

## **Planning and Highways Delegations Committee**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 February 2021 at 2pm on Microsoft Teams (virtual meeting)**

#### **Voting Members Present:**

Cllr Martin Wilby (Chair)	Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure
Cllr Andy Grant (Vice-Chair)	Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste
Cllr Graham Plant	Deputy Leader

#### **Non-Voting Members Present:**

Cllr Mick Castle	Planning (Regulatory) Committee Independent Group Spokesperson
Cllr Colin Foulger	Planning (Regulatory) Committee Chair
Cllr Brian Long	Planning (Regulatory) Committee Vice-Chair
Cllr Eric Seward	Planning (Regulatory) Committee Liberal Democrat Group Spokesperson

#### **Officers Present:**

David Cumming	Strategic Transport Team Manager
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#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

1.1 No apologies were received; Cllr David Collis was absent.

#### **2. Election of Chair**

2.1 Cllr Martin Wilby was duly elected as Chair for the ensuing Council year.

#### **3. Election of Vice-Chair**

3.1 Cllr Grant was duly elected as Vice-Chair for the ensuing Council year.

#### **4. Minutes**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **5. Declarations of Interest**

5.1 There were no interests declared.

#### **6. Urgent Business**

6.1 There was no urgent business discussed.

#### **7. A47 Blofield to Burlingham Dualling**

7.1.1 The Committee received the report dealing with consultation by the Planning

Inspectorate on a proposal by Highways England on proposals to dual the A47 between Blofield and Burlingham. The project was deemed to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and would be determined by the Secretary of State.

- 7.1.2 The Strategic Transport Team Manager introduced the report to the Committee:
- When responding to the consultation, officers intended to mark the Council as an interested party and outline the Council's views on the project to prepare for the examination process. There would be 3 months to prepare followed by a pre-examination meeting prior to moving to examination of the scheme.
  - The Planning Inspectorate would make recommendations to the Secretary of State who would then have three months to make the final decision on whether to grant approval of the scheme.
  - If granted the scheme was forecast to start in January 2022 and finish in 2024-25.
  - The report to Committee set out the Council's draft response to the Planning Inspectorate for their agreement.

- 7.2 The following points were discussed and noted:
- Some of the consultation had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and it was therefore queried if enough time was available for all necessary paperwork to be completed. The Strategic Transport Team Manager confirmed that there was a team of specialists in place to complete such applications and was confident the paperwork would be completed in time for submission. The 28 day period started on Friday 26 February 2021 allowing time for officers to refine the Council's response; it was unlikely that the response would differ greatly from that shown in the report although documents not available at time of writing the report would need reviewing and this may result in some changes.
  - Cllr Eric Seward arrived at 14:09
  - Concerns were raised about officers not being able to access the Planning Inspectorate website for a period of time. The full suite of documents was now available to view on the website and the Strategic Transport Team Manager did not think the late receipt of these documents would greatly affect the submission.
  - Areas of concern outlined in the report would continue to be discussed. These could be addressed at examination if not addressed by this point.
  - Concerns were discussed about ongoing costs to the Council following the detrunking at North Burlingham. Discussions were ongoing with Highways England about this including the option of the Council paying for ongoing maintenance or bringing the road up to a higher standard. It was hoped that progress would be made on this before the application was put in.
  - The Strategic Transport Team Manager clarified that condition reports were required to confirm the condition of the road and discussions were ongoing.
  - Members discussed the lack of provision in the Development Consent Order plans for non-motorised users between Lingwood and Burlingham and agreed that it was important for a footbridge to be provided here. Highways England had undertaken surveys about provision for people walking and cycling in this area which showed few people crossed the A47, providing justification for them to not provide such provision. The Members of the Committee asked officers to pursue provision of a footbridge here with Highways England.
  - Side road junctions along the scheme would be stopped and access would instead be via overbridges

The Committee:

1. **SUPPORTED** the principle of dualling the A47 between Blofield and Burlingham subject to:

- (a) The implementation of appropriate highway, historic environment, and surface water conditions / requirements being resolved through the DCO process
  - (b) The detailed comments set out in this report being addressed through the DCO process.
2. **ASKED** officers to ask Highways England to install an overbridge for pedestrians and cyclists between Lingwood and Burlingham
  3. **DELEGATED** the approval of the final response to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure.

The meeting ended at 14:31

#### **CHAIRMAN**



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