

THE PARISH OF LOWER HEYFORD

Minutes of a Parish Meeting held on Thursday 22nd February 2007
in the Village Hall starting at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr Alan Humberstone (Chairman of the Parish Council)
Mr Roger Bowen (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Mr Andy Milne (Network Rail)
Mr Tom Green (Network Rail)

Mr Peter Brown (Oxfordshire County Council)

Parish Councillors Robin Hepworth and Peter John, 13 other electors, 3 other residents and 2 visitors (Rousham PM)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Denise Ball
2. REPLACEMENT OF STATION ROAD RAILWAY BRIDGE NETWORK RAIL/OCC PROJECT
 - a) Open – The Chairman welcomed the parishioners and guests and opened the meeting before handing over to Network Rail Project Manager, Andy Milne
 - b) Introduction – Mr Milne delivered a broad outline of the project to replace the aged and corroded bridge, in respect of which strengthening was not an option, with a new one fit for contemporary requirements, before introducing his Scheme Project Manager, Tom Green
 - c) The project – Mr Green gave a slide presentation the details of which are summarised as follows:
 - i) Responsibility – Works being carried out by Network Rail and jointly funded by NR/OCC
 - ii) The new bridge (depiction viewed) – Design primarily driven by function and some amendments made to satisfy the wishes of Cherwell District Council planners; new substructures needed which will be built next to the existing and parapets to be blue to match the station footbridge (see also ‘Questions) below)
 - iii) Programme of work Nov 2007 to Mar 2008 – Construction of temporary footbridge/related diversion of services; demolition of bridge deck; construction of new bridge supports and emplacement of new bridge deck
 - iv) Enabling works to be carried out November to December 2007 – footbridge installation; service diversions and platform works
 - v) Concluding works to March 2008 – reconstruction of road over new rail bridge and refurbishment of canal span
 - vi) Effects – Railway closed Sundays 6th and 13th January (both 30 hours in all); no other effect on train services (*though no Sunday services from Heyford in the winter*); during service diversions old bridge to be controlled by traffic lights; pedestrian access to be maintained across the bridge at all times by temporary footbridge; alternative parking facilities to be provided on both sides of the bridge for station users; Station Yard (former Trackway site) to accommodate a works compound; large crane to be in use during the demolition and for landing the new bridge beams; diversion route via Enslow to be signed (no doubt local people will use the route via Somerton); alternatives for bus services affected (*minimal*) will be provided and **the road will be closed from January to March 2008**

- d) Questions (*the summary which follows includes issues raised during the presentation*)
 - i) Height – New bridge only some 100mm (4 inches) higher, but would accommodate all current rail traffic, unless the line should be electrified, in which case the design incorporated the facility for it to be jacked up
 - ii) Colour – There was support for this being green rather than blue (see c (ii) above) with holly green being specifically proposed, and the Network Rail representatives agreed that a change of colour was a possibility
 - iii) Pupils attending schools in Tackley and Steeple Aston – The OCC representative agreed to investigate the possibility of making some arrangements, though it had been acknowledged that OCC school transport to the village’s catchment area primary school in Fritwell was not affected
 - iv) New road in comparison to existing – Confirmed was planned to be as existing
 - v) Canal traffic and towpath access – It was confirmed that no closures in this respect had been sought
 - v) Temporary bridge planned for the southside – Network Rail agreed to investigate any possibility of moving this to the northside
 - vi) Cyclists – Confirmed that they would be able to use the temporary footbridge
 - vii) Current temporary weight limit – Confirmed that this would be lifted when new bridge was brought into operation
 - viii) Works in vicinity – OCC agreed to investigate the possibility of some needed works being carried out whilst the bridge works were in progress
 - ix) Low level lighting on bridge parapet to illuminate the footway across – OCC advised that they would not be prepared to undertake this
 - x) Width of footway across bridge – OCC agreed to investigate what would be minimal opportunities to widen this
 - xi) Night work – Confirmed there would be some in November and that the new bridge emplacement would take place overnight
- e) Future liaison – Andy Milne (Network Rail) suggested in conclusion that a further such Parish Meeting might be held as the preparatory work progresses

The Chairman thanked the guest speakers from Network Rail and OCC for their time and trouble and the members of the public for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.45pm

..... Chairman