

**RESOURCES & PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 AT 7:30PM**  
**TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllr M. Johns (Chairman), Cllr P. Allen, Cllr C. Askew, Cllr D. Carmichael, Cllr P. Conquest, Cllr R. Dando L'Olive, Cllr J. Godwin, Cllr D. Reynolds, Cllr M. Wixon

**Also present:** Miss E. Cox (Town Clerk), Mrs E. Bucklow-Holt (Assistant)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M. Clubley, Cllr J. Lynch, Cllr I. Macaulay, Cllr L. Samiotis, and Cllr D. Tarbun.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Open to the Public (maximum 15-minute session)

No members of the public were present.

4. Minutes of Meetings

To approve the Minutes of the Resources & Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 for signing by the Chairman.

Proposal

Cllr Allen proposed that the Minutes of the Resources & Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a true record; seconded by Cllr Godwin; all in favour.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute Page 21/06/084

**Advertising vehicles on Brackley Road** – The Clerk confirmed she had not yet received a further update from the WNC Planning Enforcement Officer and will follow this up prior to the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

**Request for attendance of Highways England representatives at a meeting of the Town Council** – Discussions were deferred to Agenda Item 9.

Minute Page 21/06/086

**New street names** – WNC Building Control has accepted the list of 10no. street names proposed by the committee for Persimmon Homes – H15, The Furlongs. Adoption of the street names will be subject to final approval from the West Northants Cllrs representing Towcester & Roade.

**Relocation of the southern Towcester road-sign** – The committee's request to relocate the sign to align with the new boundary for Towcester has been forwarded to Highways England and the Clerk is awaiting its response.

**Oxfordshire Play Association request for funding** – The Clerk confirmed the Towcester Play & Activity Day has now been postponed to Easter 2022, due to the uncertainty which remains over the lifting of Covid restrictions. The applicant has requested the agreed funding of £486.00 be ring-fenced to support the rescheduled event.

Proposal

Cllr Reynolds proposed that the request made by the Oxfordshire Play Association to ring-fence its approved funding of £486.00 for use in the 2022/23 Financial Year be approved; seconded by Cllr Wixon; all in favour.

6) PLANNING

a) Planning Decisions received to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were noted as follows:

Approval for development granted in respect of the following planning application was noted as follows:-

S/2021/0490/FUL      7 Surtees Way, Towcester  
 Proposed single storey extension to rear

b) Planning Applications received to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

RE-LISTED

WNS/2021/0481/MAR      Land adjacent to Tesco's, Old Tiffield Road, Towcester

Reserved matters application for details of scale, appearance and landscaping for a retail and restaurant development comprising five Class A1 retail units and three A3/A5 food and drink uses including 'drive thru' and associated access and parking pursuant to outline planning permission S/2016/2850/MAO on land adjacent to Tesco, Old Tiffield Road, Towcester, Northamptonshire.

The Clerk had circulated the Decision Notice for the outline permission prior to the meeting. A number of points raised by the TC, in response to the outline application, are implemented as Conditions to this permission and will automatically carry forward to the Reserved Matters application, should this be approved. The committee discussed the application at length and the following response was agreed:-

Towcester Town Council has serious concerns for the safety of pedestrians crossing Old Tiffield Road near to its junction with the A5. It notes that a pedestrian crossing has been approved higher up on Old Tiffield Road, which will most likely be used by those visiting the site from The Shires Estate. However, given the predicted increase in traffic movements at this (already) busy junction, the potential to provide a second, light-controlled crossing nearer to the A5 junction should be fully explored.

Furthermore, it is also concerned that the nature of the proposed development will lead to obtrusive and copious signage at the entrance/approach to the town. As such, it would request that this element of the application be given careful consideration at the relevant stage

WNS/2021/0528/FUL 36 Willis Way, Towcester  
Single storey extension to front to create porch.  
**No objections**

## 7. FINANCE

### a) To approve the Internal Audit Report for the Year Ending 31/03/2021

The final Internal Audit Report for the Year Ending 31/03/2021 had been forwarded to all committee members prior to the meeting.

#### Proposal

Cllr Askew proposed that the Internal Audit Report for the Year Ending 31/03/2021 be approved by the committee; seconded by Cllr Reynolds; all in favour.

### b) To approve the Accounts for Towcester Town Council for the Year Ending 31/03/2021 for signing by the Chairman and Clerk/R.F.O.

The Accounts for the Year Ending 31/03/2021 had been forwarded to all committee members prior to the meeting.

#### Proposal

Cllr Reynolds proposed that the Accounts for Towcester Town Council for the Year Ending 31/03/2021 be approved and signed accordingly by the Chairman and Clerk/R. F. O.; seconded by Cllr Wixon; all in favour.

### c) To approve the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the Year Ending 31/03/2021 for signing by the Chairman and Clerk/R. F. O.

The Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the Year Ending 31/03/2021 had been forwarded to all committee members prior to the meeting.

#### i) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

#### Proposal

Cllr Allen proposed that the answer 'Yes' be given to Questions 1 to 9 on Section 1 – the Annual Governance Statement and for this to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk; seconded by Cllr Conquest; all in favour.

#### ii) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21

#### Proposal

Cllr Reynolds proposed that the AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for the Year Ending 31/03/2021 be approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk, as R. F. O.; seconded by Cllr Godwin; All in favour.

## 8. Northamptonshire Highways Burcote Road, Towcester – Prohibition of Driving (P1882) Consultation

The correspondence detailing the proposed prohibition of Driving for Burcote Road, Towcester had been forwarded

to all committee members prior to the meeting. The committee raised no objections to the proposals and a public consultation will follow.

9. Department of Transport / Highways England  
Review of the Strategic Road Network Extents Trunking/De-trunking Program: A5

Cllr Johns had obtained the Minutes of a recent meeting involving representatives from the Department of Transport, Highways England and specific local authorities along the A5 route to discuss the potential trunking/de-trunking of sections of the A5 as part of a national review of the Strategic Road Network (SRN). A copy of the Minutes had been forwarded to all committee members prior to the meeting. He expressed disappointment that the TC had not been notified of the discussions. He considered that this review of the SRN presents the best opportunity to achieve de-trunking of the A5 through Towcester. If WNC agreed to accept responsibility of this section of the A5, and designate it as a Clean Air Zone, a weight restriction and signage could be introduced to divert HGVs to the Towcester Relief Road, currently under construction. South Northamptonshire Council recently produced an updated Air Quality Action Plan and Cllr Johns has requested the most recent air quality statistics. The Clerk confirmed it (now WNC) continues to test the air quality using equipment installed in the one of the Town Hall offices. Cllr Johns also stated that there are few, or no, market towns in this country which have a section of the SRN running through their town centre. This not only impacts on the air quality for residents but also impedes community activities from taking place on the town's high street and market square.

Cllr Reynolds stressed the importance of uniting local bodies and residents of Towcester in pursuing this course of action and suggested including an article in a future edition of the Town Crier.

Cllr Godwin cited a recent court hearing in which the Coroner attributed the cause of a child's death to poor air quality.

Cllr Askew expressed concern that SNC has only monitored nitrous oxide levels and not particulates, which he considers far more harmful to health. Cllr Wixon agreed the importance of improving air quality and suggested alternative methods of achieving this, i.e. additional planting along the A5, but also agreed the need to address the issue of speed and weight restrictions.

Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that the TC writes to WNC and the MP for South Northamptonshire, to request that the opportunity to de-trunk the A5 through Towcester, as part of the Review of the Strategic Road Network, be seized and that Towcester Town Council be included in future discussions on this subject; seconded by Cllr Askew; all in favour.

The meeting concluded at 8:15pm