

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Transport Committee of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.15pm at The Pavilion, Cholsey

Present were Cllr. J. Collins (Chair), Cllr S. Schäfer, T. Bedeman, B. Cooke, H. Cooke, R. Ford, R. Schmucki, D. Whelan

Officers present were C. Bird (Clerk), V. Beardall Richards (Environment Coordinator)

Start time: 7.15pm; End time: 9.00pm

T1. To co-opt non-Councillor members to the Transport Committee

Trevor Bedeman, Robert Ford and Reto Schmucki had been invited to join the newly formed Transport Committee as non-Councillor members and it was **resolved** to co-opt them. Briony Cooke, Henry Cooke and Deborah Whelan had also been invited to the meeting, including to talk about accessibility. All were thanked and welcomed.

T2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr J. Finch.

T3. To receive Declarations of Personal and Pecuniary Interest for any agenda items

There were none.

T4. To hear questions or comments from members of the public concerning topics on the agenda (limited to 10 mins)

There were none.

T5. To note Terms of Reference for the Transport Committee (Appendix A)

The Terms of Reference were noted. The intention is for the Committee to meet three times a year, with smaller subgroups progressing projects between meetings. Progress will be reported back to monthly full Council meetings by Councillor members of the Committee.

T6. To review and discuss projects and priorities for the Committee

Cholsey Station – accessibility and renovation:

Cllr Collins has been in regular correspondence with contacts at GWR. A site visit with GWR and Network Rail is awaited to discuss the state of the station building.

It was agreed to start building a case for accessibility works at the station. This could include a community survey if felt useful, including all local towns/villages that use the station.

The possibility of opening up a ramp to platform 4 should also be explored.

More cycle racks are also needed.

Cycle paths/cycling infrastructure:

Trevor Bedeman and Cholsey Parish Council (CPC) have been contacted by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Transport Planners to contribute to a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for our area. OCC is setting up meetings with contacts in Wallingford, Crowmarsh, Benson and Cholsey. Cholsey Station is seen as a key destination in the area and would benefit from improved active transport connections, including safer cycling routes. Trevor will try to attend as many LCWIP site visits as possible. It was agreed that Cllr Schäfer and the Environment Coordinator will attend on behalf of CPC.

The Environment Coordinator will collate key points, including historical information, ahead of LCWIP meetings.

20mph consultation:

The outcome of the OCC consultation on 20mph speed limits for Cholsey is due soon.

All-weather recreation ground path:

Approx. 200 responses to the community survey were received and the results are available on the CPC website. The Clerk gave an update following a meeting in September with OCC Transport Planners. There is a need to map out desire lines for those using the Recreation Ground. OCC strongly advised engaging a transport consultant in the initial stages of

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

planning. CPC should also seek pre-planning advice from SODC (planning permission is required for the length of the path anticipated). Width and materials were discussed.

Safer school routes – safety of the bunk line bridge:

Cllr Collins will follow up with the Highways Engagement Team at OCC following a meeting with them in August. It was also noted that 'School' signage is not clear or may have been removed in this area.

A329 Puffin crossing:

This development came close to going ahead in 2023. However it then stalled due to restructuring and the need to revisit budgets at OCC. Cllr Collins will continue to pursue this. S106 money is available but is not sufficient for the project.

Wallingford Road Zebra crossing:

Cllr Collins continues to follow up with the parties involved (OCC, the developer and SEE) regarding the electrical work needed to complete the crossing on Wallingford Road.

Improving footpath accessibility:

Maintaining footpath accessibility is a widespread issue; OCC does not have the budget/capacity to maintain clear paths across the county. This will be discussed at the next full Parish Council meeting. Residents and landowners should also be encouraged to cut their hedges before nesting season begins in March.

The Environment Coordinator has been working on an anti-idling campaign with local children.

Fix My Street, including potholes:

OCC Highways is responsible for roads and footpaths. It was noted that community Super Users of Fix My Street can be trained to accelerate issues. A Parish Councillor has recently become a Super User and the community needs more residents in these roles.

Community Speedwatch:

This is a community-led project and the Environment Coordinator is liaising with a volunteer coordinator. They are awaiting a response from the Police to take this forward.

Parking review changes

The parking changes in Cholsey that were agreed following an OCC consultation in January have not been implemented yet by OCC. Cllr Collins is regularly following up with the relevant OCC officers. Once the new signage and line marking is in place, parking restrictions will be enforced by OCC contractors.

EV charging:

The Parish Council will be participating in a pilot project with OCC to install a dual EV charger in the Pavilion car park. It was noted that accessibility should be considered.

Station gardening project team:

The Environment Coordinator is working with a volunteer team and GWR on gardening projects at the station including planters funded by The Bee Friendly Trust.

Public Realm proposal, The Forty:

This idea was raised with the OCC Highways Engagement Team during their visit in August and Cllr Collins will follow up with them.

Bus improvements:

It was noted that buses do not run late enough between Cholsey and Wallingford e.g. to make commuting possible for train users, and the bus timetable does not link up with the train timetable. Cllr Collins would like to have a conversation with the bus company. It was also noted that community transport schemes may be a possibility to fill the gaps in service.

T7. To agree next meeting date

February 2025 – date TBC