

## **Melksham Town Council**

### **Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 21st February 2022**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor G Cooke (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor P Aves  
Councillor S Crundell  
Councillor G Ellis  
Councillor C Goodhind  
Councillor S Mortimer  
Councillor J Oatley  
Councillor S Rabey

**IN** Mike Sankey Wiltshire Councillor  
**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Linda Roberts	Town Clerk
	Christine Hunter	Committee Clerk

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, Councillor Cook chaired the meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Two members of the public were present and one member of the press was present virtually.

Anne James raised her concerns regarding Wiltshire Council's proposal to charge for disabled parking in Melksham.

It was agreed that Unitary Councillors would be asked to respond to Anne James.

Carole Fielding explained the issues she encountered as a severely sight impaired person with a guide dog when using high pavements, which included mobility scooters forcing her towards the edge of the pavement. She asked for the installation of barriers and confirmed there were no tactile or visible painted markings to indicate the edge of the pavement. The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, explained that there were historic structural reasons that prohibited the installation of barriers on the high pavements in the High Street.

It was agreed to post on the Council's social media and through the local press asking mobility scooter users on pavements to slow down. The Town Clerk agreed to ask the Wiltshire Council Highways department to install either a visible or tactile indication of the edge of the high pavement.

#### **195/21 Apologies**

Apologies were received from the Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard.

**196/21     Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**197/21     Minutes**

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Ellis and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the minutes of 31 January 2022 having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, Councillor Cooke.

**198/21     Highways Improvement Notice - audible alerts at three pedestrian crossings at the junction of Church Street and High Street, Melksham**

It was proposed by Councillor Mortimer, seconded by Councillor Ellis and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to discuss agenda items 7.2

Caroline Fielding, explained the problems she faced as a severely sight impaired person when crossing at the junction of Church Street and High Street as the three sets of traffic lights did not give an audible alert. Caroline also requested that the audible sound on the traffic light outside the Library be raised.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was proposed by Councillor Ellis, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to ask the Community Area Transport Group (CATG), to investigate the process and or/restrictions are to turning on the audible signal at the crossings at Church Street/High Street, Melksham.

**199/21     Highways Improvement Form - Eastern Way Melksham from Junction with Snowberry Lane to T junction with Camomile Place**

It was proposed by Councillor Mortimer, seconded by Councillor Ellis and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to discuss agenda item 7.5.

Councillor Sankey explained that the Highways Improvement request would be an opportunity to start the legal process of reducing the speed and weight limit of vehicles before the new housing development is built. The Town Clerk confirmed that the cost of any highways improvements would be allocated

equally between the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) and the Town Council.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was proposed by Councillor S Crundell, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to recommend to the Community Area Transport Group (CATG), the implementation of a 30mph speed limit and a 3T MGW limit from Snowberry Lane to the Western Way roundabout.

## **200/21 Planning Applications**

[PL/2021/07899](#) 1 CHURCH LANE, MELKSHAM, SN12 7EE  
Conservatory/Corridor Extension.  
**Consultation Deadline: 10/03/2022**

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor S Crundell and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to support the planning application.

## **201/21 Planning Decisions**

Members noted the following planning decisions:

[PL/2021/11712](#) INGLEWOOD HOUSE, 4 PLACE ROAD, MELKSHAM, SN12 6JN  
Row of Leylandii trees forming hedge – reduce height by one-third.  
**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection  
**Decision:** No Objection

[PL/2021/03132](#) 43 TEACHERS WAY, MELKSHAM, SN12 8FA  
Loft conversion with Velux roof lights  
**MTC Consultee Response:** No Comment  
**Decision:** Withdrawn by applicant

[PL/2021/09341](#) LIDL, BATH ROAD, MELKSHAM, SN12 8AB  
Proposed extension to existing store along with internal and external refurbishment, re-arrangement of the car park, along with ancillary works.  
**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection  
**Decision:** Approve with Conditions

[PL/2021/03172](#) 7 SANDRIDGE ROAD, MELKSHAM, SN12 7BE

Erection of a garden wall 1.5m high to front of property adjacent footpath.

