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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7.30pm in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT** Cllr G Sell (Chair), Cllrs A Khan, J O’Brien and L Prior and co-opted member Ray Woodcock

**ATTENDING** Mrs Ruth Clifford – Parish Clerk

Cllr P Jones – via Zoom

Cty Cllr R Gooding

1 member of the press

1 member of the public in person

1 member of the public via Zoom

**126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr M Caton – holiday – approved.

**127 DELCARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**128 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 26TH APRIL AND 24TH MAY 2023**

**RESOLVED** To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 26th April and 24th May 2023 as true and accurate accounts.

**129 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE ABOVE MEETINGS**

See Clerk’s Report attached. 464 – schemes submitted to the NEPP – see under minute number 136c below. 467 – Vehicle Activated Signs – Cty Cllr Gooding suggested that the Clerk contact Henham PC as they have recently completed a scheme and may be able to offer helpful advice.

**130 TO CONSIDER CO-OPTING NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBERS TO THE SUB- COMMITTEE**

Three people had indicated their willingness to be considered and some background on each was given to members. Following discussion, and having been proposed by Cllr Sell and seconded by Cllr O’Brien, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** to co-opt Gill Bell, Katherine Playle and Ray Woodcock to the sub- committee.

**131 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, CLLR GEOFFREY SELL**

Cllr Sell reported that he is being lobbied by a resident of Cambridge Road for a Residents’ Parking Scheme as they are suffering from airport parking. A resident elsewhere is requesting a 20mph scheme. Cllr Sell has advised residents of the requirements for support from other residents and the likely charges.

Cty Cllr Gooding advised that Essex Highways are supporting 20mph zones in the vicinity of schools, but zones in other areas would be considered as part of the national campaign. That, however, is under review and it may be some months before any schemes will be considered.

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Cllr Khan has received confirmation from the airport that they will replace the No Airport Parking signs removed from Dairy Lane. Cty Cllr Gooding asked him to submit full details of the signs to him in advance so that he could ensure that they are compliant and will not be removed by Essex CC again.

**132 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GOODING ON HIGHWAYS PROJECTS FOR STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET**

This report also covered agenda items 11a and b.

Uttlesford Local Highways Panel (LHP) – as previously stated the setup has changed and Cllr Gooding has been working with his fellow councillors and officers to make improvements to the administration of the scheme. Backlogs have occurred, not least due to the numbers of staff having left Essex Highways (EH). There is no longer any funding from Uttlesford District Council (UDC). There is also a central board which will look at some of the larger schemes to try to progress them more quickly and the next meeting of that takes place on 26th July.

In response to a question from the Chair, Cllr Gooding confirmed that LHP meetings will be open to the public – with a longer period for speaking - and people will be able to book to speak at a meeting – these will hopefully also go online. Interim meetings are continuing but the first meeting that the public can attend should be in October 2023. Letters will be sent to all town and parish councils to inform them of the changes. Officers dealing with the administration of the scheme are Sarah Tomlin and Dan McLean. A new website is being set up and Clerks will have access to that to be able to monitor progress of schemes. Two schemes in Stansted should progress, ideally by the end of December but if not then by the end of March, and these are the zebra crossing in Silver Street and the 20mph is Plenty scheme by St Mary’s primary school.

Cllr Gooding agreed to speak to the Clerk outside the meeting to go through the list of projects which this Council has submitted.

Grove Hill – Cllr Gooding reminded everyone that Cabinet Member, Cllr Lee Scott, has stated on a number of occasions that this is not a quick process. With regard to finding an alternative route for HGVs, Cllr Gooding has met with the other councils affected, with the exception of Takeley. This scheme will go to the central board referred to above for consideration. It is a slow process with many different aspects to be considered but it must be done properly to avoid any risk of Judicial Review. Cllr O’Brien commented that a by-pass might be more beneficial to all communities.

Cllr Gooding referred to the traffic lights on the hill – these cannot be moved for safety reasons but the removal of the parked cars would assist with traffic flow. EH cannot take action against drivers who jump the red lights – that is a Police matter. It would have to be supported by cameras and it was agreed to invite Sgt Sharma to a future meeting to discuss what options are available.

