

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015, at 7.15 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. K. Vallance - Chairman
 " A. Harvey
 " K. Hayes-Heath
 " Mrs. E. Hutchison

Also in attendance: Councillor R. Bird
 " J. Ferguson
 " Mrs. A. Langford
 " Mrs. S. Orr
 " A. Shelton
 County Councillor M. Suthers
 1 Press

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor G. Davidson, due to personal reasons, the Deputy Chairman, Councillor Mrs. K. Vallance, chaired the meeting.

1.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE:

Apologies for Absence and Acceptance were received and accepted from Councillors G. Davidson and Mrs. T. Kerry.

2.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

3.00 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th August, 2015, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

01 Folio 7933/4.02 – Covered Litter Bins

Rushcliffe Borough Council had confirmed it would look at swapping the dog/litter bin on the Carnarvon School footpath for one with a lid.

02 Folio 7934/6.00 – Glass Recycling Facilities in Bingham

Councillors felt that the Borough Council's response regarding kerb site collection of glass was not satisfactory and it was agreed to invite Rushcliffe Borough Council to the next Environment Committee meeting to discuss further.

Continued...../

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015**, at **7.15 p.m.** continued.....

5.00 CLERK'S UPDATE:

See attached Appendix 'A'.

6.00 MATTERS RELATING TO PARKING ISSUES:

01 Car Park Working Group - Update, including any Recommendations, Situation re. Breast Screening Unit and Update from Rushcliffe Borough Council re. Market Place Off-Street Parking Bays

The Chairman of the Car Park Working Group gave a brief update on the previous working group meetings, and the following recommendations were supported (to be read in conjunction with the attached report Appendix 'B'):-

1. A further meeting is to be arranged with businesses to feed back results from the questionnaire and pass on advice from Nottinghamshire County Council with regards to setting up work-based travel plans. This meeting will be held in the evening outside of working hours to allow more to attend.
2. Bingham Town Council requests that Rushcliffe Borough Council implements parking restrictions in Newgate Street car park with a limit set at three hours' maximum stay. It is acknowledged that this is contrary to the recommendations of the Parking Strategy Report adopted on 3rd March, 2015, but feel the responses from business owners show overwhelming support for such a move.
3. Butt Field Committee to be allowed to proceed with the use of Butt Field car park as temporary parking for the town's workers. The Clerk's advice is noted re. clarification with regards to access via the bridleway and Nottinghamshire County Council Rights of Way but feels a precedent has already been set with regards to access with the site used for many sporting events, firework displays, concerts and public hire.
4. Police Station Site – The use of the remaining spaces for temporary car-parking for use by town workers initially until Butt Field car park should become available, then for use by Park & Riders who would normally park in the town centre. Both proposals subject to 'Heads of Terms' being agreed and the two remaining trip hazards being filled and clarification over signage.

Continued...../

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015**, at 7.15 p.m. continued.....

6.00 **MATTERS RELATING TO PARKING ISSUES** continued.....

01 Car Park Working Group - Update, including any Recommendations, Situation re. Breast Screening Unit and Update from Rushcliffe Borough Council re. Market Place Off-Street Parking Bays continued.....

5. Long-Term On-Street Parking – Recommend that Bingham Town Council proceeds with setting up this meeting.

6. Suggested One-Way System on Union Street – Bingham Town Council contacts Nottinghamshire County Council to request Union Street be made one-way, joining the current one-way system already running on Needham Street and provide a flow through to the one-way system on Market Street. If implemented, this will also provide an opportunity to widen the footpath on the Post Office side of the street to allow more room for disabled access into the Post Office. At the same time, to look into the possibility of adding a loading bay on Market Street to provide a designated spot for deliveries.

Following further discussions, it was agreed to invite Royal Mail to a separate evening meeting before Full Council and also the Clerk to write to the Co-op, requesting that delivery lorries use the unloading bay within its grounds rather than parking on the road whilst unloading.

The Clerk also to confirm the situation with VoSA regarding weighbridge site.

The Clerk confirmed receipt of a letter from Rushcliffe Borough Council giving a brief update on procedures re. amended parking regulations in relation to Market Place bays.

County Councillor Suthers confirmed that previously when Rushcliffe Borough Council had tried to bring in short-stay schemes, a very negative response had been received.

7.00 **NETWORK RAIL AND EAST MIDLAND TRAINS - MEETING UPDATE:**

Refer to notes attached, Appendix 'C', regarding the meeting held on the 10th September, 2015. It was agreed that the Clerk arranges an evening meeting with the Project Team.