**MTC Consultee Response:** No Comment

**Decision:** Withdrawn by Applicant

[PL/2021/10296](#)

14 CORFE ROAD, MELKSHAM, SN12 6BQ

Partial demolition of existing attached garage and erection of new extension to replace and extend over first floor of garage at rear. Partial removal of existing conservatory replaced with masonry construction. Construction of outbuilding to function as Home Office.

**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection

**Decision:** Approve with Conditions

[PL/2021/10094](#)

24 TRENT CRESCENT, MELKSHAM, SN12 8BG

Proposed First Floor Side Extension

**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection

**Decision:** Approve with Conditions

[PL/2021/07450](#)

LAND ADJACENT TO ELECTRICITY SUB STATION, WESTERN WAY (A350),  
MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE

Retrospective change of use of open countryside to a traveller site for up to three caravans with associated on-site car parking and the proposed construction of a day room

**MTC Consultee Response:** Object

**Decision:** Refuse

[PL/2021/10256](#)

2 QUEENSWAY, MELKSHAM, SN12 7JY

Application for the removal of no.1 unallocated lay-by parking space and creation of no.2 off street parking spaces and associated works including relocation of street furniture and turning head.

**MTC Consultee Response:** Object

**Decision:** Approve with Conditions

[PL/2021/07341](#)

3 NEW LAWNS, MELKSHAM, SN12 7UB

Retrospective) Removal of existing asphalt drive (draining into a freshwater drainage system created as part of the original construction of the property) and adjacent gravelled areas and replace with a new, printed concrete drive

**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection

**Decision:** Approve with Conditions

[PL/2021/11578](#)

70 DUNCH LANE, MELKSHAM, SN12 8DX

Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension  
**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection  
**Decision:** Approve with Conditions

[PL/2021/11635](#) 48 CHURCHILL AVENUE, MELKSHAM, SN12 7JE  
Demolish pre cast concrete garage and rear shed/link to house and replace with new linked single storey extension.  
**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection  
**Decision:** Approve with Conditions

[PL/2021/11738](#) 8 FULLERS CLOSE, MELKSHAM, SN12 7BX  
Proposed Single Storey Side extension.  
**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection  
**Decision:** Approve with Conditions

[PL/2021/09635](#) LAND REAR OF 39 WOODROW ROAD, MELKSHAM, SN12 7AY  
Erection of new dwelling.  
**MTC Consultee Response:** No Objection  
**Decision:** Refuse

## **202/21 Planning Appeal Notification 30 St Michael's Road, Melksham**

The Committee considered the planning appeal notification for 30 St Michael's Road Melksham.

It was proposed by Councillor Cooke, seconded by Councillor Oatley and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to ask the Committee Clerk to respond to Wiltshire Council objecting to the planning appeal on the following grounds:

1. loss of green space.
2. on highways grounds: traffic approaching from the direction of the school would not be able to see vehicles leaving the property.
3. on highways grounds: traffic approaching from the north-east (from the direction of the school) would not be able to see vehicles leaving the property.
4. on highways grounds: traffic leaving the property safely would have to go to the end of this no through road to turn, in order to return and egress at Semington Road. This would result in a detrimental increase in traffic congestion on this residential street and in an area used as a walk through by school children.

## **203/21 Community Area Transport Group (CATG) Issues**

### **203/21.1 Community Area Transport Group (CATG) Budget and Committed Expenditure**

The Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget and committed expenditure were noted.

**203/21.2     Highways Improvement Request Form - Wharf Court Spa Road Melksham**

Members discussed the current warning signage, Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) already in place, traffic surveys and altering the current signage to be geographically more accurate. It was agreed that Councillor Aves would produce a drawing to forward to CATG suggesting amendments to the sign.

It was proposed by Councillor Ellis, seconded by Councillor Aves and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to forward to CATG suggested amendments to existing signage on Spa Road, and recommend the words “concealed entrance” are included on the sign.

And further

It was proposed by Councillor Ellis, seconded by Councillor Mortimer and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to consider the implementation of a Community Speed Watch Group in the Spa Road area.

