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

MINUTES of a meeting of the HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th October 2023 in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT** Cllr G Sell (Chair), Cllrs P Jones and A Khan and Co-Opted Members

K Playle and R Woodcock

**ATTENDING** Mrs Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

 Cllr L Prior – via Zoom

 County Councillor Ray Gooding

 1 member of the press – via Zoom

 1 member of the public – via Zoom

**212 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Caton – Holiday, Cllr O’Brien – Family Commitments and Cllr Prior – Unwell but will join on Zoom.

 It was unanimously

**RESOLVED** To approve the apologies for absence from Cllrs Caton, O’Brien and Prior

The Clerk, Ruth Clifford gave her apologies for absence and Hollie Ryder gave apologies for lateness.

Gill Bell has resigned from the Sub-Committee

**213 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None

**214 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JULY 2023**

Ray Woodcock is not showing as present but was at the meeting.

 **RESOLVED** To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2023 as a true and accurate account with the above amendment made.

**215 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS**

129 – Office to contact Henham Parish Council re Vehicle Activated Signs – A meeting was held with the person who arranged this for Henham. A quote has been obtained but members decided that even though this is a good idea, it is too expensive to consider as part of the budget process. It was suggested that maybe a grant could be sourced to cover the project.

 131 – Cllr Khan to send details of the No Airport Parking signs to Cty Cllr Gooding – Cllr Khan confirmed that this has previously been done but did not receive any response back. He has also contacted Stansted Airport and asked for details of the signs.

 132 – Cllr Sell to contact counterparts in Bishops Stortford regarding tipper trucks – This has been done. Details of where the vehicles go to are not kept on record, but they believe the golden hour is 8am. He also established that the Environment Agency are the regulator of Essex Waste and not UDC Environmental Health.

 132 – Cllr Gooding to meet with the Clerk to discuss historic LHP applications and Office to draft FAQ documents – The Clerk has sent several requests but has received no response so unable to progress.

 135 – Office to apply for 20 is plenty scheme in Rainsford Road – Application form completed and sent to Cllr Gooding for support and submission.

 136c – Clerk to write to District Cllr Hargreaves – Done and meeting held – Details of which were sent to members ahead of the meeting

Katherine Playle arrived during this agenda item and apologised for lateness

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

Cllr Sell reported the following:

 UDC may be going to public consultation with their local Plan. He has calculated that if this is adopted and the number of houses goes ahead then there will be approx. 4,500 additional households potentially accessing the B1383. There is a meeting on 30th October to decide if it does go for consultation.

County Councillor Gooding arrived during this agenda item.

Hollie Ryder arrived on Zoom during this agenda item.

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

Cty Councillor Gooding advised that Cllr Lee Scott had moved on and that Cllr Tom Cunningham was now the Portfolio Holder. He officially started yesterday (17/10/23) so he hadn’t had a chance to meet with him yet.

 With regards to Grove Hill, the consultation is nearly ready to go out and the plan was to arrange a meeting with all parishes including Stansted, Elsenham, Henham, Ugley and Takeley. Hopefully Cllr Tom Cunningham will still agree to this course of action and Cty Cllr Gooding will work to get the meeting underway. Takeley have been expressing concern about heavy goods vehicles going through the village. He suggested looking at how we want to present our issues in Stansted.

 Cllr Jones commented that the real crunch comes down to whether there is anywhere on an alternative route that is worse than Grove Hill. He feels that the route from Hall Road to Takeley does not have the same intensity as Grove Hill. Cty Councillor Gooding advised that the results from the traffic survey highlighted that on the sharp bend before the roundabout on Hall Road there is a nursery and Highways have stated it is unacceptable to use this route unless capital works are undertaken to ensure its fit for purpose. Cllr Sell pointed out that although Elsenham are not getting any further development in the draft Local Plan, they have had 1000 new homes approved which have not yet been built. This will mean HGV’s using Grove Hill to go to site with materials etc. Katherine Playle asked why a width restriction could not be enforced using bollards and Cty Cllr Gooding explained why this was not possible. Ray Woodcock gave his support to Cllr Jones comments and advised he thought at least one resident of Grove Hill should be invited to attend the meeting of the Parishes.

 Cllr Khan voiced his concerns that nothing was going to be done to resolve this issue and that residents weren’t being told the truth. Cty Cllr Gooding responded that there is no easy solution and there may be no solution, but he would like to see some action and they are trying to find a solution if possible.

