

Minutes of the Education Transport Appeals Committee Meeting held on 18 July 2016 at 10:00 am in the Millicent Room, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

Present: Councillors Nick Barber (Chairman), Caroline Page (Vice Chairman) and Kathy Bole.

Supporting officers present: Sally Harper (Passenger Transport Manager), Jason Bown (Alpha Consultants, Principal Consultant) and Mags Lambert (Resource Manager (Admissions and Transport))

1. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Janet Craig who was substituted by Councillor Kathy Bole.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillor Kathy Bole declared an non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 09 by virtue of the fact that she was the County Councillor for Whitehouse and Whitton. Councillor Bole confirmed that she had not been involved in the appeal.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2016 were confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Information Bulletin

The Committee noted the information Bulletin.

5. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

6. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Decision: The Committee agreed that the public (including the press) should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of Agenda Items 7 to 9 on the grounds that:

- a) it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as referred to under Parts 1 to 3 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended); and
- b) in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Committee agreed to alter the order of business as reflected in the minutes.

7. Lavenham to Heddingham School, Essex and St John the Baptist Primary School, Essex.

The Committee received a report at agenda item 7 which concerned an appeal for free home-to-school transport lodged by a parent whose child attended Heddingham School, Essex and St John the Baptist Primary School. The appeal was on the grounds of the parent's medical condition and other exceptional circumstances. The appellant was present at the meeting and addressed the Committee.

Decision: The Committee resolved to uphold the appeal.

Reason for decision: The Committee agreed that the circumstances of the case were sufficiently exceptional for free home to school transport to be granted but agreed that the family circumstances would be reviewed on a termly basis.

Alternative options: None considered.

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Dispensations: None reported.

8. Ipswich to Stone Lodge Academy

The Committee received a report at agenda item 9 which concerned an appeal for free home-to-school transport lodged by a parent whose child attended Stone Lodge Academy. The appeal was on the grounds of disagreement with the distance measurement between home and school and the child's special needs or medical condition. The appellant was present at the meeting and addressed the Committee.

Decision: The Committee resolved not to uphold the appeal.

Reason for decision: The Committee was not convinced that the circumstances were sufficiently exceptional to uphold the appeal.

Alternative options: None Considered.

Declarations of interest: Councillor Kathy Bole declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 09 by virtue of the fact that she was the County Councillor for Whitehouse and Whitton. Councillor Bole confirmed that she had not been involved in the appeal.

Dispensations: None reported.

9. Benhall to Saxmundham Free School

The Committee received a report at agenda item 8 which concerned an appeal for free home-to-school transport lodged by a parent whose child attended Saxmundham Free School. The appeal was on the grounds of the parent's medical condition and the safety of the walking route for an accompanied child pedestrian. Prior to the meeting, the Committee walked the route, accompanied by the appellant. The appellant was invited to attend the meeting, but was unable to be present.

Decision: The Committee resolved not to uphold the appeal.

Reason for decision: The Committee agreed that with the clearance of encroaching vegetation, the alternative route, section B1-B4 as shown on the map attached to the road safety report, was not dangerous for a child pedestrian accompanied by a responsible adult because the route has reasonable visibility and an available footway.

The Committee also considered the parent's medical condition and was not convinced that the circumstances were sufficiently exceptional to uphold the appeal.

Alternative options: None Considered.

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Dispensations: None reported.

The meeting closed at 11.58am.

Chairman