**203/21.3     Highways Improvement Request Form - corner of Lapwing Road and Linnet Lane, Melksham**

The Town Clerk agreed to speak to Wiltshire Council’s Highways department to obtain confirmation that the lack of pavement was an agreed Highways design standard to slow drivers down. The request was not supported.

**203/21.4     Highways Improvement Request Form - vehicular access to Snarlton Farm, Melksham**

The Committee considered areas that would be appropriate for signage for HGV vehicles.

It was proposed by Councillor S Crundell , seconded by Councillor Oatley and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to recommend to the CATG, the installation of signs on the A3102 giving drivers clear direction to Snarlton Farm.

**203/21.5 Sandridge Road - Maple Close**

The Town Clerk explained that she had been in discussion with a Melksham resident who had agreed to donate a piece of his garden to enable the footway widening of Sandridge Road- Maple Close.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Aves and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to delegate to the Town Clerk to identify the budget and proceed with the footway widening scheme at Sandridge Road to Maple Close.

**203/21.6 Correction to Traffic Survey Results - Spa Road Melksham**

Members noted the correction to the traffic survey results carried out by Wiltshire Council on Spa Road.

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Ellis and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to ask the Town Clerk to investigate the criteria on how to form Community Speed Watch Groups and present her findings for consideration at the next Economic Development and Planning Meeting on 14 March 2022.

**204/21 Proposed Pedestrian Crossing - A350 Western Way Melksham**

Members considered the proposed Pedestrian Crossing proposals for the A350 Western Way Melksham.

Following discussion it was agreed to ask the Town Clerk to write to Wiltshire Council confirming that the Town Council supported the proposed Pedestrian Crossing on the A350 Western Way Melksham

**205/21 Reinstatement of Electric Vehicle Charging Points, King Street Car Park Melksham**

Members noted the letter sent to Wiltshire Council from the Town Clerk and the response from Wiltshire Council regarding the reinstatement of electric vehicle charging points in King Street Car Park. Councillor Rabey suggested that the 7kw EV charging points being proposed at the Campus would be obsolete in a few years, and that the Town Council should be considering the infrastructure across the Melksham area and where EV charging points could be sited. Councillor S Crundell reported that Wiltshire Council had confirmed that they were amenable to Melksham Town Council installing EV points on their land.

It was agreed to ask the Town Clerk to investigate further funding for the provision of EV charging points and that the Town Council should use the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan to support EV charging points within the town.

#### **206/21 Amended Pre-Consultation on Parking Restrictions for Melksham Campus**

Following discussion it was agreed that the Committee Clerk would write to Wiltshire Council with the following comments on the proposed restrictions for the Melksham Campus:

1. The Committee does not support the charging of parking fees at the Campus as it is not compatible with other Wiltshire Council leisure and library facilities. This is a car park to access leisure and recreational facilities.
2. The car park is for Campus users and there is no evidence in the document that links Campus use to use of the car park. Would Campus users be charged for car parking the same as non-users of the Campus? Those who access the Campus should not have to pay for parking.
3. Would Wiltshire Council be investigating ways to identify Campus users from those who are using the Campus car park for other reasons?
4. People accessing the Campus would already be paying to use the leisure facilities and would not expect to pay extra to park to use these facilities, which is unlike other leisure facility car parks.
5. The Campus car park is not just for access to a leisure centre, there would be community assets available to members of the public, i.e., the library. Wiltshire Council actively promotes keeping libraries open but appear to be charging members of the public to use a public service.
6. If Wiltshire Council does enforce parking fees for users of the Campus leisure centre, would they be treating all other leisure centre car parks equally and retrospectively levy car parking charges as a precedent has been set?
7. The documentation shows the minimum Wiltshire Council car parking fee in Melksham as 30p, this is incorrect. The Wiltshire Council current minimum parking charge in Melksham is 40p, with car parking fees due to rise.

#### **207/21 Sparkle Team and Parish Steward**

Members asked for the following jobs to be forwarded for action by the Sparkle Team/Parish Steward:

- Clean graffiti in the KGV park.
- Clean graffiti from the inside of the telephone box in the Market Place.
- Organise regular cleaning of the subway with a pressure washer.



Meeting Closed at: 8.52 pm

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:**