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# INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

## Draft MINUTES

Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Tuesday 14 August between 7.30pm and 8.33pm.

Councillors present:

Stephen Giles-Medhurst  
(Lead Member for Economic Development)  
Martin Trevett (Lead Member for  
Infrastructure and Planning Policy)  
Andrew Scarth (Lead Member for Housing)  
Angela Killick  
Jon Tankard

Joanna Clemens  
Peter Getkahn  
Alex Hayward (for Cllr Kenison)  
Paula Hiscocks  
Margaret Hofman  
Joan King

Officers Present: Steven Halls, Chief Executive  
Peter Simons, Senior Transport Planner  
Mike Simpson, Committee and Web Officer

Also In attendance: Councillors Stephen Cox, Stephen King, David Sansom

### **Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst in the Chair**

#### **IHED08/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Heather Kenison with the substitute Member Councillor Cllr Alex Hayward.

#### **IHED09/18 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development Committee meeting held on 26 June 2018 were confirmed as a correct record subject to an amendment to include the apologies for absence of Councillor Stephen Cox, who had been due to substitute for Councillor Joan King.

#### **IHED10/18 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman ruled that the submission of Appendix B: Supporting data, which related to agenda item 6, had not been available five clear working days before the meeting but was to be considered as supporting information for the report on Parking Options.

## **IHED11/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **IHED12/18 PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 18**

The Committee received a petition which comprised 450 signatures. It was noted by the Committee that an additional 91 signatures had also been obtained since the submission of the petition.

The Chairman read out Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure in which it was stated that following the presentation of the petition, the Chairman would respond verbally and follow up with a written summary. No dialogue or debate would be entered into, but he would permit the Committee Member who represented the Ward to speak.

The petition, presented by Mrs Caroline O'Reilly, asked the Council to: "Stop this gentleman using our roads to run his business and to confine his activities to his own premises. Since RSC Motors have been relocated to Oxhey Drive the residents in all of the surrounding roads are finding it impossible to park as this business has cars that are for sale parked in parking bays and on the road for up to 3 months at a time, sometimes on corners and bends making driving or crossing roads extremely dangerous at times".

The petitioner said there had never been issues with parking until RSC had moved to the new premises. The situation was dangerous due to the number of cars parked in the vicinity of the business which impacted people going to the school and surgery. Patients using the doctors' surgery should take precedence.

A Member said residents had approached the Council about this matter as they would like the owner of the business to relocate the vehicles. It was originally believed that RSC Motors would be repairing and servicing vehicles, not selling them, but it was evident from their website that cars were being offered for sale. The Member asked that the parking of cars be limited to the company land. The Council had caused this problem so should resolve it.

The Chairman advised that Officers had found no evidence that cars were being sold from the premises. The planning permission granted to the business had been implemented correctly. Road safety issues were not a matter for this Council and should be referred to the County Council, and Councillor Joan King undertook to raise the matter with HCC.

A Member said the location for the business was wrong, and that cars were parked on the road for weeks at a time. The company's courtesy cars had been parked for so long grass was growing around them. Residents should not have a parking zone introduced when the situation was the fault of the Council. The Chairman replied that if the proprietor was running the business legally the Council could not enforce the removal of the cars parked on the streets. Officers could, however, ask if his parked vehicles could be moved, but there was no guarantee of co-operation. The Chairman added that as South Oxhey was in the process of major redevelopment the issue may be addressed once the whole South Oxhey Development had been completed.

The Member said that the two hour parking restrictions did not stop the business owner from relocating the vehicles.

The Chairman said if there was evidence of RSC Motors selling vehicles from the roadside the Council could act, in which case the matter could be raised with the Safer Neighbourhoods team. To date Officers had not been able to substantiate claims of unlawful trading.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the petition and the Council's response be noted; and
2. That the Chairman would formally write to the petitioner.

## **IHED13/18 PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKING OPTIONS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES**

The Senior Transport Planner presented the report which explored the options available and recommended a proposal to replace the outdated business permit criteria in Rickmansworth and Chorleywood, while creating new parking opportunities for the staff of local businesses.

The Chairman drew attention to the options shown in Paragraphs 3.6 Option B and 3.9 Option C. He favoured the proposal of a cost of £500, equating to around £2 per working day. He emphasised that the report was just a discussion document at this time, and residents, along with Ward Councillors, would be consulted on any options preferred by the Committee.

The Senior Transport Planner explained the rationale of the report. He said there was strong support for a local working permit, and that currently many bays were under-used. He added that the report contained a range of options, and said the proposed permit scheme was intended for the benefit of local workers and not the general public.

The supporting data contained within Appendix B provided survey details for unused parking capacity in Rickmansworth Town centre over an 18 month period.

A Member stated they supported the provision of local worker parking bays but there was a big difference in the needs of those in Rickmansworth versus Chorleywood, and expressed concern for the occupants of cottages within Rickmansworth town centre where there was no provision for parking but there was more than one car per household. The Chairman responded that as per Appendix B, the issuing of 111 permits would leave 48 spare bays if all permits were in use all the time, and that if more permits were issued than there were parking bays the scheme would not work.

The Member further added that the demographics of Rickmansworth town had changed, and as more people worked from home residents had acute problems with availability of parking spaces. The Chairman said that was why there would be a public consultation. The Lead Member for Infrastructure and Planning Policy said that there were issues with parking in both Rickmansworth and Chorleywood, and this was why he supported the consultation.

A Member asked whether there were restrictions on the permits that would be available to purchase, to which it was replied that they would be for parking during the operational hours of parking restrictions only.

Restrictions on the permits issued would form part of the consultation.

With regard to the recommendation, it was clarified that the delegation of authority to the Director of Community and Environmental Services would apply only if there were no unresolved issues.

A Member expressed concern over the mechanics of issuing worker permits. Details would have to be worked out e.g. putting multiple registration details on one permit.

A Member referred to the supporting data and asked whether visitors such as health care workers, cleaners etc. included in the survey, to which it was replied they had not been as it was not practicable to account for every visiting vehicle. The Member also said there would also be variances based on the time of year, such as school holidays against term time.

The Senior Transport Planner said the next stage was to analyse parking requirements in more depth.

The Chairman moved the recommendations in the report for the scheme subject to the following amendments, seconded by the Lead Member for Infrastructure and Planning Policy:

- a) To authorise investigation into a scheme and consultation to introduce new local worker permits as set out in Option C, in Rickmansworth and potentially in Chorleywood.
- b) To add a further recommendation that “The outcome of consultation and any final scheme to be reported to the Committee as appropriate.”

The Chairman added that the sole reason for proposing the amendments was to prevent a delay in the event of there being no meeting of the Committee shortly after the consultation ended. It was suggested that this caveat be noted.

A Member said that he favoured that the wording included “for approval as appropriate”.

On being put to the Committee the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED, the voting being 10 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention.

RESOLVED:

1. Authorised investigation into a scheme and consultation to introduce new local worker permits as set out in Option C, in Rickmansworth and potentially in Chorleywood.
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Community and Environmental Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Economic Development, to agree details of any proposed scheme, following

provision of details of each scheme to relevant local Ward Councillors and the Lead Member; and

3. The outcome of the consultation and any final scheme to be reported to the Committee as appropriate.

#### **IHED145/18 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received their work programme. A Member asked if a report on a review of the short-term parking arrangements in Rickmansworth could be included. The Chairman replied that the item is in the Work Programme, and a report was due for submission in November. It was suggested that a report on short-term parking be produced annually.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee be noted and that a short-term parking report be produced annually from the date of implementation (May 2018).

**CHAIRMAN**