



NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING

Minutes of a Meeting

Community Safety

held on

Wednesday 21st March 2018

at

The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Tony Forrester (Chairman)
Tim Nelson
Phil Norton
Thomas Janke
Peter Scott

IN ATTENDANCE: Lee Jakeman – Town Clerk
Jas Badesha – Telford & Wrekin Council
Adam Brookes - Telford & Wrekin Council
Inspector Gary Wide – Telford & Wrekin Police
Sgt Ram Aston - Telford & Wrekin Police
Cllr Eric Carter – Telford & Wrekin Council

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

Cllr Graham Foster (holiday), Cllr Lyn Fowler (work commitment)

CS/45/ 17-18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

CS/46/ 17-18 MINUTES

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2017 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by Cllr Forrester.
- b. **Matters Arising** – Minute CS/44/17-18 refers, Meeting with Police Commander. Cllr Nelson advise that both he and Cllr Scott had recently met again with the local Police Commander and circulated a written summary of the meeting for members; extract provided at **Appendix 1**.

CS/47/ 17-18 PUBLIC SESSION – Members RESOLVED to:

Suspend the meeting to take comments, relating to the items on the agenda, from members of the public.

Comments:

Parking Restrictions – Wellington Road et al.

Mr Phil Leech of Brookside Avenue asked that the Council consider the impact of introducing double and single yellow lines in the area of Wellington Road et al (agenda item 9a.) in so much as the use of lines would only move the problem of inconsiderate parking not solve it.

Mr John Pessall of Granville Road expressed similar concerns in that the introduction of double yellow lines proposed in the petition that the Council had received would move the problem and not solve it. If the Council were minded to support the petition then he suggested that the Council would need to support extending the double yellow lines in to Granville Road which is likely to then be the nearest likely available parking spot.

**CS/48/ COMMITTEE FINANCES
17-18**

Members noted the latest income and expenditure report.

Cllr Scott raised the matter regarding the provision of additional grit bins as there was funding available. Cllr Scott was advised to submit a formal request to the appropriate officer regarding the precise location desired.

**CS/49/ SMART WATER
17-18**

Cllr Nelson advised that Police Superintendent Harding is looking to provide a project plan to deliver Smartwater. (The topic is referred to in the report tabled by Cllr Nelson at the beginning of the meeting)

**CS/50/ INTEGRATED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
17-18**

Members were reminded that the Council had signed up to (at a cost of £15,000 per annum) a 6 year deal with the local police (which is funded in the first 3 years via a grant from Telford & Wrekin Council) for one half of a Police & Community Support Officer (the half being funded by Wellington Town Council).

Jas Badesha (Telford & Wrekin Council Community Safety, Cohesion & Environmental Enforcement) provided an overview of the model being operated and advised that regular meetings were held at the Guildhall comprising himself, the Town Clerk and the local Police Inspector.

Members raised a number of questions regarding the ICM to better understand its successes and challenges and a begin to view its values

As a result of a number of night time economy issues being raised at the ICM meeting Mr Badesha had invited along Sgt Aston of the Harm Reduction Unit to provide a brief insight in to police activity related to the night time economy.

Sgt Aston offered to deliver a more comprehensive presentation at the Town's Annual Meeting at 7pm in Cosy Hall on Tuesday 10th April so that the wider public might also be more informed.

CS51/ 17-18 PARKING MATTERS

Members received an update from Jas Badesha (Telford & Wrekin Council Community Safety, Cohesion & Environmental Enforcement) and Adam Brookes (Telford & Wrekin Council Highways, Network Management Team Leader).

Members discussed the possibility of installing free (time limited) parking machines on the Car Parks in Newport in order to increase turnover and the requirement for additional parking spaces for business and shoppers. Members were, in general terms, supportive of the type of scheme introduced in Wellington recently.

Members were of the view that social responsibility was part of the solution in and around school, residential areas and the retail centre. It was agreed that a strategic rather than a piecemeal approach was needed and that there should be some opportunity for those groups likely to be affected to comment.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

Form a working Group (comprising all members of the Community Safety Committee and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) to produce an on and off street parking strategy and return to the Full Town Council within 30 days

HIGHWAY MATTERS

CS52/ 17-18 Wellington Road/ Brookside and Springfield Avenue Parking Restrictions.

Members were reminded that at the previous meeting during the public session a petition had been delivered to the Council in relation to installing additional double and single yellow lines in the area of Wellington Road, near the 2 schools. The matter had not been discussed at the previous meeting as it had not been a formal agenda item and members had not had an opportunity to consider the matter before coming to a decision that evening.

Members were advised that the Clerk had liaised with Mr Brookes (Telford & Wrekin Council) on the matter in the intervening period and that some ongoing consultation was underway to improve the parking situation. A copy of the consultation (proposing to install wooden bollards) had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting.

Members considered the petition and earlier comments made in the public session and sought advice from Inspector Wade. Members had sympathy with the residents that had signed the petition but were not convinced that the approach as documented in the wording of the petition was necessarily the solution. Members **RESOLVED** that:

Having discussed the matter with the senior police officer present that they could not support the petition as worded

CS53/ 17-18 St Peter's' and Paul's School Temporary Sign

Members were reminded of the decision of the Town Council taken its meeting on 14th February (minute 204/17-18) to grant Telford & Wrekin Council up to £500 to install some temporary signs to improve road safety in the area of the school.

