

Hullbridge Sub-Committee- 23 March 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Hullbridge Sub-Committee** held on **23 March 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs R Brown (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr P K Savill

REPRESENTING HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Mrs L Campbell-Davey.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Hullbridge Parish Councillor Mrs K Morgan.

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
D Timson	- Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
Richard Tatton-Bennett	- Principal Engineer

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

L Harvey - District Engineer, Transportation & Operational Services

46 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47 HULLBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update on the officer meeting with forecourt owners held on 2 March 2004.

It was noted that the owners of Nos. 255; 257; 265 and 267 Ferry Road had been present at the meeting. Consensus had been reached on the positioning of the two trees (one each on the boundaries of Nos. 253/255 and Nos. 255/257), 2 bins (one outside No 249 and one outside No 261) and the finger post (on the raised ground of the private forecourt outside No. 251). It was also noted that, whilst the owners of No 255 and 257 liked the look of the proposed forecourt surface material, they had indicated that they would only be prepared to proceed with it on the basis that the District and/or Parish Council would take on responsibility for long-term maintenance.

During debate Members observed that, from the perspective of cost and the setting of precedent, it would be inappropriate for the District to consider maintenance responsibility for a forecourt. It was also observed that, in the context of likely rate impact, it was unlikely that the Parish Council would consider responsibility for maintenance.

It could be seen as disappointing that the proposed new surface material may not be introduced, particularly for residents that had expectations about an enhanced appearance. Reference was made to the possibility that previous experiences associated with shingle surfacing used during phase 1 of the Town Centre Scheme may have been off-putting to shop owners.

Responding to questions, Officers advised that:-

- Should new paving not be introduced, the associated saving of approximately £6000 could be applied to enhancing other facilities. For example, introducing detail around litter bins, bollards and the finger post and work on the blocks around the trees and litter bins?
- There is no treatment available that would successfully lighten black tarmac. The tarmac outside the flats (Nos. 263 and 265), which is of noticeably poor condition, would be repaired as part of the phase 2 programme.
- The owner of Nos. 251; 255 and 257 had written to the Council expressing concern about the new paving proposed for the forecourts outside No. 249 - 261.
- The County proposed to start work on 12 April. On this basis there would be time for Hullbridge Parish Council to consider its own final position at a meeting on 17 April.

The Sub-Committee concurred with the view of the Chairman that it would be appropriate to write to the owners of Nos. 249 - 267 indicating that it will not be possible to proceed with the new forecourt surface if a Council has to take responsibility for ongoing maintenance costs but that, subject to figures being finalised, consideration will be given to applying any associated savings to the introduction of some other enhancement works. The views of the Parish Council could be ascertained at the Parish Meeting schedule for 17 April.

With regard to bollards, reference was made to specific problems experienced by lorries parking outside the Indian Restaurant (No. 253) to unload barrels onto the forecourt. The activity both blocked the location and was potentially damaging to the surface. It was observed that a service alley available to the business premises was not used. It was agreed that it would be of value to consult the Parish on using some of the savings associated with not introducing new surface material for introducing at least three (but as many as

Hullbridge Sub-Committee- 23 March 2004

necessary) bollards outside No. 249 to prevent this activity. It was noted that each bollard cost £200.

The Sub-Committee confirmed locations that would be appropriate for the finger post.

Resolved

- (1) That Officers write to the owners of Nos. 249 - 267 Ferry Road advising that it will not be possible to proceed with the new surface material if a Council has to take responsibility for ongoing maintenance costs but that, subject to figures being finalised, consideration would be given to applying associated savings to the introduction of some other enhancement works.
- (2) That officers write to Hullbridge Parish Council seeking the views of the Parish on the principle of using savings associated with the non-introduction of new surface material for other enhancement work, to include the introduction of an appropriate number of bollards to the front of No. 249 to address the problems associated with lorries using the forecourt.
- (3) That the finger post manufacturer be consulted on the basis that fingers should be included to point to the following locations:-
 - Recycling Banks
 - Free Car Park and Toilets (including disabled)
 - Kendal Park Nature Reserve
 - Hullbridge Community Centre
 - Pooles Lane Recreation Ground
 - Bus Terminal

The meeting commenced 10.00am at closed at 12.42pm.

Chairman

Date