

**DRAFT Minutes of Transport Committee Meeting held in the  
Community Office, Bruton  
on Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Anderton, Brownlow, Hood, Jones and Sida  
In the Chair: Councillor Hood  
In Attendance: The Assistant Clerk  
Six members of the public

At the start of the meeting members of the public explained their concerns about the impact of the proposed Brewham Road housing development on highway safety, especially for pedestrians:

- Brewham Road is dangerous for pedestrians because 'blind' bends restrict visibility. The proposed development would substantially increase traffic flows and therefore increase the dangers faced by pedestrians.
- Human nature being what it is, many people walking into town from the north-eastern parts of the proposed development are likely to walk straight out onto Brewham Road rather than taking the longer albeit safer route via Darkey Lane, and therefore even more pedestrians will be put at risk.
- The proposed pseudo footway (marked by a white line in the road) along Brewham Road between Darkey Lane and Quaperlake Street is dangerous because it restricts the carriageway and gives pedestrians an illusion of safety.
- The proposed 'traffic-calming' build-out on the south side of Brewham Road near Darkey Lane would force west-bound traffic (and especially agricultural and heavy goods vehicles) into the path of vehicles emerging from Brue Avenue/Close and turning left.

**[Clerk's note:** *For the convenience of members of the public the Committee went straight on to discuss the proposed development but in the interests of clarity and consistency this is minuted in Agenda order, as 5a, (below)]*

- 1. Apologies for Absence** - Apologies were received from Councillors Karen Baker and Pickering.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - No Councillor had any interests to declare.

### 3. Minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be adopted as a true and accurate record.**

**Resolved 5-0-0** [For-against-abstain]

### 4. Matters raised by residents - Flooding on Wyke Road.

Members noted that this problem is recurrent and can be particularly dangerous for bicycles and motorbikes, with water pooling on one side of the road and concealing flaws in the road surface. It was agreed that the Somerset County Council Highways Department (Highways) be asked to consider putting up a warning sign.

### 5. Planning matters with a transport dimension:

**a. Brewham Road development** – Members echoed and amplified the concerns expressed by members of the public (see above) and made some further observations:

- Pedestrians walking along Brewham Road between Darkey Lane and Quaperlake Street are at risk and a pseudo footway would not make them safe.
- In any case Highways does not consider pseudo footways safe as it explained when it was asked to consider installing one on Shute Lane.
- The ‘blind’ bend on Brewham Road near Darkey Lane is dangerous enough as it is and the proposed build-out would not make it safer, as it would throw west-bound traffic to the opposite side of the road at the blind junction with Brue Avenue.
- The proposals do not sit well with the Town Plan and Town Council policy which aim to make Bruton a place where it feels easy and safe to walk around.

**It was proposed and seconded that the Committee recommend the Council to reject the Proposed development unless proper provision is made for the safety of pedestrians and highway safety more generally.**

**Resolved 5-0-0**

James Hood undertook to inform Acorn of the Committee’s decision.

At this point Councillor Sida left the meeting.

**b. Planning policy** – After a discussion about parking problems in the town, the extra pressure of further development on the limited parking places available, and the *Traffic Management and Accessibility* section of the Council’s Planning Policy

**It was proposed and seconded that the Committee recommend the Council to review §§25-31 of its Planning Policy and request the Planning Committee to ensure that its decisions are in accordance with that Policy.**

**Resolved 4-0-0**

**6. Newquay Parking Survey** – Members drafted a response to Newquay Town Council’s survey about parking enforcement. They also noted that the County Council’s enforcement of street parking restrictions appears to be effective, and the difficulties in Bruton largely arise with anti-social and in the car parks.

**7. Progress on matters agreed at previous meetings:**

**a. Speed Indicator Device (SID)** – It was agreed that the Clerk be asked to expedite the ordering of a new SID.

**b. Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)** – Members noted that under current policing arrangements the town’s 7.5t. weight limit is effectively unenforceable and they agreed to bring this to the attention of the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens.

**8. For information**

**a. Dropping Lane junction with Park Wall** – Highways has advised that installing a build-out or similar safety improvement at this junction would be comparatively simple but it would require funding via an SCC Small Improvement Scheme or from an external source.

**b. Shute Lane** – The centre line was reinstated in error after the road was resurfaced and Highways has agreed to remove it.

**c. Annual survey of car parking in Bruton** – Councillor Hood gave a brief review.

**d. Disabled parking bay in High Street** – update

**9. Next meeting** – the next meeting of the Committee is planned for May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019