

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

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

Corfield, P.	Martin, G.
Davis, D.J.	Rowley, J.
Dixon, D.I.	Toth, J.

(Staffordshire County Council and District Council Members)

Cannock Chase Council Officers: Presland, J. (Waste and Engineering Services Manager)
Schofield, S. (Senior Technical Assistant)

Staffordshire County Council Officers: Keeling, M. (Community Highway Liaison Officer)

9. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Clive Thomas (Parking Services Manager) and David Wright, Community Highways Liaison Manager.

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

No interests were declared.

11. Minutes

With regard to Minute No. 7 Councillor Dixon sought clarification as to whether disabled people would be allowed to park in the on street parking bays for free. The Senior Technical Assistant advised that it would depend on the Traffic Order that was implemented. Councillor Corfield confirmed that it was indicated in the report that there should be no exemption to the charge for disabled users in the proposed 23 new parking bays.

Councillor Toth asked whether different Traffic Orders could be implemented on a street by street level. The Community Highway Liaison Officer advised that the recommendations in the report would require the implementation of three separate Traffic Orders. Although it was possible to vary the charges in each Order the best option would be to be consistent.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2012 be approved as a correct record.

12. Investigation and Feasibility into On-Street Parking charges within Cannock

Consideration was given to the Report of the Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Councillor Corfield reiterated the comments he made at the last meeting and considered that the introduction of on street parking charges would help local businesses and boost trade. Shoppers would benefit as they could use the bays to park for 30 minutes for 50p if they wished to use the town for a short period of time.

Councillor Toth commented that the Portas report had suggested that there should be no charges for town centre parking. He considered that retailers and shoppers would benefit if the on street parking bays were introduced free of charge. This would assist shoppers and retailers and boost the economy within the town centre.

Councillor Davis considered that the financial position for providing the parking bays free of charge would need to be investigated as there would be set up costs to implement the on street parking bays. The proposal detailed in the report gave an opportunity to provide 30 minutes parking for a small cost. Should the proposal be approved he suggested that a “no return within 2 hours” should be included in the Traffic Orders.

Councillor Toth asked whether the introduction of on street parking charges was to reduce the budget deficit or to assist shoppers and retailers. Councillor Davis advised that approximately six months ago the County Council and District Council had to consider options to reduce the CPE budget deficit and this proposal had therefore been suggested. However, it had become apparent that, in addition to assisting in reducing the deficit, there were other advantages in introducing on street parking charges. For example, double yellow lines would be removed and shoppers would be offered the opportunity to park for 30 minutes for a small charge of 50p. This had benefits to both shoppers and retailers.

A number of Members were of the opinion that there would be implications should on street parking bays be introduced free of charge. Some Members considered that should the parking bays be provided free of charge this may reduce the amount of people using the other car parks in the town centre. It was suggested that consideration would therefore need to be given to providing free parking for 30 minutes for the whole District.

Councillor Toth expressed concern that the County Council model that had been used to pay for CPE had failed and that on street parking charges were being introduced to reduce the budget deficit.

Councillor Bernard considered that the proposal offered shoppers an opportunity to park for 30 minutes for a small charge. The double yellow lines would be removed and this would assist the retailers.

Councillor Davis advised that there would be implications for the service if no action was taken to address the budget deficit. The proposal to introduce on street parking charges had been discussed at the Committee on three occasions now and Members should either vote for or against the recommendations.

Councillor Toth considered there was no reason why the parking bays could not be introduced free of charge as this would help to boost trade within the town centre. He then moved the following amendment to the recommendations in the report which was seconded by Councillor Dixon:

- (A) That a total of 23 new on street charged for parking bays are created free of charge within Cannock Town Centre as outlined in the report to encourage short stay shopping thereby offering motorists flexibility and choice and play a part in supporting the local economy.
- (B) That a review of the new sites is carried out within 6 months of their provision to determine whether existing parking bays in the Town Centre should have waiting times extended via the introduction of on street charging thereby offering motorists

Councillor Toth asked for a named vote on the motion. The vote was as follows:

Councillor D. Davis - Against
Councillor P. Corfield – Against
Councillor J. Bernard – Against
Councillor G. Martin – Against
Councillor J. Rowley – Against
Councillor D. Dixon – For
Councillor J. Toth – For
Councillor P. Fisher – Against

The motion was not carried.

The recommendations within the report were then moved and seconded and a named vote was requested. Members asked that should the recommendations be approved the Traffic Orders include the following:

- Charge rate of 50p per 30 minutes, maximum stay 1 hour (£1.00)
- No return within 2 hours

The vote was as follows:

Councillor D. Davis - For
Councillor P. Corfield – For
Councillor J. Bernard – For
Councillor G. Martin – For
Councillor J. Rowley – For
Councillor D. Dixon – Against
Councillor J. Toth – Against
Councillor P. Fisher – For

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That a total of 23 new on street charged for parking bays are created within Cannock Town Centre as outlined in the report to encourage short stay shopping thereby offering motorists flexibility and choice and play a part in supporting the local economy.
- (B) That a review of the new sites is carried out within 6 months of their provision to determine whether existing parking bays in the Town Centre should have waiting times extended via the introduction of on street charging thereby offering motorists further flexibility and choice and play a part in supporting the local economy.

13. Date of Next Meeting and items for the agenda

Members noted that the next meeting of the Joint Parking Committee was scheduled for 2 October, 2012.

Members requested that Cemetery Road/Victoria Street be included on the agenda in the report on the prioritisation of parking related Traffic Regulation Orders.

It was requested that Anglesey Street/Eskrett Street also be included on the agenda. However, the Community Highway Liaison Manager advised that the situation in Anglesey Street/Eskrett Street was a traffic matter and did not come under the remit of the Joint Parking Committee. Therefore it was agreed that this should not be included on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm.

CHAIRMAN