

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 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.
Martin, G.
Rowley, J.

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

Staffordshire County Council Officers: Miller, N. (Traffic Manager)
Wright, D. (Community Highway Liaison Manager)
Keeling, M. (Community Highway Liaison Officer)

39. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D.J. Davis.

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

No declarations of interests were made.

41. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2011 be approved as a correct record. With regard to Minute No. 36 Councillor Williams asked whether the Police had been contacted regarding the issue of footpath parking. The Chairman advised that he had raised the matter with the Police but had received no reply; he would therefore contact them again.

42. CPE Progress Report for the period January – March 2011

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.11 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 fourth 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.

Councillor Williams raised concern regarding the high level of cancelled tickets in relation to blue badge holders. The Committee was advised that cancelled tickets could now be tracked back to the blue badge holder (not the vehicle). This should assist in reducing the amount of cancelled tickets for blue badge holders. Joss Presland agreed to provide the Committee with information at the next meeting which outlined whether blue badge holders had reoffended.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted and information detailing whether blue badge holders had reoffended be provided at the next meeting.

43. Prioritisation of parking related Traffic Regulation Orders

Consideration was given to the report of the County Council's Corporate Director for Development Services (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

David Wright, Community Highway Liaison Manager, explained that the report detailed three new requests in respect of Girton Road, Cannock, Remington Drive, Cannock and Ascot Drive, Cannock. He advised that the priority list of Traffic Regulation Orders had been developed and this ran until 2015, with four requests being processed each year. He asked the Committee to give consideration to whether these three new requests should be prioritised. Members were asked to note that if they did consider them to be priority this would move other requests further down the priority list.

Members considered that the three new requests for Traffic Regulation Orders should not be prioritised and should be added to the end of the priority list.

Nick Miller, Traffic Manager, explained that the County Council's Regeneration and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee had recently scrutinised the effectiveness of the service and was recommending that the Portfolio Leader investigate increasing the number of Traffic Regulation Orders processed each year from four to five. Members also noted that it was unlikely that the set up costs of the service would be repaid in the near future. A possible suggestion was to ask the County and District Council's to forego the initial set up costs. The Parking Committees would then be able to decide where to spend any surplus monies from PCN incomes.

With regard to the request in relation to Ascot Drive, Cannock, Councillor Green explained that the Ascot Tavern Public House had, until recently, allowed parents to use their car

park whilst they dropped off and collected their children from Longford School. However, the Landlord had now stopped parents from using the car park and parking on the roads surrounding the school had increased. The Chairman advised that he would ask the PCSO's to undertake a visit of the area. Councillor Green and Councillor Corfield agreed to approach the Ascot Tavern's Landlord and the Head Teacher at Longford School in an attempt to improve the parking around the school.

Mark Keeling, Community Highway Liaison Officer then referred Members to the new requests for parking related Traffic Regulation Orders in relation to Gladstone Road, Heath Hayes, Gorsemoor Road, Heath Hayes, Patterdale Road, Chadsmoor and Ascot Drive/Longford Road, Cannock. The Committee was shown a number of photographs which highlighted the parking problems. Members considered that all the requests should be returned for no further action. However, with regard to Patterdale Road, David Wright indicated that he would speak with the Head Teacher and report back to the Committee.

Members noted that these new requests all related to parking issues outside schools in the District. Councillor Alcott commented that the problem of parking outside schools had existed for many years. He considered that the powers of the Parking Enforcement Officers should be extended to enable them to issue tickets to people who were parked illegally or causing an obstruction. Nick Miller explained that Parking Enforcement Officers were only able to take action where a vehicle was parked on Double Yellow Lines. Police Officers were responsible for issuing tickets to vehicles who they considered were causing an obstruction. He did not consider that Parking Enforcement Officers would be allowed to have their powers extended. However, he commented that in 2015 there was to be a change in the legislation and the processes would be simplified.

Nick Miller considered that alternative techniques should be progressed in order to assist in easing the parking problems outside schools and enforcement should be the last resort. These techniques included arranging a "walking bus" and involving Head Teachers by asking them to send letters to parents.