Members were advised that a design had been approved by the Cllr Forrester, an invoice for £158 had been received; the expected installation date would be 6 April 2018.

FOOTWAY LIGHTING

CS/54/ 17-18 Report

Members noted a report, extract at Appendix 2.

Additional Street Lights on the footpath adjacent to the park between Springfield Avenue and Wallshead Way.

Cllr Nelson advised the meeting that he had been approached by a number of residents to have the pathway lit when dark.

Members noted the quote and plans from the Town Council's street lighting contractor as well as correspondence from nearby residents.

Members felt that they should proceed in part by installing the one lamp nearest to Springfield Avenue then seek to address the concerns raised regarding the 2nd lamp (nearest to Wallshead Way)

Members **RESOLVED:**

To recommended to the Town Council that it increases the budget for Street Lighting New Works (Nominal Ledger 4206) in financial year 2018/2019 from £2,000 to £3,000 to fund the installation of 2 footway lights on the footpath between Springfield Avenue and Wallshead Way, with the intention to install a lamp nearest to Springfield Avenue only, in the first instance.

CS/55/ 17-18 PUBLIC TOILETS

Members noted a report, extract at Appendix 3.

CS/56 **CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION**
17-18

The Town Clerk advised members that the CCTV equipment was performing adequately. Members were reminded that Telford & Wrekin Council and the Police are working to scope out a network of CCTV cameras which will include and upgrade to the Newport Town Council system and improved remote monitoring. The Town Council has previously indicated its willingness to provide significant funding (up to circa £35,000) to the project, subject to receipt of a formal proposal. The report tabled by Cllr Nelson at the beginning of the meeting provided some further update.

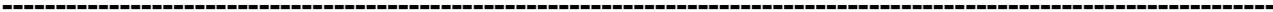
CS/57/ **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES**
17-18

Members received a report on the topic and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council

The Town Council Purchase 2 Speed Indicator Devices from the company that provided the lowest of the 3 quotes put to the Working Group.

Signed.....

Dated.....



MEETING WITH LOCAL POLICE COMMANDER –

The following is an extract of report tabled at the meeting by Cllr Nelson.

Members update: Meeting with Supt. Tom Harding Telford Police commander
22 02 2018

In attendance: Cllr Scott, Cllr Nelson, Supt Tom Harding

Matters arising. These are not in the exact order of the discussion, which was wide ranging and touched on some confidential matters

Newport events. TJN will submit an events calendar. Discussed and requested that the Police continue their light touch low/nil cost model of events policing, using Specials and Cadets for instance for the Nocturne

SIDS. Discussed whether the Police can assist if needed with T&W highways when negotiating SIDS location/installation.

ICM. Discussed the role and continuation of ICM. Agreed that with T&W now espousing CPE (one day) that the ICM resource would continue with a Parking management role, ongoing. Discussed the degree to which contracting bodies such as Parish councils, or representatives such as Borough councillors can 'direct' the ICM resource. They can't. They can only respectfully request/draw attention to issues. This is relevant in the context of the 'direction' the NTC corporate body gives to the Clerk. It remains the aspiration of the Police that the ICM resource per Parish should be a named individual, not a generic resource. Recent personnel moves have thwarted this but it remains the model. It is considered that this model will assist in the PCSO in their role in identifying with the community, and increasing their knowledge and experience of what the local issues are. It is noted that the Police are actively recruiting more PCSO's.

In the context of the recent murder, the Police observed that a significant proportion of violence and death is 'domestic'. With great sensitivity, we were requested to consider next time we hear raised voices, the extent to which they should be ignored? It was acknowledged that this is not an easy subject.

SNT. So far as I understood from the discussion, the SNT resource for Newport is not to be reduced, however there are vacancies see above re recruitment. TJN to request of Cary's the Newport budgeted 'effective'. What numbers should we be seeing.

CCTV. According to the Police's best information of the contract progress, we should see the first installation of new hardware by August '18, with the objective to have enabled live monitoring of 'hotspots' by volunteers, for the Xmas party season '18. It was reinforced that there will not be continuous live monitoring of all camera's, all the time. An instance where it was expected that volunteers will contribute will be in the retrospective analysis of footage to gather crime evidence, to be then presented to an officer for action.

Drugs. Anecdotal evidence was presented of 'Drugs being for sale in local pubs'. It was emphasised that anecdotal evidence is useless unless reported (101, or anonymous Crime stoppers) and corroborated. Which pub, when, how often, maybe ages involved, known individuals? The Police aren't saying that there are not drugs in Newport, there are. They are everywhere, including Class A. They are saying the power of arrest and obtaining a warrant has to be done with good cause and that requires multiple objective evidence not complaining.

Specials. It remains the object of the Police to expand the availability of Specials , and to recruit Specials who are bespoke to a community. We agreed that this would /could be beneficial to a close and cohesive community such as Newport.