Continued...../

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015, at 7.15 p.m.** continued.....

8.00 MATTERS RELATING TO BUS SERVICES:

General complaints had been received in relation to the new service, i.e. taking too long, not a smooth ride etc. The Clerk to contact Trent Barton, asking if the new route was for a trial period, and, if so, for how long.

9.00 GRAFFITI AROUND THE AREA:

The Clerk confirmed that reports of graffiti around Bingham had been reported to various partner agencies such as Toothill School, Nottinghamshire County Council, Aldi, British Telecoms, etc. and it had now been removed.

10.00 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL RE. ROAD MARKINGS AND CONSULTATION RE. CHERRY STREET/LONG ACRE - UPDATE:

No further update had been received. County Councillor Suthers would try to determine the current situation and report back.

11.00 SPEEDING ALONG NOTTINGHAM ROAD:

The Clerk confirmed reports of speeding along Nottingham Road and these had been forwarded to the police who were monitoring as this matter falls within their 'priorities' as highlighted at Priority Setting meetings.

12.00 CORRESPONDENCE:

01 Robert Jenrick M.P.

A letter had been received from the above, confirming that he had met with a representative from Tesco. However, at this stage, no firm timeline of events in relation to the proposed commencement of works at the Tesco site can be given.

02 Nottinghamshire County Council

A letter which had been received regarding a full road closure of Kirkhill/Chapel Lane level crossing from 08.00 hours on the 16th November, 2015, to 08.00 on the 30th November, 2015, was noted. Clerk to add to website.

Continued...../

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015**, at **7.15 p.m.** continued.....

12.00 **CORRESPONDENCE** continued.....

03 Post Office

The Clerk confirmed that the Post Office had been contacted regarding the access into the new Post Office as there was a small threshold to go up which could cause a problem to those people in wheelchairs/pushchairs, etc. The Post Office had confirmed that the intention was for the retail side of the Post Office to have a portable ramp for positioning on the footpath.

04 Access to Railway Station

An e-mail had been received complaining about mobility access to the station platform. The Clerk had confirmed that the Town Council was liaising with Network Rail, East Midlands Trains and other partner agencies.

As there was no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN.

Date:-

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CLERK'S UPDATE:

DETAILS	ACTION TO BE TAKEN
N.C.C. Grass-cutting	Monitoring.
Restricted parking on Cherry Street/Church Street	On-going subject to consultation process. County Councillor Martin Suthers to try to progress.
Network Rail/East Midlands Trains/Station Issues	Further meeting to be arranged.
Bingham Police Station Site	On-going – Terms of reference received from Police and referred to Policy & Resources Committee.
Bingham Signal Box	Network Rail Disposal Form has been signed by Clerk confirming B.T.C. will be presented with the name-board.

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Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015**, at **7.15 p.m.** continued.....

**REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 06.10.15
FROM 'CAR PARK WORKING GROUP' (CPWG)**

UPDATES

- The meeting with Bingham Businesses was held on the 15th September 2015, with representatives from NCC, 'The Crown', & Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire and Bingham Councillors present. The main concerns raised were:
 - A general lack of parking for customers resulting in a drop in footfall.
 - Those running appointments were seeing many cancellations due to a lack of available parking.
 - Lost customers due to the current parking situation, with the customers choosing to shop in towns where parking is available.
 - An increase in customers being issued parking tickets, especially in the bays on Market Day.
 - Problems with Market Traders blocking shop fronts and taking up valuable parking spaces on Market Day.
 - Use of spaces by Park & Riders who work in Nottingham.

Businesses were advised that there were over 300 town worker parking all day and with only 145 spaces in the town's car parks. It was highlighted that in the short term we would be turning to businesses to look at their staff parking habits and to help us in trying to reduce the number of workers parking in the town centre and thus freeing up spaces for shoppers.

- A Questionnaire was distributed to all Bingham Businesses with a closing date of 30th September 2015, a full report will be published, however, initial analysis shows:
 - 70% of Businesses agreed the current car parking situation was having a negative effect on their business, with 54% advising that their business was under threat if the current parking situation continues.
 - Customer parking was more important to 75% of Businesses than staff parking.
 - 63% expressed a wish for parking restrictions to be implemented now, 30% said they would like it implemented later when a long stay car park was available.
 - When asked if they would like to see short stay parking implemented immediately in the just the Newgate Street Car Park (without the provision of a long stay car park) 79% said Yes.
 - When asked how long they would like those restrictions to be 50% said up to 2 hours, 46% said up to 3 hours. No one expressed a wish for parking beyond 3 hours.