Steve Schofield, Senior Technical Assistant advised Members that the Ziggy Zaggy Scheme was to commence in May at Five Ways School and Redbrook School and this may assist in improving the parking situation. This was an initiative involving Staffordshire County Council, the Police, PCSO's and local schools to try and tackle the inconsiderate parking around schools.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the priority order of parking related Traffic Regulation Orders attached at Appendix 1 of the report be agreed for further investigation and implementation subject to Statutory Consultees approval.
- (B) That the three new requests in relation to Girton Road, Cannock, Remington Drive, Cannock and Ascot Drive, Cannock should not be given priority but should be added to the end of the priority list for Traffic Regulation Orders.
- (C) That further information be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the request for a parking related Traffic Regulation Order along Patterdale Road, Chadsmoor.

43. Issues requested at previous meeting:

Parking on the corner of Station Road/McGhie Street, Hednesford

Councillor Alcott outlined the parking problems on the corner of Station Road/McGhie Street, Hednesford and explained that despite it being raised with the Police and at previous Community Forum meetings the problem still persisted. He made reference to a piece of land, he thought belonged to the Council, which was adjacent to the Church car park. He suggested that this could be used as a car park to ease the parking situation in the area. Steve Schofield advised that the Council used to lease this piece of land off the Church. However, the Church owned the land and had now blocked it off.

David Wright indicated that he would keep this area under review.

Update on any progress with the proposed amendments to the Traffic Regulation Orders in Anglesey Street and Eskrett Street, Hednesford

David Wright confirmed that Hednesford Town Council had agreed to fund the money to amend the Traffic Regulation Orders. Consultation had been undertaken which had revealed support for the Eskrett Street Order being amended but there was objection to the Anglesey Street Order. It was agreed that as Councillor Derek Davis was not present at the meeting this issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Parking problems behind Heath Hayes Library

Members noted that this had been considered by the Committee previously and was on the list for no further action. The Chairman advised that there was no request for a Traffic Regulation Order being proposed but asked whether the grass verge could be turned into additional parking bays. David Wright agreed to investigate this matter and establish who owned the grass verge.

44. Station Road, Hednesford and Cannock Road, Hightown, Chadsmoor – Road Safety Issues

Councillor Alcott raised concern regarding the condition of Station Road, Hednesford and Cannock Road, Hightown. These roads had been surface dressed but the dressing had failed and the contractor had agreed to resurface them. However, this had still not been done and he considered the roads were now in a dangerous condition with vehicles skidding. The matter had been raised at meetings of the Cannock Community Forum on four occasions.

Councillor Williams considered that surface dressing was not a matter for this Committee.

David Wright confirmed that surface dressing was not an issue for the Parking Committee. However, he had spoken with Dave Botfield, the County's Routine Maintenance Manager, who had advised that the road had been resurfaced two years ago with defective materials. Severn Trent had recently completed works to repair raised manholes and the defective works could now be put right. He confirmed that the work would be undertaken some time between May – August 2011.

45. Multi Storey Car Park, Cannock - charges

Councillor Corfield explained that he had received a complaint from a lady who had parked her vehicle in the multi storey car park in Cannock Town Centre which owned by St. Modwens and paid the relevant fee for a ticket. However, she had slightly parked outside of the parking bay and had received a parking ticket for £125.

Steve Schofield explained that the car park was not Council owned and therefore the Council had no control over it. He confirmed that Elite Management operated this privately owned car park belonging to St. Modwens. There were signs by the ticket machines advising of the fees which stated that a parking ticket for £125 would be discounted to £75 if it was paid within seven days.

Nick Miller questioned whether the parking ticket was actually enforceable as the company issuing the ticket would need to have a private order to back up the parking ticket. If an individual did not pay the parking ticket it would be classed as a bad debt between the individual and the parking company. This could only be resolved in a Magistrates Court.

46. Future Meeting and items for agenda

Members noted that the next meeting of the Joint Parking Committee was scheduled for 20 July 2011.

The following items would be placed on the agenda:

- Update on any progress with the proposed amendments to the Traffic Regulation Orders in Anglesey Street and Eskrett Street, Hednesford
- Information detailing whether blue badge holders had reoffended

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN