

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 10am in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon

Present: District Cllr. Mark Coleman (Chair)
C/Cllr Thomas
T/Cllr Boulton
Lee Turner – Officer Oxfordshire County Council
T/Cllr. Webb

In attendance: Chris Hulme – Thames Valley Police (online)
Stuart Dudley – Stagecoach West (online)
Sally Thurston – Town Clerk
Margaret Nairne – Town Clerk's Assistant
7 members of the public (2 online)

1. Apologies for absence

C/Cllr Constance; D/Cllr. Foxhall; T/Cllr. Wise

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Public speaking time:

Littleworth Parish Clerk raised concerns about the serious difficulties residents face in trying to cross the A420 to access the bus stop such that residents feel unable to use the buses. It is understood that other villages, e.g. Begbroke, have had a Toucan Crossing installed, funded by the OCC Accessibility and Safety Budget. Littleworth would like a similar crossing e.g. a Pelican Crossing and appropriate speed restriction.
C/Cllr. Thomas noted that they do not know what the budget is yet for next year but can add Littleworth to the list.

Buscot Parish Council resident raised concerns regarding speed limits between Faringdon and Lechlade with specific reference to Buscot. They would support the following:
30mph on the A417 as it passes Buscot village and Buscot Wick
20mph in the village of Buscot going down towards the river
40mph through Eaton Hastings
50mph for the remainder of the A417 between Faringdon and Lechlade.
C/Cllr. Thomas will follow this up and can add a request and will liaise with LT on all these points.

A Faringdon market place resident and business owner spoke about their concerns about new parking enforcement which they feel is unfit for purpose as business owners with vehicles are unable to park anywhere near their premises. They suggest business and residential parking permits. They are also concerned about the large increase in the number of buses (from 2 an hour to 12 an hour) stopping in the marketplace and

would like to move the main bus stops to be considered e.g. to Marlborough Street.

The owner of The Crown in Faringdon market place raised his concerns about the negative impact the increase in buses is having on their business specifically regarding noise and impact on privacy. This business would advocate for removal of the bus stop to e.g. Marlborough Street, enabling a greener community space to be established in the market place.

4. Minutes of the meetings: Monday 11th September 2023

Signed as correct

5. Action updates and matters arising to include:

Matters arising would be covered during the course of the meeting

- Previous minutes corrected
- Statistics are in the pack
- Secure bike racks is ongoing as business as usual so this item can be closed
- Making good pavements: C/Cllr. Thomas will ensure this happens through OCC
- Folly Park – adoption status
- Henry Blake – issues continue
- Fernham Road crossing and A420 safety. C/Cllr. Thomas liaising with Grundon about concrete being dropped on road near Little and Great Coxwell
- Traffic orders are on the agenda and do not need to be finalised until April 2024 (see item 9g)
- Local cycling and walking infrastructure plans (LCWIP): C/Cllr. Thomas and Clerk to walk round to see what may be best to move this on to action.

6. A420 Safety

The meeting noted the following:

- a) updates and statistics on A420 safety
- b) Pedestrian access at Fernham Rd: there is a gate coming here. Resident online highlighted need to create accessible gateway here.
- c) Littleworth junction safety: the meeting concluded that a review would be helpful on whole stretch of road from Littleworth to Longcot and an extraordinary meeting to be organised in January to discuss A420 access and safety. Lee Turner referred to an existing OCC A420 Corridor Study that may be helpful - see link:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport-connecting-oxfordshire/ConnectingOxfordshire7b-A420CorridorStrategy.pdf>
- d) Hinton Waldrist pedestrian/cyclist island refuge: issue raised by Longworth Parish Council asking for consideration to be given for adding a pedestrian/cyclist refuge on the A420. Chair will write to

Longworth Parish Council asking them to clarify the location for this request.

7. **Oxfordshire County Council Highways Officer's Update Report for Faringdon Area**

The meeting noted the following:

- A420 / Fernham Road - Pedestrian / cyclist island & footway links. £60k CIL funding, on list for delivery 2023/24 Financial Year. Detailed design underway.
- A420 / Longcot turn – Pedestrian Refuge. £50k A&RSF, on list for delivery 2023/24 Financial Year. Detailed design underway.
- B4019 – Faringdon to Coleshill – Sign replacements and upgrades completed.
- Besselsleigh – Changing 'Parklands Campus' signs to 'Parklands Manor' and relocation of settlement sign awaiting quote from contractor. Relocation of 50mph speed limit (subject to consultation & funding) on 2024/25 list.
- Childrey – 'After' surveys commissioned post 20 mph installation. 85thile speeds less than 24mph, no issue.
- Cumnor – Puffin Crossing on Cumnor Hill at Arnolds Way – Traffic signal and civils detailed design being finalised. Delivery 2024/25 FY due to lead in times on signal equipment.
- East Challow – SIDs to be provided along the A417 by developer. Positions agreed, installation either just before or just after Christmas. Peds in road & road narrows warning signs & markings on Letcombe Hill completed.
- East Hanney – Waiting restrictions outside school have been implemented.
- Frilford – Reduction in speed limit on the A338 (30 / 40mph) in conjunction with the Parish Meeting. Approved at CMD, now at detail design.
- Fyfield & Tubney - investigating reduction in speed limit on the A420 in the vicinity of St Lawrence Church in conjunction with the Parish Council - *Speed surveys have shown that the existing limit is correct for the current 'sign only' restriction.* Three requests for infrastructure to improve pedestrian safety have been added to our list of potential Accessibility & Road Safety Fund (A&RSF) schemes.
- Great Coxwell – Gateway features completed.
- Gainfield – Ongoing discussions with PC regarding upgrading speed limit signs & road markings, and installation of SIDs.

- Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor – Zebra crossing on the A415 between Faringdon Road and Oxford Road – programmed to start on site 12/02/24.
- Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor – Wigwags with advisory 20 / children crossing signs on Faringdon Road either side of footpath link to school ordered.
- Little Coxwell – Upgrading signage at speed limit terminals ordered.
- Littleworth – Solar streetlights at the A420 bus stops ordered. Provision of dropped kerb on south side of A420 at Swindon bound bus stop programmed for construction 11/12/23.
- Pusey – gateways and signage completed.
- Shrivenham – SID locations agreed with PC, poles to be ordered.
- Shrivenham, Highworth Road – Zebra crossing completed.
- Stanford in the Vale – Provision of dropped kerbs on Horsecroft added to 2024/25 A7RSF list.
- West Challow – Warning signs / road markings due to PC road safety concerns completed.
- Buscot village are recommended to have one SID (Speed Indicator Device) which would get moved around
- Cllr. Thomas has had contact with OCC 'flooding' who will be implementing ditch and Letcombe Brook clearance next month to alleviate constant flooding by Mellors Garage on the A417.

The meeting noted the updates and thanked LT for attending the meeting and to his team for all their hard work in this area.

8. Parish Matters

The meeting received and considered the following matters causing issues and updates in Faringdon Division parishes including:

- a) Besselsleigh Road Safety Issues: Cllr. Coleman to follow up.
- b) To receive a statement from Cllr. Scanlan, Buscot Parish Council: see Public Speaking Time above
- c) Longworth School Parking Issues: the meeting discussed the issue raised by the chair of the Parent Teacher's Association around the problem of anti-social parking at drop-off and pick-up times and looked at possible solutions. Chris Hulme of TVP will check and feedback who is the relevant Community Support Officer who could then be contacted by the school and/or parish council.

9. Faringdon Matters

The meeting received and considered the following matters causing issues, and updates on ongoing matters in Faringdon including:

- a) Buses in Marketplace: Concerns are being voiced by some residents with regard to the increase in buses stopping in the marketplace (see item 3: Public Speaking Time above). There are a number of issues:
- Huge increase in number of buses and timetabling seems to cause there to be a number of buses arriving and leaving at the same time
 - Buses arriving early causes a problem
 - The buses now come into the market place until 3a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.
 - Subsequent increase and noise and invasion of privacy

Cllr. Thomas commented that changes to buses needs a full town consultation considering all the pros and cons of any suggested changes.

Cllr. Thomas proposed the formation of a 'Task and Finish Group' with a fact-finding remit to look at all issues relating to buses in Faringdon including creating list of possible options for status quo or moving bus stops and potential new bus routes (see item 9d below).

The group to include representatives from FATAC, Stagecoach, Thames Travel, Faringdon Town Council, the community bus, Dave Harrison, the lead public transport officer at OCC, plus representatives from local residents and from local businesses. Cllr. Coleman would head up this group with the Clerk drawing up Terms of Reference to be agreed.

- b) Bus Lane Enforcement: illegal use of the bus lane continues to cause danger to pedestrians. Clerk will continue to seek a solution via OCC.
- c) Bus Stop Review: S106 funds will go towards:
- 'real time' information at bus stops in Park Road and Town Centre
 - new bus stop to be installed in Gloucester Street.
 - Flags and poles to be installed at bus stop on Park Road by retail park entrance
 - Shelter in Marlborough Street

It was noted that real time information may be being implemented on all stops. BT to investigate.

Cllr. Coleman will contact Thames Travel to ensure X35 drivers know to pick up or drop off at all Park Road bus stops.

- d) Bus Service Review: meeting discussed possibility of adding new further new buses e.g. to and from Abingdon. New buses funded by S106 monies. To be added to bus review group (see item 9(a) above).

Police are involved with Faringdon Community College (FCC) ref students vandalising buses and carrying knives with which they have slashed bus seats. Clerk to pass this information on to FTC.

- e) Traffic Bollards on Park Road: Tesco have been contacted about damaged bollards which are their responsibility. A list with photos of other damaged bollards has been forwarded to OCC. BT to chase
- f) Henry Blake Way: Cllr. Thomas will continue to try and resolve the issues here as soon as possible.
- g) Traffic Orders: these are being reviewed but FTC do not feel qualified to make final decisions as need to understand the wider and long-term implications of any changes and therefore need professional help prior to decision-making.
- h) Folly Park View Adoption: Cllr. Thomas is continuing to work on this.
- i) 20mph Restrictions: concern where the 20mph restrictions start and stop, particularly in relation to sections on Park Road near Tesco entrance and near the new primary school. LT commented that FTC are entitled to request changes and he will check that correct due process was followed for implementation of all the 20mph restrictions, which have changed on Park Rd since consultation.
- j) General road condition: deferred to next meeting.

10. Items for Information:

- **Next Meeting Date** Monday 11th March 2024 at 10 a.m.
- Following restructuring of the OCC County Highway Service, there is now a new Gateway Team to help with engagement.
- Fernham Road footpath: the documents for ownership transfer of the ransom strip are being signed this week.

11. Items for next agenda:

- A420 extraordinary meeting
- Faringdon Bus Review Task and Finish Group

Meeting closed at 12.13 p.m.