

Minutes of the Education Transport Appeals Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2016 at 10:00am in the Millicent Room, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

Due to bad weather conditions in the morning of Tuesday 22 November 2016, which had delayed the arrival of officers and a committee member, the Chairman decided to adjourn the meeting at 10.00am.

The Committee resumed at 11.00am

Present: Councillors Nick Barber (Chairman), Caroline Page (Vice Chairman) and Sandra Gage

Supporting officers present: Kirsty Marjoram (Business and Information Manager, Passenger Transport), Jason Bown (Alpha Consultants, Principal Consultant), Mags Lambert (Resource Manager, Admissions and Transport) and Helen Taber-French (Committee Administrator).

26. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Janet Craig who was substituted by Councillor Sandra Gage.

27. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There was no declarations of interests or dispensations.

28. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2016, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

30. Information Bulletin

The Committee noted the Information Bulletin.

31. 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 Item 7 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.

32. Wortham to Hartismere High School

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 Hartismere High School. The appeal was on the grounds of the safety of the walking route for an accompanied child pedestrian, and so prior to the meeting, the Committee walked the route, accompanied by the appellant.

Decision: The Committee resolved not to uphold the appeal.

Reason for decision: The Committee agreed that the route was not dangerous for an accompanied child pedestrian. Whilst the Committee recognised that visibility was restricted in places, the Committee agreed that due to the short distance of the route, the availability of adequate step offs and low traffic flows, the route was not dangerous for a child pedestrian accompanied by a responsible adult.

The Committee agreed that officers should contact the Highways Department to firstly, highlight the importance of maintenance along this route by ensuring that overgrown vegetation is cut back, as raised by the Road Safety Officer. Secondly, to discuss the use of signage raising awareness of the bus stop and of school children using the route.

Therefore, the Committee did not uphold the appeal.

Alternative options: None considered

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Dispensations: None reported.

The meeting closed at 11.33am

Chairman