

Minutes of the Education Transport Appeals Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2016 at 10:42 am in the Millicent Room, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

Present: Councillors Nick Barber (Chairman), Caroline Page (Vice Chairman) and Janet Craig.

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).

33. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

There were no apologies for absence or substitutions.

34. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There was no declarations of interests of dispensations.

35. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

37. Information Bulletin.

The Committee noted the Information Bulletin.

38. 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.

39. Westerfield to Northgate 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 Northgate High School. The appeal was on the grounds of the child's special needs or medical condition and the safety of the walking route for an accompanied child pedestrian, and so prior to the meeting, the Committee

walked the route. 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 the route was not dangerous for an accompanied child pedestrian because the route provided adequate step-offs and the visibility was good. The Committee agreed that although the level crossing is unmanned, it adhered to regulations, therefore the Committee felt it was safe to cross. Therefore, the Committee did not uphold the appeal.

The Committee was unable to consider the child's special needs or medical condition as no evidence was submitted.

Alternative options: None considered.

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Dispensations: None reported.

Before the close of business, the Committee discussed the need for Education Transport to be considered as part of development planning for small residential sites. It was suggested that as part of the planning process, consideration should be given to how children will get to school on foot. The Committee was advised that the Passenger Transport team was currently working with the Development Control team in respect of policies and procedures, and would also be refining the definitions of public right of ways.

The meeting closed at 11.16am.

Chairman