Parking. On the street, it remains one of the biggest issues exercising the public. Inconsiderate and uncivil parking such as overstaying a time limit and abusing double yellow, and dangerous parking such as within Zig zag. To this end it was observed as positive that punitive steps were being taken recently to apprehend and fine offenders: this sends a very public message. It was reiterated that for the Police, Parking remains a very low priority when there are children being sexually assaulted and people murdered in the Borough.

Mobile police station and Drop In. Both these are seen a positive. No commitment is made that an individual can require a particular kind of interaction with the Police, they can only request and the Police will judge. You can't demand an interview, it is likely you will get one if you request. The Mobile police station is valuable in this context: the Police/PCSO are there.

It was agreed that a minimum of one Mobile Police station a month either a Friday or Saturday morning was achievable, desirable and will be planned for: It was good to see the Mobile Police station in the Square yesterday, and used.

Ask not, get not.

Visibility. The Police presence has been expanded on Social media. This reaches those on social media. (And for those not, it doesn't: the Police were reminded of Newport's demographic) For physical presence, the Police are reviewing how the number of miles walked by a PCSO translates into public visibility and hence confidence. It is possible that 10 miles walked around empty housing estates on Thursday afternoon, may not be the most effective method.

Smartwater. It remains the Police intention to roll out Smartwater in Newport from April '18, with potentially a launch at the Town Meeting on April 10th '18. Tom commits to attend, subject to operational factors and liaison with the town Clerk. The roll out will need to be, following the model of other Parishes, a collaborative effort between Police, Parish, other volunteers and PCC. Signage will be key part of the preventive effectiveness of Smartwater, but will follow the roll out not precede it. NTC will need many hands to the pump to make this happen, I personally expect to commit considerable time to this my initiative, but it will be a team effort, for which we can all take credit.

Comms. The Police in Telford will have their own Comms operative from Mid March. It is intended that this will permit the Police to present the reality of their performance rather than some of the sensationalist and negative presentation in the press. All is not perfect but not always as bad as shown. NTC will be engaged with this Comms operative.

Police process in reporting instances. It was recognised that individuals can feel that their reporting of crime goes unnoticed, that for instance they don't get a squad car turn up within five minutes of reporting a mis parked van The Police will consider how to rectify this inaccurate opinion of the public. To choose a recent example

Report a dodgy van and what looks like a crime, what happens? Automatically, the registration if given is checked. Ownership/stolen? MOT, tax? Licensed dealer/trader? Location of Keeper, other recorded info respecting this vehicle or this keeper?.....All electronic and all more or less instant. All information the Police can't divulge to the public, but leads them to a picture and guides their further action. Which might be none, but they 'don't do nothing'.

It was a long meeting, we'll meet again in around three months

Produced by Cllr Nelson

Footway Lighting Report - Extract

AIM

- To comment on the general street lighting maintenance contact
- An update on the LED street lighting upgrades.
- To consider installing additional street lights in the area of the park off Springfield Avenue and Wallshead Way.

DISCUSSION

Routine Maintenance – Contractor E-on Energy Solutions Limited

- To date street lighting faults have comparatively low for the winter period. Our street lighting contractor has maintained a good response time with the majority of site visits being within the contractual 5-7 working days. Quarterly report **attached**.

LED Upgrade Programme

- The 1st Phase of the LED upgrades (51 lamps) has been completed. To date one complaint has been received - light too bright. We are in the process of working with the resident and our street lighting contractors to try to resolve the situation.
- The 2nd Phase - 50 lamps) In progress
- The 3rd Phase - 50 lamps) 3 teams working at the same time
- The 4th Phase - 50 lamps)

Remainder of LED upgrades

The remainder of the LED lanterns to complete the upgrade programme have been ordered.

New Lights Requested

- Cllr Nelson has enquired regarding installing 2 footway lights on the footpath between Springfield Avenue and Wallshead Way. Our street lighting contractors have assessed the area and I have attached their recommendations
- Two residents of the properties adjacent to the area have been contacted and their responses are attached. They offer differing views. It might be prudent initially to install one lamp and then more fully consider the provision of a second lamp once further information is considered.
- To install the 2 columns will cost in the region of £2,900.00.
- The Nominal Ledger (4206) has no funding available as the balance is required to complete the LED upgrade programme.
- The new financial year begins on 1st April 2018 and the Nominal Ledger (4206) has a budget of only £2,000.00.

Newport Public Toilets Report - Extract

- The toilets are considered to be in a good general condition as a result of the standard 'daily clean' and the occasional 'Deep clean'.
- The extractor fan in the ladies toilets has broken, Booth Electrical assessed it beyond economical repair, and a new fan has been ordered and will be replaced. The estimate is £980.
- Booth electrical fitted a new extractor fan (same model) in the men's public toilets in November 2017 following the vandalism in October 2017, which is performing better than the previous unit.
- Vandalism has been attempted in the gent's toilets in attempt to silence the new extractor, therefore to protect this investment I have received a quote for cage guards for both units at a cost of £340.
- The attempted vandalism has be reported to the police
- The Maintenance/Repairs ledger 4395 has £2850 so there are sufficient funds to complete all works.