Continued...../

Appendix 'B' continued.....

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015**, at 7.15 p.m. continued.....

**REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 06.10.15
FROM 'CAR PARK WORKING GROUP' (CPWG) continued.....**

With this in mind the CPWG would like to make two recommendations:

A further meeting is arranged with Businesses to feedback results from the questionnaire and pass on advice from NCC with regards to setting up work based travel plans. This meeting will be held in the evening outside of working hours to allow more to attend.

We recommend that BTC request Rushcliffe Borough Council implement parking restrictions in Newgate Street Car Park with a limit set at 3 hours maximum stay. We acknowledge that this is contrary to the recommendations of the 'Parking Strategy Report' adopted 3rd March 2015, but feel the responses from Business owners shows overwhelming support for such a move.

- Butt Field committee has kindly offered to open the site for a trial of car parking during working hours. This offer has been made to the workers of Bingham and would require departure by 17:15pm to ensure normal use by patrons of the club.

CPWG would like to recommend that Butt Field Committee be allowed to proceed with the use of Butt Field Car Park as temporary parking for the towns workers. We note the Clerks advice for clarification with regards to access via the bridleway and NCC rights of way, but feel a precedent has already been set with regards to access with the site used for many sporting events, firework displays, concerts and public hire.

- Police Station site: A site visit took place on 24th September 2015 with representatives from BTC, NHS, Nottinghamshire Police and Police Aid Convey in attendance. It was agreed that the site was suitable for use by the Breast Screening Truck which will be installed this week and be in situ for 8 months. The site will also provide approx 30 car parking spaces to be managed by the town council. Four trip hazards were identified, two of which have now been filled. 'Heads of Terms' between BTC and Nottinghamshire Police are ongoing.

CPWG would like to recommend the use of the remaining spaces for temporary car parking for use by town workers initially until Butt Field car park should become available, then for use by park and riders who would normally park in the town centre. Both proposals subject to 'Heads of Terms' being agreed and the two remaining trip hazards being filled and clarification over signage.

Continued...../

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015**, at **7.15 p.m.** continued.....

**REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 06.10.15
FROM 'CAR PARK WORKING GROUP' (CPWG) continued.....**

- Paul Hillier (NCC) has suggested a meeting with representatives of Business, Residents, Town Council and the County Council to have an open discussion about how we manage on-street parking long term. "As I've mentioned before, we have an ongoing conflict between making as much road space available for visitors/staff as we can and protecting residents from intrusive parking. Getting a plan together is the first step we need to take if any changes to the off-street car parking are to work. Put simply, I'm dubious about how many staff will park in the proposed long stay car park on the contaminated land when they can continue to park for free on roads or in car parks that are closer. I think the car park will only work if Rushcliffe agree to impose time limits on the car park spaces and the county council can introduce measures to stop staff parking on street."

CPWG would like to recommend that BTC proceed with setting up this meeting.

- Old Allotment Site: The 106 land north of the railway line and adjacent to the industrial estate is in the process of being handed over from the 'The Crown' to RBC. Development of this site could offer a viable option for access. Cllr Kerry, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Vallance attended a meeting at RBC on 29th September, meeting with Allen Graham, Cllr Simon Robinson (Chair of Growth Board) and Peter Linfield the newly appointed lead for BTC. All discussions with regards to this will now go through 'The Growth Board'.
- Parking slots around the market square: RBC has advised that they are in the process of reducing the parking restrictions from 6pm down to 4pm on Thursdays with a new 2hrs maximum stay. Ongoing with no confirmation of where in the process they currently are.

NEW ISSUES ARISING

- Union Street: We have received concerns about the two way traffic on Union Street with confusion often occurring when traffic enters Union Street proceeding north from Market Street to access the car parks. We have also been made aware that disabled access is proving difficult at the new Post Office site due to the camber and width of the pavement.
- Market Street: We are aware of delivery lorries double parking on Market Street and regularly blocking traffic.

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**REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 06.10.15
FROM 'CAR PARK WORKING GROUP' (CPWG) continued.....**

NEW ISSUES ARISING continued.....

