

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2011 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors Bernard, J.D. (Chairman)
 Williams, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Green, M.R.

Staffordshire County Council Members: Corfield, P.
 Davis, D.J.
 Martin, G.
 Rowley, J.

(Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman reported that he had agreed to an additional item from Councillor Derek Davis being included on the agenda regarding amendments to Traffic Regulation Orders in Hednesford).

27. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G. Alcott.

28. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No declarations of interests were made.

29. Minutes and Matters Arising

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2010 be approved as a correct record.

30. CPE Progress Report for the period October – December 2010

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. J. Presland, Waste and Engineering Services Manager presented the report and provided Members with an update on the progress of Civic Parking Enforcement in the

third quarter of the financial year 2010-2011. He advised that the results of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) issued and cancelled were summarised in the Annexes to the report. He commented that the lower PCN rates in December 2010 were attributed to the snow and icy weather conditions experienced during the month and over the Christmas period.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

31. Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – 2010/11 and 2011/12 Budgets

Consideration was given to the report of Staffordshire County Council's Interim Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Nick Miller, Staffordshire County Council Traffic Manager explained that the report outlined the budget position. He advised that the District Council's budget had not yet been finalised due to the current financial situation. However, he was pleased that the District Council were proposing to adjust the Enforcement Officers hours in order to meet the budget that was available.

Councillor Davis suggested that other organisations such as the Parish Council's or Traders Associations should be approached to ascertain whether they would be interested in making a financial contribution towards the Civil Parking Enforcement service. Nick Miller thanked Councillor Davis and advised that he would investigate this suggestion further.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Members note the anticipated financial position for each of the District Councils in operation of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) service for the current and next financial years.
- (B) That Members approve the 2011/12 financial budgets for Staffordshire Moorlands, East Staffordshire and Newcastle.
- (C) That Members delegate authority to the Chair of the Joint Staffordshire Parking Board (JSPB) to approve the 2011/12 budgets for the other Districts once further discussions have taken place.

32. Civil Parking Enforcement – 09/10 Annual Report

Consideration was given to the Report of Staffordshire County Council's Director of Development Services (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Nick Miller, Staffordshire County Council Traffic Manager advised that the report highlighted the previous year's performance of the Civil Parking Enforcement service.

Arising from consideration of the report, Councillor Rowley advised that he had been

made aware of parking problems in Chapel Street, Heath Hayes and sought confirmation of the dates the Parking Enforcement Officers would be in this area.

Steve Schofield, Senior Technical Assistant advised that Chapel Street was patrolled on a weekly basis on alternate days. However, discussions were currently taking place with the contractor as it was proposed to change some of the patrols in order to cover "hot spots" on a more frequent basis. It was confirmed that two tickets had been issued for offences in Chapel Street, Heath Hayes since CPE started in April 2009.

Councillor Martin raised concern regarding the condition of the car parks in Rugeley which he considered were unsafe during the recent spell of snow and icy weather. Steve Schofield advised that the District Council had taken a decision not to grit car parks because of the costs involved. Councillor Williams confirmed that although consideration had been given to gritting car parks it had been decided that the necessary machinery was too expensive and the car parks would need to be empty in order for them to be gritted effectively.

Nick Miller confirmed that although the County Council gritted their car parks this was at a high cost as gritting was undertaken during the night.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted and the 2009/10 Annual Report be approved.

33. Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – Parking Enforcement Policy Review of Observation Times

Consideration was given to Staffordshire County Council's Director of Development Services (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Nick Miller advised that the report informed Members of the proposal to establish a small officer working group to review the reduction of observation times and make a recommendation to the Joint Staffordshire Parking Board in July. He confirmed that this matter would be brought back to this Committee in due course.

RESOLVED:

(A) That the content of the report be noted.

(B) To note that a small officer working group had be formed to evaluate the effect of changes to the observation times and make a recommendation to the Joint Staffordshire Parking Board at the next meeting in July 2011.

34. Prioritisation of parking related Traffic Regulation Orders

Consideration was given to the report of the County Council's Corporate Director for Development Services (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Members were advised that the report detailed the two requests that had been raised at the previous meeting by Councillor Alcott in addition to the one new request that had been

received.

Councillor Alcott had asked that consideration be given to the parking problems on the corner of Station Road/McGhie Street, Hednesford. The Committee was shown a number of photographs which highlighted the problems being experienced. It was agreed that as Councillor Alcott was not present at the meeting this issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councillor Alcott had also asked that consideration be given to the parking issues along Brunswick Road towards Hamelin Street, Cannock. Members were shown a number of photographs which highlighted the parking problems. It was explained that works had been undertaken over the last two years to formulise the parking near to the hospital.

Members were advised that additional "access protection markings" could be provided along Brunswick Road outside properties leading up to Hamelin Street, Hanover Place and Georgian Place in order to prevent vehicles parking over the accesses to residential properties. This was an option for residents that were experiencing problems, and not a general marking that would be provided for all residents, as not all properties have accesses. It was explained that any residents who were experiencing problems would need to request the marking through the Highways Hotline number.

The new request related to Orbital Way/Voyager Drive, Cannock where HGV's were parking near to the access of Aggreko causing visibility issues. Photographs showing the problems were displayed for the benefit of Members. The Committee considered that as Hickling Road had been prioritised to be investigated next year (2011/12) the area as a whole would be looked at to remove potentially dangerous obstructions from a road frequently used by larger vehicle types.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the issue of parking on the corner of Station Road/McGhie Street, Hednesford be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
- (B) That, as Hickling Road had been prioritised to be investigated next year (2011/12), the area as a whole be looked at to remove potentially dangerous obstructions from a road frequently used by larger vehicle types.

