

MINUTES OF THE FAVERSHAM PUBLIC REALM GROUP MEETING held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Thursday 22 November 2018

Present

Ted Wilcox, (Chair) (TW)	Geoff Wade (GW)
Trevor Abram (TA)	Alan Blackburn (AB)
Anita Walker (AW)	Chris Oswald-Jones (COJ)
Peter Flower (PF)	Eddie Thomas (ET)
Mike Knowles (MK)	Adam Andrews(AA)

In attendance

Louise Bareham, Town Clerk (TC)
Martin du Preez, Sub Agent – Rail, South East,

Martin du Preez attended the meeting to report on the Preston footbridge. He confirmed the paint colour was green and light green, not cream. These are the colours of South Eastern. He queried the change from mild steel to unpainted stainless steel due to the concern of theft. It was agreed that mild street painted black would be acceptable. Martin noted that only 15% of the original bridge was being kept, so there will be a delay to the published completion date of 18th January 2019. The steps will be non-slip but no cycle access ramp. He confirmed that they were not allowed to change the style of the bridge or it would require different planning permission at additional cost.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th September were agreed.

4. Town Caretaker Report

AA provided a report to the meeting, which is attached to these minutes as an appendix.

GW noted the cannons looked good and would work well with the new pirate themed play park. It was agreed to paint the end of the cannon red to look as if they were firing then issue a press release.

The bollard had been repaired outside the post office and the new gates were due to be installed shortly.

It was agreed to proceed with the replacing of the bike racks opposite the post office.

A reporting mechanism for graffiti was required and a letter to businesses offering the service was suggested, together with a press release. AA will liaise with AB regarding cleaning signs in alleyways. Private property could not be cleaned without consent.

GW felt planting was an important shop window for the town, and it was not as good as Sittingbourne's. However, TW pointed a number of areas being taken over by members of the community including the house trough at The Mall, Middle Row as well as the works at South Road and on the Front Brents bund. It was agreed that private sponsorship would be good. Faversham in Bloom is also working hard.

GW thought there had been brilliant progress by AA.

5. Abbeyfields

A discussion took place about the probability of KCC adopting Abbeyfields. It was agreed that KCC was likely to insist the road be brought up to standard before considering doing so. The road is breaking up largely due to traffic to the pumping station, which could get worse with the increased housing. Pressure needed to be put on the water authority, who will be attending the next Town Council meeting.

It was agreed not to write the letter to KCC requesting the road is adopted until after the December meeting.

6. TIK PACS – Dog Fouling

It was proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to purchase 3 Tik Pac dispensers from PRG reserves for the suggested locations***

- junction of Lower Road and South Road
- junction of Priory Row and Priory Road
- junction of Abbey Street and Abbey Place

7. Access Policy

AW advised it was impossible to access market stalls at Court Street from the front, using her wheeled walker on the cobbles. PF suggested a brick path through the middle. AB advised that Flowpoint would be a good solution but the cost would be around £70k and KCC just didn't have the funds. GW asked how the Town Council could get this work programmed and TA asked whether Section 106 money could be use. AB advised it was already in the system, but there were strict rules what S106 could be used for. Accidents were regularly occurring and it was becoming a public safety issue. AB will report further at the next meeting.

AW advised that more dropped kerbs were required in Preston Street, there were none outside the Alexander Centre. PF noted that there were none in Quay Lane and Bridge Road either. TW had been approached about vehicles parking on the footpaths on the A2 at Ospringe, without leaving sufficient room for pushchairs or wheelchairs to pass.

It was agreed that LB would draft an access policy.

8. Any Other Business

MK noted the issue with vans parking outside the old bike shop at the junction of The Mall and Nelson Street. Complaints had been received about vans blocking the footpath access. There were double yellow lines and 20 minutes unloading was allowed. Enforcement officers had received no support from the police and the only option left now was a traffic order preventing loading, which would be put into action.

AB noted that 20's Plenty and Brenley roundabout resurfacing were on the agenda of the JTB.

PF raised the right hand turn from Preston Street into Stone Street. LB had circulated a response from Paul Brand and PF would liaise.

Reports that the perch bench at the station were noted. MK confirmed it was a standard height and had seen people of all heights using it. He will check with the manufacturer's installation guidelines and report back.

PF raised the issue of the missing coping stones at Forbes Road and asked whether bollards could be sited there. It was likely that bollards would be knocked.

COJ asked for an update on the alleged bylaw for no cycling in the alleyways, together with confirmation as to whether Swale Borough Council took the bylaw over from Faversham Borough.

TW noted that Bob Lamoon had not been successful in securing funds for the Preston Street Starling project.

TW asked for an update on traffic, 20's Plenty and the 7.5t restriction at the next meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Walkabout 17 January at 10am – request for location
PRG 24 January at 9.30am