



Sustainable Travel committee minutes

Minutes

From the committee meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 25 July 2023

At St. Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Decision making

The **decisions** made by the committee at this meeting are at minutes [20](#) & [21](#).

Present

Councillors:

- Tim Trimble (Chair of the committee)
- Sam Blackwell
- Dave Garwood
- Simon McNeil-Ritchie
- Jennie Parker
- Alison Potter (stand-in)
- Katie Vigar
- Jack Vittles

Town Council Officers:

- Ian Brown - Chief Executive & Town Clerk
- Matthew McLaughlin – Communications Officer

Meeting clerk:

- Sarah Howe – Committee Clerk
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Apologies

From Councillors unable to attend the meeting:

- Sarah Gibson
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11. Agenda item 1 – Presentation by ICEMI E -Cargo Bikes

Unfortunately, there was no presentation as the representative from ICEMI had to attend to some urgent personal business.

12. Declarations of interest

Councillor Garwood declared a non-pecuniary interest for agenda item 9 as he lives in Market Street.

13. Minutes from the previous meeting of the committee

Proposed by Councillor Tim Trimble

Seconded by Councillor Dave Garwood

And with all in favour it was **resolved**: that the minutes of the last committee meeting held on 9 May 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

14. Matters arising

Lamb Yard bollards. The Chair stated that since the previous meeting on the 9 May where the town council agreed to a Local Highways and Footpath Improvement group (LHFIG) request by a local business for a lockable bollard to prevent cars from being parked across a driveway, another neighbouring business owner has been in contact to complain about the suggestion. The Chair confirmed that the highways engineer has reviewed the situation and believes a couple of normal bollards strategically placed at the site will work as well and is working up a design based on that.

15. Agenda item 7 – Chair's Update

The Chair presented his update as supplied with the agenda.

Additionally he reported that the Railway Ticket Office Closure and public consultation reported at the Town Development meeting on the 11 July will close on 26 July 2023 at midnight. The town has rustled up around 1300 online and 400-500 paper petition signatures and that the public can still take part in the consultation and sign the petition at www.gwr.com/haveyoursay . The Chair thanked the public for all their contributions.

Councillor McNeil-Ritchie asked about the cost of the 6-month Electric bus trial mentioned by the Chair as part of his update. The electric bus trial is looking for grant funding from an award given to Wiltshire Council to implement their Bus Service Improvement Plan. The route will take in



Winsley and Hartley Farm, the new development at Kingston Farm and also loop round the station carpark before taking a direct route to Sainsburys and back again complementing the existing conventional bus route. Councillor Trimble confirmed that the exact cost is still be confirmed and he was hoping to have a figure for the meeting, but the scheme at this stage is just for a 6-month trial period to assess demand.

16. Agenda item 8 – Network Rail bridge works on St Margaret’s Street

Network Rail representatives were asked to provide a written report for the town council or come in person to talk to councillors and the public. So far, the council has been unable to secure either a visit or any information beyond the newsletters Network Rail make available. However, a representative has made an offer to set up a meeting with councillors and the public in the near future. The temperamental pedestrian lights on the Frome Road were flagged up again and the Chair confirmed that both he and town council officers have been in touch with Network Rail on numerous occasions to sort the lights out.

17. Agenda item 9 - Highways improvement requests

Recommendations from the delegated working group on Highway Improvement requests as supplied with the agenda were **noted** by the committee.

- Holt Road crossing near Hitachi/AB Dynamics
Request for repositioning of the speed limit signs slowing traffic earlier upon entry to the town. Repositioning is supported but not a pedestrian crossing as the required footfall threshold is not met along that section.
- Request for 20mph on Ashley and concern about farm vehicles thundering up and down the road. Speed limit assessments have been conducted and results will be available very soon. The Chair has spoken to the farmer in question about considerate driving. He also revealed a map of the northwest section of town to members which has produced data to suggest several roads in that section could be reduced to 20mph limit alongside Ashley Road. The Chair is also keen to limit Winsley Road to 20mph but as this is a prominent through road Wiltshire Council are less keen to support this reduction.



- Market Street request for additional bollards due to a serious incident outside the cheese shop recently. LHFIFG are dealing with this as a top priority. Councillor Garwood confirmed he was pleased the matter was being treated seriously and urgently. Councillor Garwood also raised an additional issue on Market Street that pulling out onto the street from the Roman Catholic Church carpark adjacent the cheese shop is tight and he would like bollards and alternations to the pavement to help with this. The Chair asked Councillor Garwood to email him details of his concern.
- Bridge Street/St Margaret's Street right of way. Better road markings are needed regarding rights of way from the library car park and along Bridge Street. The council are supporting 'Keep Clear' markings to support both requests.
- Zion Baptist Church. Damage to pillars by delivery vans. There are no obvious interventions beyond the owners applying fluorescent strips to improve visibility.

18. Agenda item 10 – LHFIFG progress report of active requests

The Chair summarised details of active LHFIFG requests:

- Traffic calming and parking at Berryfield Road and Sladesbrook entrances to Christ Church school are long standing issues with a successful substantive bid available originally to carry out the works this summer. However, the Traffic Regulation Order for this work has produced some objections which require attention and the works cannot therefore proceed during the summer holidays this year.
- Additional 20 mph signage for Bridge Street has been approved.
- Wine Street will be converted to No Entry for motor vehicles except for access with a contraflow cycle lane to be designated with parking restrictions on the sharp bend near the bottom of the road.

