



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAMWORTH LOCAL PARKING
COMMITTEE
HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor County Councillor M Greatorex (Chair), Councillors P Standen, M Couchman and M Oates

County Councillor B Jenkins

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Director - Assets and Environment) and Joanne Sands (Neighbourhood Services Manager) and R Rayson.

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: That County Councillor M Greatorex be appointed as Chair

(Moved by Councillor P Standen and seconded by County Councillor B Jenkins)

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Councillor P Standen be appointed as Vice Chair

(Moved by Councillor M Couchman and seconded by County Councillor B Jenkins)

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors C Cooke and S People.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor P Standen and seconded by Councillor M Greatorex)

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

6 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT - REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Report presented by R Rayson

County Councillor B Jenkins asked for clarity on report as presented and R Rayson outlined the background to the CPE Review, the consultation done to look at sustainability of the service, strengths and weaknesses and if the objects of Clear Streets have been met.

The recommendation endorsed by Joint Parking Board in July 2014 to seek to go on with the service for on-street enforcement across the whole of the County with Stoke on Trent parking Services from April 2015.

Current arrangement for on-street enforcement to end on 31 March 2015.

The new ways of working with one operator allow further benefits to be considered with the new partnership with AMEY and the current deficit to the service across Staffordshire of £230,000 is not sustainable

R Rayson continued to emphasise the County would seek local service provision (although the contractor is based out of the Borough) and during the mobilisation stage, the Borough would continue to have input into the service and offer assistance to ease the transition.

It was confirmed that the current Local Parking Committee managed by Tamworth Borough Council will cease.

County Councillors will now have the opportunity to prioritise 6 new Traffic Regulation orders per year in addition to the Divisional Highways programme.

County Councillor M Greatorex asked A Barratt for some feedback and he reminded the committee that when reference is made to civil enforcement this is for on-street only and that arrangements were now in place for the current Street Wardens (rebranded as Community Wardens) will undertake enforcement on TBC car parks from April 2015 and effectively TBC officers will no longer have involvement in on-street matters.

It was clear, however that during the transition a clear communication plan should be put in place and processes developed with the County to ensure understanding from the public.

County Councillor B Jenkins confirmed that whilst he understood that the £230,000 deficit to the service was not sustainable, it was concerning that Tamworth appears to be losing local control.

Councillor Standen expressed similar concern and requested that thought be given to a similar body constituted for local Borough Councillor input on parking concerns.

County Councillor Greatorex confirmed understanding at that this would be a matter for Tamworth Borough Council to discuss and decide the best way forward as the present constituted LPC would cease.

R Rayson assured the group that during the review period, the level of on-street enforcement in Staffordshire equated to 15 FTE staff and that this would not change beyond April 2015 with an agile workforce based on demand and making use of new technology.

County Councillor Greatorex asked if the Committee were ready to agree to the recommendations of the report and outlined them.

Agreed that no comment had been made about the Clear Streets policy and that currently things are in flux with negotiations continuing.

Mr Barratt suggested that during the transition any CPE concerns should continue to be forwarded to himself or Mrs Sands to feed in to the process to influence the delivery of the service to benefit of Tamworth.

R Rayson stressed that the County wish to continue to work closely with Tamworth to oversee it.

It was further agreed that a mechanism must be developed to ensure Borough Councillors were aware of areas that were being prioritised for Traffic orders before final consultation stage for the good of the town – maybe through the Members Bulletin.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations as contained in the report be endorsed.

(Moved by Councillor M Oates and seconded by Councillor P Standen)

7 TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER PRIORITY LIST FROM 2014 - STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Greatorex introduced item and asked for clarity on the practicality of the process for the prioritisation of Traffic Regulation Orders.

Requested that the issue is standing agenda item for the meeting of the 6 Tamworth divisional members and that the new system for this should be made a priority.

The protocols of the decision making should be an agreement that the priority list must be based on the best deal for Tamworth and each Councillor must be prepared to agree priorities outside of their own Division.

County Councillor B Jenkins asked that this process be adopted to allow the transfer of priority from one Division to another.

Agreed that the meeting of Councillors must be more formal and regular – Mr Rayson agreed to look at this and report back.

Tamworth Borough Council are a statutory consultee for Traffic Orders and this will continue, however County Councillor Greatorex stressed that early information is required for the priority areas.

Councillor Standen asked that information is also shared with the Police and a process needs to be in place for liaison with them and ward councillors.

Further discussion took place and Councillor Greatorex agreed to take this up at the first meeting of the County members.

Mr Rayson then updated members on the Victoria Road/Albion Street/Dent Street/new Street/West Street Resident parking Zone.

Under new regulations, the area will now be a Controlled Parking Zone, which has reduced the number of signs required, increased the number of available spaces and brought the set up charges down to around £40 for residents.

Mr Rayson stressed that the enforcement of the area would be a priority in the contract.

Further discussion took place regarding the issue of permits – initially one per property with one visitor pass. The residents will be written to in the next few weeks and Councillors updated on progress.

Chair