MINUTES OF A MEETING
COMMUNITY SAFETY
held on
Wednesday 27 June 2012
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Tony Forrester
Lyn Fowler
Terry Spooner
Mr Graham Hobson (co-opted)
Mr Reg Potter (co-opted)

IN ATTENDANCE: Lee Jakeman – Town Clerk
Wendy Goodchild – Street Lighting Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Peter Scott (holiday)

CS/1/12-13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Forrester was duly elected as Chairman of the Community Safety Committee for the municipal year 2012/13.

CS/2/12-13 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Cllr Spooner was duly elected as Deputy Chairman of the Community Safety Committee for the municipal year 2012/13.

CS/3/12-13 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members noted the committee’s Terms of Reference.

CS/4/12-13 CO-OPTION

Members RESOLVED to co-opt:

Mr Graham Hobson and Mr Reg Potter to the committee.

(Note: Co-opted members are required to observe the Town Council’s code of Conduct.)

CS/5/12-13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

CS/6/12-13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 April and were accepted as a true record.
CS/7/12-13  MATTERS ARISING

Item CS37/11-12 – A518/Retail Site Traffic concerns.
Members asked the Clerk to obtain an update.

CS/8/12-13  PUBLIC SESSION

Members RESOLVED to suspend the meeting to take comments from the Public.

Mr Rodney Pitt of Queens Drive noted that members would be discussing short-term parking and suggested that they consider the use of parking disks (purchased from local shops).

There being no further comments, members RESOLVED to continue the meeting.

CS/9/12-13  ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Fowler advised that she had raised an issue of cycles being regularly ridden along Cock Alley. However, she had not received any feedback from the local policing team. The Clerk agreed to chase the matter.

Mr Hobson noted that the repairs to the central refuge were still not completed (missing light). The Clerk agreed to hasten the matter.

CS/10/12-13  COMMITTEE BUDGET

Members considered a copy of the community safety budget for FY12/13.

CS/11/12-13  CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Members were briefed by the Clerk.

Councillor Forrester and The Clerk had met with representatives of Wellington Town Council the previous week to discuss the on-going issues regarding a lack of tangible parking enforcement.

Members were reminded that the West Mercia Police force had removed traffic wardens some 2 to 3 years ago and that parking enforcement was seen as a low priority for them.

Newport Town Council and Wellington town councils (and to a lesser degree Oakengates & Dawley) have met individually and has an informal group with Telford & Wrekin Council to encourage them [TWC] to take on the responsibility for Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE).
The main motives (from a Newport Town Council perspective) were to reduce obstructions in and around the High Street, to improve traffic flow and to encourage turnover of traffic, to help the economic outlook of the High Street businesses.

The representatives of Newport and Wellington Town Councils’ confirmed that their councils have supported the introduction of CPE at many times in recent years and that, they were keen to have TWC apply at the earliest opportunity. It was agreed that the Clerks of Wellington and Newport meet with representatives of the TWC Highways department to press the issue and ensure that progress was being made.

A meeting was held on Wednesday 27th June at Wellington. The Clerks of Newport and Wellington articulated the combined councils general position and frustration at the apparent lack of tangible progress. TWC officers provided an update on the current situation:

- Applications for CPE to be devolved are only accepted by the Department for Transport DfT twice a year (30 April and 31 October), following which there is a 20 week time scale to make a decision.
- TWC are working to a timetable of submission by the 30 April 2013 and (subject to approval) implementation in Oct 2013.
- The submission will require Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to be up to date borough wide.
- The submission will require consideration of an overall parking strategy.
- Work has been and continues to be undertaken to ensure that the TROs are legally sound and appropriate.
- The preparation of suitable TROs (from a highways technical position) in time is on track.
- Clarification from the legal department about official notice and sign off is being undertaken currently.
- TWC wish to consult, initially, with town and parish councils on the proposed new TROs
  - Wellington TC in July 2012
  - Newport TC in first or second week of August 2012

and then the wider public.

- TWC meeting regularly with other authorities and have also met with the DfT to learn from previous experience.
- The strategy is looking to be cost neutral. Previously, some councils have expressed, in general terms a willingness to consider assisting with additional initial costs or part funding of enforcement officers.

Signed..........................................

Dated........................................
Members RESOLVED to delegate to a working group comprising:

Mr Hobson
Cllr Forrester
Cllr Spooner

The authority to provide the Town Council’s general view and comment on the draft TROs produced by TWC, for Newport.

Members noted that they may need to consider some part funding to move the devolution of CPE forward promptly and/or consider impact on future budgets.

CS/12/12-13 PUBLIC TOILETS

Members noted a report on the topic, Appendix ‘A’.

FOOTWAY LIGHTING

CS/13/12-13 Members considered a verbal report from the street lighting officer.

They were advised that:

- Routine maintenance continued in line with historical trends.
- The street lighting contactor will be starting the renumbering exercise for all NTC footway lights in July.
- We continue to upgrade to LED on an opportunity basis.
- The Contractor has advised that the ornamental lights in St. Mary Street (5) could be replaced with LED technology. The indicative cost is in the region of £12K - £14K. It is possible to fund an upgrade from combining the £11K in ear marked funds and using part of the £6k from the revenue account. However, it is recommended that an upgrade is not undertaken this FY. However, consideration could be given to budgeting additional funding next FY.

Members asked that more detail be provided regarding the specification of possible LED lights for St. Mary Street at the next CS meeting.

CS/14/12-13 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs) EXTRA PROGRAMME

Members noted correspondence prompted by the work undertaken by Cllr Forrester and Mr Hobson in identifying suitable positioning for SIDs within Newport. A response is still awaited.

Members RESOLVED to continue to delegate the management (within budget) of the programme to Cllr Forrester and Mr Hobson.
CS/15/12-13  CENTRAL SQUARE (MISSING) LAMP POST

Members noted correspondence from TWC which indicated that the lamp post for central square (removed last year) is due to be replaced between 30th July and 24 August 2012.

CS/16/12-13  CCTV

Members noted a brief from the Clerk, copy attached at Appendix ‘B’. Members considered that early consideration of upgrading the CCTV was advisable. However, members were of the opinion that the provision of CCTV (by the Town Council) can be a complex and/or emotive subject. They felt the matter should be raised at full town council to allow all councillors to express a view on the role of CCTV and how and for what it should be utilised for.

CS/17/12-13  CAR PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Members RESOLVED to recommend the implementation of short stay (probably 2 hours) bays on the car parks in Stafford Street and New Street to Telford & Wrekin Council to help create turnover of the parking spaces closest to the High Street.

Clerk’s Note: The matter will need to be addressed in conjunction with the Parking Strategy required by TWC as part of the application for CPE – Item 11/12-13 , above refers)

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