Tipper trucks through the village – there is nothing that can be done to prevent this as they are not doing anything illegal. Conversations have been held with East Herts planning as most lorries are coming from the BS North development but it seems there are no conditions preventing this. Cllr Sell agreed to speak to counterparts in Bishop’s Stortford to see if they can offer any advice. Mr Woodcock asked if it could be a planning requirement to state in the conditions that waste must be disposed of onsite.

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After further discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Gooding would look at the points raised in Cllr Jones’s document circulated prior to the meeting. He will add the updates/responses and return it to the Clerk. Once obtained, other updates on tipper trucks and “red light jumpers” will be added and a FAQ document drafted. All members are asked to let the Clerk have any other points they wish to be included. Once approved, it will be sent to the Grove Hill residents’ group and posted on our website as a point of reference for residents.

Cllr Gooding suggested that a joint motion could be put to UDC in October regarding planning conditions relating to the disposal of waste from future development sites.

Section 106 updates – Cllr O’Brien stated his dissatisfaction that there is still no update following the site visit on Church Road back in February. The Clerk has chased this up, but no response received.

**133 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR KHAN AND MR WOODOCK ON THE WORST AREAS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE**

The report and supporting pictures had been circulated to members with the agenda.

Mr Woodcock highlighted item 9 in the report – the need for a crossing point in High Lane – and it was suggested that this be raised with the LHP to lobby for funding. Cllr Gooding stated that there will be funding available for works to footpaths but he is awaiting confirmation of the allocation.

**134 ESSEX ELECTRIC VEHCILE CHARGE POINT STRATEGY – TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO COMMENT AND IF SO, APPOINT A MEMBER TO DO SO**

The consultation document was circulated to members with the agenda. Members were asked to let the Clerk have their comments by Monday 24th July so that a draft could be prepared for the Chair’s approval prior to submission.

**135 TO CONSIDER CONSULTING WITH RESIDENTS ON THE HARGRAVE ESTATE FOR A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT**

As per the attached Clerk’s report, a resident contacted the office and asked for this to be considered by the sub-committee. It was agreed that for any scheme to be successful, it would require physical calming measures as well as a speed reduction. Cllr O’Brien referred to a very successful scheme in Fowlmere where there are heavy rubber cushions which force traffic to slow down and he asked why Essex cannot do something similar. Given Cllr Gooding’s comments above regarding national 20mph schemes, it was agreed to start with an application for Rainsford Road under the “school” scheme rather than the national one.

**136 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON:**

**a) S106 PROJECTS SUBMITTED** – covered above

**b) UTTLESFORD LOCAL HIGHWAY PANEL PROJECTS SUBMITTED** – covered above

**c) NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP (NEPP) PROJECTS SUBMIITED**

Please see updates on all of these in the Clerk’s report attached. This was circulated to members with the agenda. Discussion took place around the confusion caused by the requirement for projects to achieve a 75% support rate at consultation. Cllr Gooding was unable to clarify this and he had been surprised that comments on the

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proposals for the Mountfitchet Estate had been rejected by District Cllr Hargreaves who represents UDC on the NEPP.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cllr Hargreaves asking for a detailed explanation as to how the NEPP manages its applications, the reason for the 75% support criteria and who makes the decisions on the applications – is it the Panel and can parish and town councils make representation? She will also endeavour to find out which schemes have been approved for the current year and whether these had 75% support as there appear to be some anomalies, not least the progress of the waiting restrictions for the Mountfitchet Estate. Cllr Gooding said he would find out who holds the delegated power at ECC with regard to the NEPP.

**ACTION POINTS**

129 Office to contact Henham Parish Council re Vehicle Activated Signs

131 Cllr Khan to send details of the No Airport Parking signs to Cty Cllr Gooding

132 Cllr Sell to contact counterparts in Bishop’s Stortford regarding tipper trucks

Cllr Gooding to meet with Clerk to discuss historic LHP applications

Office to draft FAQ document

135 Office to apply for 20 is Plenty scheme in Rainsford Road

136c Clerk to write to District Cllr Hargreaves

Cllr Gooding to establish ECC contact on the NEPP