**FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting**

**held on Friday 5 December 2014 at 9.30 am**

 **in the Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon**

PRESENT: C/Cllr Mrs J. Heathcoat (Chairman)

 D/Cllr R. Cox

 Cllr D. Price

 C/Cllr Mrs Y. Constance

 D/Cllr R. Sharpe

 Mr D. Williams, Magistrate

 Ms L. Hutchins, OCC, Environment & Economy,

 Vale Area Steward

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs E. Billson, Assistant Town Clerk

**1.** **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr C. Hulme, Thames Valley Police and Mr K. Booth, Chamber of Commerce.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting- 3 October 2014**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

 **3. Matters Arising**

 Camper vans on Coxwell Road

 It was confirmed that the police have spoken to the owners of the camper vans on Coxwell Road. All avenues have been investigated with regard to moving the vans.

Wicklesham Quarry

Ms Hutchins confirmed that the 278 Agreement is now in place. Following an incident, greater efforts are now being made to keep the road clean.

Tesco footpath

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat reported that following the meeting between herself, Ms Hutchins and Cllr Marsden, it has been agreed that remedial work will be carried out on the path by Highways. This will be paid for from C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat’s budget.

Access on to the A420 at Great Coxwell

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat reported that when the housing developments go ahead, the junction will be modified to include a slip road for east-bound traffic, and a traffic

island. Ducting will be included at this stage for future provision of traffic lights, should they be required at a later date. The traffic island currently at the Great Coxwell village access is to remain.

Network Rail

It was reported that Challow Bridge would be re-opening later that day, and thanks were expressed to Network Rail for completing the work and re-opening the road on time.

Junction of Marlborough Gardens and Park Road

It was agreed that C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat would visit the site with Ms Hutchins and Lee Turner, in order to investigate the problems further.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

**5. Public Speaking Time**

C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat reported that she had received a letter from a local resident, Fay van Dunk, regarding traffic congestion and parking problems in Coxwell Street. The issues raised fell within the remit of Highways, and therefore C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat would go through the letter with Ms Hutchins, and also forward it to Mr C. Hulme at Thames Valley Police.

**6. County Council- Highways, Officer Report**

Ms Hutchins circulated the November/December Highway Works newsletter. It was agreed that an electronic copy would be sent to Mrs Billson to be added to the Town Council website.

A Network Rail update and a briefing note detailing planned major Highways projects were also circulated. It was reported that grants would be available from central government for major schemes. Budgets have to be spent within a certain timeframe, and therefore it was inevitable that some projects would happen simultaneously. It was agreed that links to both the Highways briefing note and the Network Rail update should go on the Town Council’s website.

Ms Hutchins confirmed that the intention was for Network Rail to pay for the remedial work needed on diversion routes following the Challow Bridge work, but that whilst this was feasible for the official diversions, it was more difficult to enforce on routes which had become unofficial diversions. C/Cllrs Mrs Heathcoat and Mrs Constance confirmed that they would become involved if necessary to ensure this happened.

**7. District Traffic Matters**

D/Cllr Cox reported that there had been free parking in Faringdon on 29/11/14, and that there would be free parking in Wantage on 13/12/14.

He confirmed that parking fines had been reviewed recently.

With regard to the impact on the A420 of proposed new housing developments, and the increase in traffic they would bring, D/Cllr Cox reported that internal discussions had taken place and will continue.

Cllr A. Marsden arrived at 10.10am.

In response to a query about the new pedestrian refuge on the A420 at Watchfield, it was confirmed that it had been constructed as a requirement of the planning appeal into the travellers’ site, to allow residents of the site to become integrated into the community. The site developers were funding it.

**8. Any Other Business**

Mr D. Williams asked whether anything could be done about the ad hoc signs for local businesses in Buscot, which had become very numerous, and risked being a distraction to drivers. It was agreed that C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat would write to the Parish Council and ask them to discuss the situation informally with the business owners concerned. Ms Hutchins confirmed that signs would be removed by Highways if necessary, but that a less formal approach would be preferred.

(Post-meeting note: C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat has written to the Chairman of Buscot Parish Council, as agreed.)

**Date of next meeting**

6 March 2015