 Cllr Jones noted that this would not happen if Hall Road was not considered suitable in the safety audit so work would need to be carried out to achieve this objective and capital needed to be invested to do the works. The works needed to be done to achieve this and the costs involved would need to be researched. The positive is that Cllr Lee Scott moved this from the Local Highways Panel who would not have the money to carry out such a scheme to Highways Central who are not constrained like the LHP

 Discussions took place around the need for a proper traffic survey and Cty Cllr Gooding confirmed that they had the results of the camera survery which was done in 49 locations. He does not know when the results will be published. It was agreed that the office would write to Cllr Tom Cunningham welcoming him to the role and

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 inviting him to visit Stansted at a time which is convenient to him but in this calendar year. He would also be asked for the report to be published ASAP.

 Cty Councillor Gooding also updated on the following:

 Local Highways Panel – They had a lack of staff so there were issues getting projects delivered and validated. Since changes were made earlier this year things are a lot easier. He decided not to take a contribution from UDC due to the ridiculous terms they put on it. 20’s Plenty is on the list and going ahead but there is not timescale yet but it should be in this financial year. Some of the schemes that Ruth had enquired about had slipped off the list as they did not meet the conditions but she was not notified of this.

 The traffic calming on High Lane is on hold and is being reviewed as part of the Grove Hill scheme. This is because High Lane is a PR2 road meaning it would not be considered for traffic calming. The Grove Hill scheme would potentially have the rating downgraded to a PR3 allowing a traffic calming scheme to happen. In this event the road would take a different priority on a Sat Nav but on the other hand the level of maintenance and repairs goes down. After discussions on the layout of the footpaths along there it was agreed to apply for two pedestrian crossings which would to some degree act as traffic calming. Position as per the draft NDP.

 The next Local Highways Panel meeting will be taking place in December. Cty Cllr Gooding will let us know the date so that someone from the Parish Council can attend and represent any points.

**218 TO CONSIDER MAKING AN APPLICATION FOR A ZEBRA CROSSING ON FOREST HALL ROAD**

A request from a resident who has witnessed several near misses with school children was circulated to members with the agenda. It was agreed to ask the resident to contact Ray Woodcock to discuss their request further. After further discussions and with 4 votes in favour and 1 abstention it was

 **RESOLVED** To request a study be carried out by the Local Highways Panel as to the best location for a crossing. As the position would be critical.

It was also agreed to contact the school to gain their support.

**219 TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO LOOK AT CYCLE ROUTES AND BUS ROUTES**

Cllr Jones advised that he has requested this as there is a detailed chapter on it in the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. He is aware that not everything will be possible but that a working group need to look at it and decide what the issues are and what action is possible. Cty Cllr Gooding suggested they talk to Sustrans. He also gave details of the current consultation being carried out on the 7/7a bus service.

 It was agreed that Cllrs Peter Jones, John O’Brien and Tom van de Bilt will be on the Working Group.

**220 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM A RESIDENT IN RELATION TO SIGNAGE ON RECREATION GROUND**

The request from the resident was circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Subsequently the resident has confirmed that before signage is discussed, he would like to Parish Council to enquire as to the status of the road.

 Cty Cllr Gooding confirmed that it is an unadopted road with a public right of way. Any scheme to be implemented for parking restrictions would need to be discussed by the

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 Residents Association and the residents canvassed.

**221 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON:**

**a) S106 PROJECTS SUBMITTED**

Cllr Jones gave the background details of this and confirmed that despite numerous requests, we have never received a response. It was agreed that the office would write to Paul Crick the Highways Director copying in Cllr Tom Cunningham as cabinet member. The lack of action is costly given that the value left in the S106 Highways funds eroding quickly given the rate of inflation in recent years.

**b) UTTLESFORD LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL PROJECTS SUBMITTED**

After no response for information from Cty Cllr Gooding, the Clerk went direct to the new Uttlesford Local Highways Panel Officer and managed to receive a response to all outstanding projects submitted. The response was circulated to all members with the agenda.

**c) NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS SUBMITTED**

The scheme for Bentfield Road was submitted and the outcome is awaited.

**222 TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF APPLICATIONS TO THE NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP AND TO AGREE A WAY FORWARD**

It was agreed that the Forest Hall Park Parking Working Group would meet and review the results of the consultation and bring back to the Sub-Committee which schemes they think could be re-submitted based on residents’ support.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

**ACTION POINTS**

217 Office to write to Cllr Tom Cunningham

217 Apply for two pedestrian crossings on High Lane

217 Cty Cllr Gooding to advise the date of the next Local Highways Panel meeting

218 Ask resident to contact Ray Woodcock

218 Request a study by the Local Highways Panel

219 Working Group to look at what the issues are and what needs to be done

221 Office to write to Paul Crick copying in Cllr Tom Cunningham

222 Forest Hall Park Parking Working Group to review and bring back to the Highways Sub-Committee