CPWG would like to recommend that BTC contact NCC to request Union Street be made 'One Way' joining the current one way system already running on Needham Street and provide a flow through to the one way system on Market Street. If implemented this will also provide an opportunity to widen the footpath on the Post Office side of the street to allow more room for disabled access into the Post Office. At the same time to look into the possibility of adding a loading bay on Market Street to provide a designated spot for deliveries.

ONGOING

- Consideration of 'Drive share schemes' and more 'covered cycle stations'.
- Consultation with Crown, Network Rail, Tesco's, RBC and NCC with regards to access to the old allotment site.

Cllr K Vallance - Car Park Working Group (Chair)

Continued...../

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment Committee** of the Bingham Town Council held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 6th October, 2015, at 7.15 p.m.** continued.....

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING:	10th September 2015 10am
NATURE OF MEETING:	Meeting with Network Rail & East Midlands Trains
IN ATTENDANCE:	Councillors T.Kerry, J. Stockwood, E.Hutchison, K.Vallance, R.Bird, J.Ferguson RBC Cllr. S.Hull, NCC Cllr M. Suthers Network Rail Representatives Mark Lambert (Estates) & Rob Goulding (Station Portfolio Manager) East Midlands Trains Representative George Selby (Programme Manager)
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:	None

		TO BE ACTIONED BY
1.	Apologies – Cllr. A.Shelton	
2.	Mayor TK introduced everyone and confirmed that parking in Bingham was now at a critical point and situation with the station contributing to this problem. RBC CEO had made a commitment to take measures to alleviate the problem.	
3.	RG confirmed that all projects were on pause due to spending review however Network Rail were still committed to upgrading the bridge but at the moment no further information was available on timing.	
4.	JF enquired about closure of Moor Lane Crossing and RG confirmed no further information available at present. Predicted that the Autumn spending review would be known end November.	
5.	KV raised following queries: Was Network Rail reliant on Tesco's contribution; Are there alternative options such as upgrading pedestrian crossing at Moor Lane; is it possible to reopen negotiations re this option?	
6.	Suggested Project Team to be invited to a future meeting to discuss this matter further.	
7.	RB enquired about the option to install a barrier system at the pedestrian crossing. NR confirmed too expensive.	
8.	General consensus was it should not be too costly to implement and could it be done at all the crossings?	
9.	RG confirmed it should be referred to Project Team.	
10.	ML – NR's aim was to achieve cheapest & safest stations	

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11.	MS – stated that there should be involvement between NR/BTC/RB/NCC re Bingham strategic planning. The potential of station is great, use of buses has decreased at Bingham; but increased at Aslockton & Bottesford. Addressing the parking situation is crucial for future potential use. Moor Lane/Chapel Lane crossing needs upgrading to vehicular access as an alternative route to industrial estate.	
12.	ML confirmed that Network Rail wanted ramps at the station but all projects paused due to the Government review.	
13.	RG confirmed Network Rail want to increase usage of station & could possibly deal with BFSC re parking on their carpark during day.	
14.	EH informed them that access at present is along a bridleway which is narrow & would have to be upgraded.	
15.	ML – NR's first priority would be Health & Safety & Finance. Cheaper option may be to build a roadway.	
16.	ML - This option would not be within NR's remit.	
17.	TK pointed out importance of working in partnership with other bodies.	
18.	JF felt that improvements should be considered, not closure of the crossings.	
19.	ML confirmed there was a programme in place aiming at closing all level crossings.	
20.	RG confirmed that there was insufficient land available to build a ramp at Moor Lane.	
21.	TK suggested station being moved to land opposite Lidl.	
22.	SH felt there was no mindset/vision at NR for thinking outside the box re a strategy for Bingham.	
23.	ML - Some funds were available but all projects were on hold.	
24.	MS – There had been a drive to remove as many level crossings on East Coast Main line therefore NR no longer have a policy in place.	
25.	MS- Plans for 1000+ houses north of the railway necessitates better access to station required.	
26.	ML optimistic that the money for the ramps would be made available.	
27.	TK confirmed the Project Team would be invited to next Environment Committee meeting to be held 6 th October 2015.	
28.	JS enquired about current problems and station and it's future? What could be done to increase the usage and correct use of Harrington Humps?	
29.	ML responded by confirming platforms could be resurfaced; generally renewing outside & Harrington Humps working correctly in Nottingham direction.	
30.	RB enquired re certainty of level crossing closures?	
31.	JF noted that there were a few timetable anomalies.	
32.	TK thanked everyone for attending.	