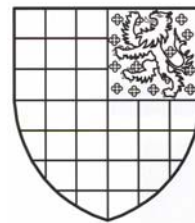


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to address traffic-related issues in Lewes held on **Thursday 16th December 2010**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes** at **11:00am**.

PRESENT Cllrs L F Li; M Milner (*Chairman*); S Murray; J Sinclair; Dr M Turner (*Mayor – ex officio*) also present (*not nominated to serve on Working party*): Cllr J Stockdale; Cllr R Murray.

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*)

TIWP2010/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Barker, due to a work commitment, and O Keeffe, who had a family commitment.

TIWP2010/08 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

TIWP2010/09 **MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting on 24th August 2010 were signed as an accurate record.

TIWP2010/10 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** There were none. (No public or representatives of the press were present)

TIWP2010/11 **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

i] *Pedestrian crossings* – The Council intended to provide a crossing in Church Lane, Malling, but this decision had been revisited in light of a proposal to upgrade/relocate a crossing near to The Nurseries on the A26 Malling Street to provide a full pedestrian-controlled crossing, and a question regarding the route to Priory School in Mountfield Road. Following a brief discussion on the current situation, it was decided to recommend to Council that crossings be installed in Church Lane without further delay, in line with the original decision.

ii] *Snow & Ice clearance from footways* – Members considered the situation caused by ESCC's unilateral declaration that Parishes should act as first contact for residents' groups or businesses seeking the provision of additional, local, roadside salt-bins. It was generally held that the ESCC policy was poorly-considered insofar as it allowed applicants to deal direct with ESCC should a parish council *not* agree to help with a request. It was understood that: whilst it may operate straightforwardly in smaller rural parishes, larger/urbanized parishes may have some difficulty in agreeing to every likely request, and may not consider additional bins to be an efficient solution to their local problems. Some parishes were understood to have already declined to support such requests in any way. Members were keenly-aware of the problems experienced in many parts of Lewes but were concerned that the Council did not have the resources to actively administer a network of local roadside bins. Further; they were mindful of the potential difficulties attendant upon obtaining re-supply of rock-salt, which become more acute as weather conditions worsen. Councillors were interested to learn some of the statistics and practical experiences recounted by those involved in the highways service, and relayed by TC. There followed a long and detailed discussion and consideration of several sites already promoted by residents and Members. Practical issues were identified and several ideas considered but discounted. It was finally decided to recommend that Council set-up a budget of £3,000 from which grants may be offered to applicants who are constituted bodies, to cover the purchase cost of a roadside bin (currently £145). This would leave the organization concerned to arrange and fund installation and first filling (currently £130) and

Continues...

subsequent refills (£70). The Council would thereby endorse such applications to ESCC. A secondary budget of £1,000 was recommended to provide bins at locations considered to be important, but where no identifiable community existed nearby. These would be owned and administered by the Town Council. One such site, agreed to be in urgent need of a salt-bin, was Willeys Bridge.

iii] *Parking regime* – Members were interested to learn of the recent preliminary seminar hosted by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to introduce their programme for the next review of the Lewes scheme, and their chosen consultants; Atkins. Cllr S Murray had attended with Cllr Chartier and the Town Clerk and she summarized the presentation that had been offered. It had been repeatedly stressed that there was not to be a “referendum” on the continuance of the scheme, but a structured enquiry into the most appropriate refinements. Atkins’ representatives had outlined their approach, and introduced their staff team and proposed timetable. This process was scheduled to begin in early 2011, and Members reaffirmed their intention to hold County Councillor Lock to his earlier promise of a meeting before that process began. It was agreed that a clear viewpoint should be researched and codified in advance of any such meeting, and Members were asked to submit individual views as “bullet-points” to Cllr Milner and/or TC by early January.

iv] *“Landport Fork” junction A275/A2029 Offham Road* - A letter had been received from a resident of Offham, a regular user of this difficult junction, recounting correspondence with ESCC over the dangerous layout. Members were asked to consider their view of the issues raised, and to resolve their position. After some detailed discussion it was agreed that ESCC should be asked to consider extending the 30mph limit to a point North of the fork. This was considered a simple and practical suggestion, yet one that might offer significant improvement. ESCC should also be asked to accord a high priority to a review of safety at this spot.

TIWP2010/12

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS to COUNCIL:

It was agreed that:

1. Council should be asked to initiate the early construction, by ESCC, of a pedestrian crossing in Church Lane, Malling; financed by LTC’s existing fund held in reserve for this purpose.
2. Council should be asked to set-up budgets, and agree a basic policy, for the provision of additional roadside salt-bins; all as outlined at minute TIWP2010/11 ii] above.
3. Council should be asked to agree the immediate installation of a salt-bin at Willeys Bridge.
4. ESCC should be asked to consider extending the 30mph limit to a point North of the “Landport Fork” junction of the A275/A2029 Offham Road.

The meeting closed at 12:35pm

Signed:

Date: