

Highways and Transport Committee: Minutes

Date: 25 April 2023

Time: 10:00am to 10.43am

Present: Councillors Alex Beckett (Chair), Neil Shailer (Vice-Chair), Gerri Bird, Piers Coutts, Douglas Dew, Ian Gardener, Neil Gough, Anne Hay, Simon King, Mac McGuire, Brian Milnes, Alan Sharp and Graham Wilson

Venue: New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4YE

145. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Councillors Dupré (substituted by Councillor Gough), McDonald, (substituted by Councillor Wilson) and Fuller.

There were no declarations of interest

146. Minutes – 7 March 2023 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment of minute 131 to include the subject of Councillor Sharp's amendment and the inclusion of the Conservative substitutes in the attendance list.

Concern was expressed regarding comments made during the debate of minute 131 at its March meeting regarding Blue Badges and their use. Members noted that a correction to the comments was included within the minutes that clarified the position.

The action log was noted

146. Petitions and Public Questions

There were no public questions and one petition.

The Chair invited Mr Charles Burrows to introduce his petition entitled, 'Save Spinney and St Bede's Kids' Lungs and Limbs' that had attracted 78 signatures. Mr Burrows informed the Committee that many drivers were using Mill End Road as a rat run to avoid Cherry Hinton High Street. Excessive speed and volume of traffic posed significant risk to children on their way to school. Mr Burrows proposed a light touch solution through the installation of a 'no vehicular access' sign at the junction of Chelwood Road and Cherry Hinton High Street enforceable between 8-9am Monday – Friday in term times only.

In response to member questions, Mr Burrows explained that he sought a light touch solution based on the model implemented at Birwood Road / St Bedes and that a bid for Local Highway Initiative funding had been submitted.

The Chair thanked Mr Burrows for the petition and informed him a written response would be provided.

147. Park & Ride and Guided Busway Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal

The Committee received a report that sought approval for the re-procurement of a Grounds Maintenance contract for Park and Ride sites and the Guided Busway.

During discussion of the report:

- Although supportive of the re-procurement, a member requested that the contract management process be strengthened to ensure that the Committee cycle was considered, and one item agendas therefore avoided.
- A member commented that within the People Services directorate, longer-term contracts were entered into, to encourage supplier investment in equipment as shorter-term contracts may influence their desire to make capital investment. Officers explained that the contract was being jointly procured with South Cambridgeshire District Council to ensure it had the required capacity and investment. It was also noted that the duration of the contract had been successful previously and provided needed flexibility.

It was resolved to:

- a) Agree to the re-procurement of the Grounds Maintenance contract as outlined within the report
- b) Delegate responsibility for awarding and executing the contract for the provision of Grounds Maintenance services and any extension periods to the contract to the Executive Director Place and Sustainability in consultation with Chair and Vice-Chair Highways and Transport Committee.

147. Highways and Transport Committee Agenda Plan and Training Plan and Appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

The Committee noted its Agenda Plan, Training Plan and appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups.

A member suggested future Committee item that related to highway maintenance and in particular, potholes and their repair.

Chair