

DISS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the **Infrastructure Committee** held in the **Council Chamber** at **Diss Corn Hall** on **Wednesday 27th October 2021** at **7.15pm.**

Present: Members: D. Collins
S. Kiddie
A. Kitchen
S. Olander (ex-officio & Chair)
E. Taylor (ex-officio)
C. Valori
S. Warren
J. Welch
J. Wooddissee

In attendance: Sarah Richards, Town Clerk
Councillor K. Murphy
8 members of the public

INF1021/01 **APOLOGIES**
There were none.

INF1021/02 **NOMINATION OF SUBSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVES**
There were none.

INF1021/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST¹ AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Minute No.	Councillors Name	Personal/Other Interest	Pecuniary Interest	Reason
INF1021/09	S. Kiddie		x	This councillor runs a shop in Mere Street.

INF1021/04 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
It was

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held on 30th June 2021 were a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

INF1021/05 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
There were 8 members of the public in attendance regarding item 11 on the agenda.

Item 11 was brought forward to allow members of the public to speak.

All residents who reside in the properties affected by the scheme objected to the Vinces Road junction proposals. They felt that traffic lights would further contribute to the considerable traffic flow on the A1066 by forcing drivers to idle whilst waiting at the lights and thereby exposing residents to additional air, noise, and light pollution. Concerns were raised regarding the impact of the scheme on property value and the safety implications for residents accessing their properties and pedestrians. There were calls to consider diverting heavy goods vehicles off Victoria Road or placing weight restrictions on such vehicles. There was a request for information regarding the justification for the proposal including incident data, cost of works and source of funding. Residents asked why the previous scheme of the modified roundabout and left filter lane could not be pursued and whether the scheme could incorporate dropped kerbs for residents in this area.

INF1021/06 **VINCES ROAD**

Members considered the proposals for double yellow lining as part of the Vinces Road junction improvement scheme and residents concerns. The Compulsory Purchase Order for the previous scheme of the roundabout with left-hand filter lane was deemed not feasible due to non-engagement from landowner. It was noted that the project came about due to significant issues for residents and businesses exiting Vinces Road at peak times rather than the A1066.

This project has been discussed for many years with the relevant stakeholders and publicised and there has been liaison with the major employers regarding changes to employee working hours to alleviate the traffic issue. There was discussion regarding the number of traffic lights on the A1066, which contribute to decreased traffic flow and it was noted that the Town Council fought hard for an exit only road from the estate built off Vinces Road to alleviate improve traffic flow but was unsuccessful. Members considered the primary traffic pinch point being at 5pm versus the continuous use of lights, that parking on the pavement would no longer be allowed and residents' concerns regarding exiting their properties. There was also discussion regarding parking for residents' additional vehicles, the issue of parking on the pavement on other parts of the A1066, the impact of changes to utilities on the project and the standpoint of the landowner given the effects on up to 13 affected properties. It was

RESOLVED: i) to request that Norfolk County Council reconsider the Compulsory Purchase Order option
ii) to invite representatives from Norfolk County Council, Diss Town Council, those living in the area, businesses, and the landowner to a meeting to further discuss the proposed Vinces Road junction scheme.

(Action: Clerk / CL by 16.11.21)

INF1021/07 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were none.

INF1021/08 VICE-CHAIR

Councillors considered appointing a new Vice-Chair for this committee. It was

RESOLVED: To appoint councillor Wooddissee as the new Vice-Chair for the Infrastructure committee.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

INF1021/09 STRATEGIC PLAN

a) Councillors considered report reference 29/2122 regarding progress towards improving the town cleanliness and determine a way forward. It was noted according to one contractor who undertook a site visit, hawk decoys and sonar devices would not be effective on a town centre scale. It was estimated that over £15k would be needed to install effective bird proofing to affected premises, which would require business commitment. There was discussion around the powers afforded to the District Council in requiring businesses to act on environmental grounds and the effectiveness of hawk kites. It was agreed that a multi-pronged approach was needed to manage the existing challenge caused by pigeons via the purchase of a street cleaner alongside investigating the effectiveness of dovecotes as a potential long-term solution. It was agreed that the costs would be spread over the lifetime of the equipment and should be more cost-effective than the quotation received to outsource. It was

RESOLVED:

1) For councillors Collins and Kiddie to work with the Maintenance Manager to draft a specification of requirements for a street cleaner and to confirm the suitability of the Ipswich Borough Council models against said specification with delegated authority to the Clerk to purchase the equipment up to the value of £35,000 using the Earmarked Reserves Street Cleaner allocation.

2) To allocate a further £10k from General Reserves to allow for costs up to £45k for a street cleaner and to create a new budget code heading for ongoing maintenance of the street cleaner.

