



Minutes of the Virtual Extraordinary Highways & Transport Committee meeting of
BRADFORD ON AVON TOWN COUNCIL held on 12th May 2020 at 7.00p.m.

Attendance – Town Council

Cllr L Brown (in attendance)
Cllr A Kay
Cllr D Garwood
Cllr D Newton (Chairman)
Cllr S Gibson (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr S McNeill-Ritchie
Cllr M Roberts
Trevor Bedeman Streets Ahead
Sandra Bartlett (Town Clerk)
Ian Brown (Director of Operations)
Lydia Booth (Communications Manager)

Apologies:

Members of the Public: James Sullivan-Tailyour (Vice-Chair of Streets Ahead and representing BOA Business), Anne Marie Cooper, Katie Vigar, Jeremy Wire, Louise Walford, Dean from Browns Hardware, Caroline Watson and Vicky Stone

41. Declarations of interest

- (i) Cllr Garwood declared a pecuniary interest as he lived on Market Street.
- (ii) Cllr Kay declared a pecuniary interest as she lives off Silver Street,
- (iii) Chairman declared a pecuniary interest when discussions mentioned his Architect.

42. Social Distancing – Town Bridge and Silver Street

After discussion, proposed by Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Newton and with 5 in favour and 1 abstention (Cllr Garwood, although he applauded the principle, he did not know about the consequences to public safety) it was **RESOLVED**: That the Town Council opts for an alternate one-way on the town bridge and one-way going up Silver Street provided Wiltshire Council can persuade the Kingston Mill site to reverse their one-way system. Cllr Gibson said that these measures could go on for longer to assist with social distancing, even when measures were no longer required. Wiltshire Council to provide formal costings for these options and a report with probable expectations and mapping, so that this can be communicated to the town.

The meeting closed at 8pm

Members of the public who spoke at the Virtual Extraordinary Highways & Transport Committee on the 12th May 2020

1. Clerk read out a request from Rod Johnston from Abbey Mill. "A member of the Heritage Open Days Team. They organise each September, with a group of enthusiastic volunteers, Heritage open Days at the Town Bridge, Lock Up. (Not Lock down, which we're concerned may affect HOD this year). You'll remember our earlier questions at Highways and Transport Committee meetings. We asked if you would consider a project that we felt would enhance pedestrian safety on the Town Bridge, the Town Bridge Pavement project (TBPP). It was illustrated and described in detail. We also asked if the Wiltshire Council Engineer, Julian Haines, would give his judgement on the project's value as to whether it would work or not? By the way, his work to improve pedestrian safety on the Melksham Town Bridge remains unfinished because of lockdown. The Melksham Town Bridge doesn't have a lockup it's just locked down. Our question Chairman is, can the Council assure the Team and the Volunteers that our project to ease the concern we have for pedestrian safety on the Town Bridge, will be given serious consideration? Thank you Chairman." Chairman explained that this was why were here tonight to discuss social distancing. Cllr Gibson advised that this plan included removing the pavement on one side and a subsequent meeting had been set up with Julian Haines to discuss these issues but could not take place due to the lockdown.

2. Louise Walford that following the Transport Secretary's Grant Shapps announced £2 billion package to put cycling and walking at the heart of the transport policy including a national cycling plan to be published in June, to help double cycling and walking by 2025 measures include cycle and bus streets only and reducing traffic on residential streets. Road closures will be left up to local councils with money and emergency powers available to implement. Road closures will make it safer to walk and cycle at a safe distance. So she would like to ask if the Council will consider closing Berryfield Road to through traffic in light of the government's plans. At the moment, people have to stand in the road in order to social distance. She has the support of the local Headmaster at Christchurch Primary School. She realises that this is not on the agenda for tonight. Cllr Roberts said that he was aware of the situation and had carried out some traffic observations for an hour at a time over a 4 to 5 day period. He counted 30 cars in each direction and made a note of their colour and type of car. He said that it was a rat run and a no entry sign at one end could help. This would have to be discussed with the residents and the school. Chairman said this could be an item on the next Highways and Transport Committee agenda. Cllr Gibson reported that she had had some discussions with WC/CATG Highways Engineer about this They were looking at removing the two parking bays at Mount Pleasant as part of Louise's request.