19. Agenda item 11 - Auto Speed Watch (ASW) Camera and SID Update

The Communications Officer referred to his report and provided a few statistics on the ASW camera, which revealed that over the last month of the 10,400 vehicles captured by the camera, there were around 200 speeders or 0.02% of those captured. Speeders are reported to Wiltshire Police. Although Wiltshire Police are struggling to find the time to fine those



concerned the information does help with locating mobile speed traps in the speeding hotspots and the data is shared across the ASW network. The Chair also commented that the average speed along the Trowbridge Road, where the camera is located, is below 30 mph, which is encouraging, although Councillor Vittles did confirm there is still plenty of speeding along the Trowbridge Road. Councillor Garwood asked if the council could issue letters to offenders instead of relying on the Police and the Chair confirmed that he is talking with both Wiltshire Council and the Police along with the National Police Confederation regarding the issue of letters and fines. Councillor Garwood also suggested 20mph limits across the whole of the town centre and the Chair confirmed he was working on it.

Councillor McNeil-Ritchie pointed out that there are still limitations with the methodologies producing these statistics so there is no room for any complacency and the Chair replied that these are first generation cameras offering this technology however intelligence is supplied to the Police and habitual speeders are identified. The technology should improve with time.

20. Agenda item 12 – E- trial bike scheme

The Town Clerk introduced the scheme as outlined in his report supplied with the agenda. The Chair confirmed he fully supported the scheme hoping that trialists will enjoy the benefits of an electric bike around a hilly town and shift across to using one to improve their active travel habits.

Councillor McNeil-Ritchie asked how many bikes will be in the trial. The Chair confirmed just one to start off with which Councillor McNeil-Ritchie queried as not enough access to trial bikes might cause the scheme to fail. The Chair confirmed that more could be purchased if the scheme seems popular and repeat trialists would not be allowed, it is not a general bike hire scheme just a trial to buy scheme. Councillor Vigar suggested panniers should be provided and the question of helmets was raised. As they are not a legal requirement but advisable the Chair suggested that recommendations to use a helmet would probably be the best way forward and many have bike helmets for conventional bike use.

It was proposed by Councillor Trimble and seconded by Councillor Vigar and with all in favour it was **resolved** that the town council introduce an e-bike hire scheme.



21. River Crossing Strategic Outline Case (SOC)

The Chair introduced the item as outlined in the Town Clerk's report supplied with the agenda. The purpose here is to appoint a consultant to supply a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) which is the first of 3 stages to provide a full business case and proposal for a river crossing (either new or adapting existing) so that when money becomes available to bid for the construction of such a project the town council has a proposal ready to go. The SOC explores many aspects including whether there is a business case, possible locations, the environmental and historic impacts and residents' wishes.

The Chair offered to take questions from the public, which appear in the Appendix of the Minutes, alongside questions from members. Councillor McNeil-Ritchie asked where the money to pay for such a scheme was coming from and Councillor Vigar stated that the preliminary work was worth pursuing and paying for as so many of the town's residents and businesses are concerned about access across the river and the safety of pedestrians on the existing town bridge. The town council needs a pre-prepared full business case proposal before it can proceed to bidding for money to fund a construction project as opportunities arise.

It was proposed by Councillor Vigar and seconded by Councillor Blackwell and with 6 in favour and 2 against **resolved** to appoint consultant 2 as the preferred supplier and recommend that Full Council appoint consultant 2 to undertake this work.

22. Next meeting

The next committee meeting was provisionally arranged for Tuesday 3 October 2023.

End of the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.45 pm



Appendix A: Comments and questions from the public

There were various comments and questions from the public at the meeting.

Comments and questions of a general nature

(Q1) There was a question regarding the value of collecting traffic data during the period of exam leave and the school holidays and whether the town and Wiltshire councils will discuss with the modellers the discrepancy with 'normal' traffic levels.

The Chair confirmed that the modellers are factoring this into their findings and that a wealth of historic seasonal variation data can also be considered.

(Q2) The resident raised in the February meeting the less visually striking speed limit signs installed by Wiltshire Council on the Holt Rd undermining the efforts of the town council to improve compliance. The sign in question is likely to be repositioned soon, so we will raise this again at that time.

There was a complaint about the state of the pavements particularly along the Frome Road. The Town Clerk confirmed the council will take a look as well as possibly ask CLUB (Clean up Bradford on Avon) to add it to their routines.

Question on Agenda item 13 – River Crossing Project

A resident is seeking reassurance that the other consultations will be taken into consideration when preparing the full business case for this project.

The Chair confirmed that as part of the spec 2 in-person consultations have been set for the public to attend, to tackle this in a systematic way and it is better to understand the public's views earlier rather than later in the process to find out exactly what the town wants.

Agenda item 13 – River Crossing Project

Did the invitation to consultants include requests for considerations such as location and will the findings of the town council supported working party: Safety of the Town Bridge, be part of the consultant investigations.

The Chair confirmed again that all aspects of the project will be considered in the SOC and beyond in a systematic way to establish whether there is a business case for an additional river crossing.



Agenda item 13 – River Crossing Project

Questions emailed in from a resident will be answered via email by the Chair but in summary:

(Q1) The Chair confirmed that the construction costs are still to be identified, can only be determined once we are through this initial business case stage and Active Travel England and other funding organisations could be approached.

(Q2) The Chair confirmed that the carbon footprint is always considered in all town council projects and a positive feedback loop is possible here if better access across the bridge reduced traffic flow and improves active travel.

(Q3) This is not a design-led project, it is a vision and objective led project. That includes community engagement.

(Q4) Improving pedestrian safety is of paramount importance. The possibility of modifying the current bridge will be considered.

(Q5) There is no reason not to include this option. Please can the resident provide a map of likely pedestrian routes from Kingston Farm to the suggested crossing point?