indicative cost at between £6,600 and £7,600 (depending on surface used) with an indicative cost for the lighting of £3,800 the total cost of the lit path would be in the region of £11,500. Cllr Jones then went through the revised draft MOU with the Sports Club and amendments were agreed. This was to be circulated to all Councillors for comment before being passed to the Sports Club for comment. The DTC was asked to discuss with the Website Manager a web-based system for the tickets and to seek a cost from him. The criteria was for a numbered ticket to be displayed in the windscreen but which could be transferred between individuals working for a business or organisation.

10. Lighting:

No business.

11. Correspondence:

11.1 Email from person re Mount Pleasant traffic.

The DTC was asked to thank the person and outline what the Town Council is working on to improve road safety in the town.

11.2 Email from person re cutting of verges:

The DTC was asked to thank the person and to inform them that the Town Council will be asking SCNorse to only cut 1m from the road next year.

12. 2018/19 Action Plan:

12.1 Report of updated plan:

Cllr Jones would be rewriting the Parking section with the most recent plans.

13. Highway problem reports:

None not already discussed.

14. Matters of report or items for next agenda:

It was agreed to add a discussion on the 'Next Door' website to the next agenda.

Cllr Eastwood reported that he had responded in a personal capacity to a transport survey.

It was noted that SCC has begun a 10-week consultation on rights of ways and safety. As there was to be no meeting in September, the DTC was asked to circulate the link.

The DTC reported that he had asked Anglian Water to investigate the smelly drains on the Market Hill

15. Next meeting:

Monday 16th September 2019 6:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8:14pm.