3) That councillors Collins and Kiddie contact the Councils who have successfully implemented dovecotes to determine long term effectiveness.

(Action: DC / SK / MM; by 24.11.21)

- b) Councillors considered progress on the Strategic Plan actions. It was agreed that the original dates would be crossed out alongside the proposed new dates so any slippage can be reviewed. It was noted there will be a 3-month delay on the submission deadline for the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan due to a requirement to reconsult following the withdrawal of one of the Scole parish sites since the last consultation. It is hoped that the draft plan will be submitted before Christmas with an expected referendum in summer 2022. It was noted that allocating prime and secondary sites prior to consultation should help to minimise this going forward. It was

RESOLVED: 1) That councillors Welch and Wooddissee would be appointed to help the clerk on the cleanliness objective.

2) To include the original and proposed new deadline dates on the Strategic Action Plan and update the dates / reasoning for the delay to the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan schedule.

(Action: JW / JWo / Clerk; by 20.01.21)

INF1021/10 PARISH PARTNERSHIP BID

Members considered suggestions for the 2022-23 Parish Partnership bid submission (report reference 30/2122 referred). It was

RESOLVED: to include all recommended projects in the PPS bid for 2022-23 & 2023-24 (as per Infrastructure Budget Action Group report reference 31/2122).

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

INF1021/11 BUDGET

Members reviewed a budget proposal for the 2022-23 financial year (report reference 31/2122 referred). There was a query whether the CCTV budget proposals incorporated working with the Junior School regarding the anti-social behaviour at Rectory Meadow and it was noted that any budgetary considerations would be considered next financial year after the three current projects have been completed. It was

RESOLVED: That Committee agrees that the following budgetary proposals are submitted to Full Council for consideration:

- a) CCTV revenue budget increased to £1,500
- b) CCTV additional £1K allocated to EMR
- c) DDNP contribution £2,800
- d) Parish partnership bid is budgeted £11,600 inclusive of £5K to EMR
- e) CIL funds are spent on the new play equipment and 2x new dog bins

(Action: RFO; immediately)

INF1021/12 PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT

Members considered an alternative location for the new Park play equipment following the contractor site visit (report reference 32/2122 referred). It was noted that the equipment is proposed to be sited next to the existing play equipment and north of the of the footpath running from the Park toilets to the Mere's Mouth so the large open space will remain. It was

RESOLVED: To approve the installation of the additional play equipment at the location close to the toilet block in the Park as per the map in the Annex.

(Action: DepTC; immediately)

INF1021/13 PROGRESS REPORT

Members noted progress on decisions made at the last meeting. There was an update on the litter picking group initiative. There has been a request for support from the Council marketing team to help publicise the group. Two local youth groups will support the next event, which usually attracts around 15 pickers, on 13th November. This should be a good PR opportunity and additional litter pickers are being ordered to accommodate the increased numbers. There was a plea for more councillors to help and it was suggested that a monthly rota may be fruitful. The event takes place on the second Saturday of each month 10am – midday from CoOp Funeral Care on Stanley Road with the Fair Green Fish Bar offering complementary lunch and tea / coffee available. The Action group will consider how this initiative could link into the Council's cleanliness objective including youth engagement and link to the wellbeing benefits of taking part. It was also noted that there is a high volume of cigarette butts on St Nicholas St.

(Action: JW / JWo / Clerk; by 20.01.21)

There was an update from the Action Group tasked with reviewing parking issues in the town centre. Their first meeting considered deterrents such as the installation of bollards and double yellow lines and arranging a meeting with the relevant stakeholders before Christmas given the changes of Triangle Traders recently. It is suggested that the Council liaise with the District Council regarding basing the long-awaited third enforcement officer in Diss short term and the longer-term impact of the Wetherspoons development on available parking was discussed. They suggest talking to Simonds regarding circular bus routes / e-buses. It was noted that the road markings outside schools are regularly checked in some areas, that night-time parking restrictions are enforced by the Norfolk Parking Partnership based out of Kings Lynn and the daytime restrictions are enforced by the District Council alongside the rest of the District, which are funded by the car park machines and fixed penalty notices.

It was agreed that a representative of the Action Group would be invited to the next meeting with the District Council to discuss the additional CEO.

(Action: Clerk; immediately)

It was also noted that higher tier authorities are considering smart technologies to reduce costs / environmental impact and local problems such as repairs to railings on the Park Hotel side of the roundabout should be reported to <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> and the enquiry will be sent directly to the responsible authority.

INF1021/14 MEMBER FORUM

There were no issues relevant to this committee from members for brief discussion, action or inclusion on a future agenda.

INF1021/15 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the Infrastructure Committee is scheduled for 26th January 2022.

Meeting Closed at: 9pm.

Chairman: Councillor Olander