35. Cancellation of Parking Tickets in relation to Foreign Registered Vehicles

Steve Schofield explained that there had been recent newspaper articles reporting that lots of money was lost by not pursuing tickets issued to foreign registered vehicles and Councillor Williams had requested that the issue be brought to the Committee for Members attention.

It was explained that:

- Normally after 28 days SOT CC allowed to apply to DVLA for details of owners details
- Owner's details for foreign registered vehicles were not kept by the DVLA

- Unpaid fines for UK mainland registered vehicles were referred to a bailiff to take the recovery action
- Not enforcing against foreign vehicles would be mired in controversy and considered untenable
- Some foreign drivers do pay penalty charge notices
- April – December 2010 - 18 PCN's cancelled against foreign registered vehicles within District
- Estimated cost £1,100
- The issue seems far more of a problem in a number of UK cities and coastal areas near ports

36. Footpath parking within the District – item raised at Cannock Community Forum

Members were advised that the matter of inconsiderate footpath parking had been raised by Mr. & Mrs. Haywood at the last meeting of the Cannock Community Forum. They considered that there seemed to be an increase in footpath parking within the District.

Councillor Alcott, Chairman of the Forum suggested that this matter be placed on the Joint Parking Committee Agenda for discussion. Mr. & Mrs. Haywood were present at the meeting.

Clive Thomas, Parking Services Manager advised that inconsiderate footpath parking was a problem throughout the Country. He stated that unless a Traffic Regulation Order was in place the Local Authority had no power to act. It was considered a Police matter under obstruction. The legal definition of obstruction was not as clear as it was not illegal to park on the footpath but it was illegal to drive on the footpath. However, in order for a successful prosecution there would need to be a witness who was prepared to go to Court. Police Officers could issue Fixed Penalty Notices to offenders if it was considered that parking on the footpath may cause an accident or serious injury.

He stated that should there be any specific areas identified with persistent issues these would be looked at jointly (on an individual basis) by the District Council, Staffordshire County Council and the Police. These could then be investigated and consideration be given to whether to implement a traffic regulation order.

Councillor Williams made reference to the Pear Tree Estate in Rugeley where footpath parking was a widespread problem. He stated that it could be assumed that in order for a vehicle to be parked on the footpath it must have been driven on it. Therefore, he considered that the matter should be referred to the Police to ascertain why they appeared to hesitate in prosecuting footpath parkers.

Councillor Davis considered that in some instances parking on the footpath was acceptable as the majority of motorists who parked on the footpath were trying to cause less of an obstruction and to allow the traffic to flow, particularly on estate roads.

Mr. Haywood was asked whether he wanted to make any comments on the matter. He stated that, in certain locations, pedestrians and wheelchair users were forced to walk on the road because of inconsiderate footpath parking. He considered that Civil Parking Enforcement Officers should be given the powers to enable them to deal with this matter.

Nick Miller confirmed that there was no facility for Civil Parking Enforcement Officers to deal with footpath parking as it was outside their remit.

Following a lengthy discussion it was suggested that the matter of inconsiderate footpath parking be placed on the agenda for the Joint Staffordshire Parking Board and Staffordshire Police be invited to attend the meeting when the matter was discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the Joint Staffordshire Parking Board be asked to investigate the problem of inconsiderate footpath parking and an Officer from Staffordshire Police be invited to attend the meeting when this matter was discussed.

37. Additional item – Proposed amendment to Traffic Regulation Order in Hednesford

The Chairman had agreed that Councillor Davis could raise this matter at the meeting.

Councillor Davis outlined the parking problems that existed along Eskrett Street and Anglesey Street, Hednesford outside the Co-op and Betting Office and sought consideration to the following proposal which he considered would alleviate the problems:

1. Delete existing Traffic Regulation Order (No Waiting at Any Time/No Waiting Mon-Sat 6pm-9am & Sun At Any Time) – From 11 Eskrett Street to junction of Eskrett Street/Cornwall Road on both sides of the street.
2. Make a new order for the Prohibition of Waiting and Loading at Any Time (Two vertical lines on kerb face)
 - (a) Anglesey Street for a distance of 70 metres from its junction with Market Street (on both sides of the street)
 - (b) Eskrett Street for a distance of 55 metres from its junction with Market Street (on both sides of the street)

Councillor Davis stated that Hednesford Town Centre were in support of this proposal and he hoped that it could be implemented as soon as possible.

David Wright, Community Highway Liaison Manager explained that only four Traffic Regulation Orders per year per Ward were implemented and there were currently four orders proposed for the financial year 2011/12. It was proposed to look at Eskrett Street in the financial year 2012/13.

Councillor Davis asked to be provided with the cost of the proposed amendment and David Wright confirmed he would provide Councillor Davis with this information.

It was suggested that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting in order that Members could be updated on any progress.

RESOLVED:

(A) That David Wright provide Councillor Davis with the cost of implementing the proposed amendments to the Traffic Regulation Orders in Anglesey Street and Eskrett Street, Hednesford.

(B) That this matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting in order that Members could be updated on any progress.

38. Future Meeting and items for agenda

Members noted that the next meeting of the Joint Parking Committee was scheduled for Wednesday 27 April 2011 and the following items would be included on the agenda:

- Parking on the corner of Station Road/McGhie Street, Hednesford
- Update on any progress with the proposed amendments to the Traffic Regulation Orders in Anglesey Street and Eskrett Street, Hednesford
- Parking problems behind Heath Hayes Library

The meeting closed at 5.40pm.

CHAIRMAN