**Minutes of the Aylsham Town Council Traffic Group Meeting held on Wednesday 31st March 2021**

Present:

Trevor Bennett David Harrison

Clare Alban Barry Lancaster

Andy Christie Richard Laxen

Gordon Clarke Pat Prekopp

Rebecca Davies Steve Riley

David Faulkner Arthur Rope

Catherine Fletcher Eileen Springall

Nicholas Haag Ginny Sylvester

Sue Lake Wendy Murphy

**1. Election of Chairman**

Trevor Bennett was proposed and **AGREED**.

**2. Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves and how they used the town i.e. foot, cycle car etc.

**3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from:

Joan Bennett Annette Overton

Dave Curtis Val Shaw

Lynda Hartley

**4. Declarations of interest**

None declared

**5. To receive Terms of Reference**

These were agreed at the last Town Council meeting.

There was a query re the purpose – to prepare a report on changes does this mean that changes must be made. This was clarified as not necessary.

Members felt they were wide enough

**6. To receive details of the reasoning behind the formation of the group**

David Harrison advised during his years as a County Councillor he had always wrestled with what is best for the town and the residents of individual areas. Do we set a high target or what is achievable – especially with regard to Red Lion Street. Previous reports etc. have led to no real action.

It was hoped to start high and lower expectations to meet requirements and budgets

It was also hoped by forming a group such as this that new ideas that others haven’t mentioned before would be forthcoming

To meet issues of new developments

**7. To discuss overall aims of the group**

It was agreed that an aim was a pre-requisite along the lines something that would improve the whole situation of parking and movement in Aylsham without a detrimental effect on other areas. There is a need to make residents and visitors aware of all the issues. The Red Lion Street experiment highlighted this.

It was felt necessary not to simply pass any issue on to another road.

However, any move to change will have an effect on everyone but someone will need to be aware that they may be more effected than others and that prejudice should not override the discussion.

Before we engage the public need a clear statement of no more than 20 words which will inform everyone.

The chairman and Town Clerk will write an aim for others to comment on

**8. To detail issues of traffic management that effect Aylsham to include but not limited to:-**

* Parking
* Speeding
* Traffic traversing the town
* Narrow Roads
* Buses, sizes and routes
* Pedestrians, lack of pavements and size and quality of pavements
* Age profile of residents
* Size and number of cars
* Lack of electric charging points
* One-way systems have tried but not worked
* Impact of new developments
* School Runs

It was asked what is missing from this list?

The following were highlighted

* Danger spots i.e. top of Sandy Lane
* Walkers – different to pedestrians
* Cop 26

**9. To set a task and priority list as a result of discussion of Item 8**

It was felt that the impact of new developments was a priority as if the GNLP is passed in its current state then plans for the two developments will come fairly quickly. The new developments will exacerbate all the problems and if not careful we will be trying to play catch up

It was noted that councillors are familiar with all the issues so could non-councillors get the information. The Town Clerk will look at providing this to all members.

It was also suggested that the group look at modelling – as that would reinforce issues with GNLP however it would involve costs

Studies on previous reports did not include traffic flows. It was suggested there may be the potential of U3A members doing surveys. There is also the SAM2 data that can be used

The second priority after developments would be the buses – size, routes etc and we would look at inviting Saunders

Don’t forget pedestrians – as they have the biggest problem of all especially those with buggies and school children

**10. How to consult with residents**

First thing is to approach the public – an informal consultation which can inform the group and to use as many different approaches as possible. It was felt that zoom might make people less likely to be involved.

Eileen Springall advised that she was a great believer in approaching people direct and would be happy to stand in the Market Place on a Monday.

The recent issues have split the community. Business owners – shame not represented on this group but they also are also split on the issues. Do need to be aware of potential direct abuse – especially online

It was suggested anything that related directly to one particular area should have direct contact via a questionnaire.

**11. Consideration of input of consultants**

There is no direct budget for consultants but there is funding in general reserves that can be used if agreed by the Town Council.

Everyone agreed that consultants would be required but they need to be given detailed parameters etc.

Need to get an idea of what is wanted before new building commences

It was also agreed that a common map needs to be prepared for everyone to use. Rather than a detailed map maybe something along the lines of the London underground map.

The other important issue is a timeline with gateways and targeted dates – Gordon Clark agreed to assist with this.

**12. Plans for future meetings**

It was agreed to meet monthly and make that the last Wednesday of the month. Therefore the next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday April 28th 2021.

The meeting closed at 9pm.