**Minutes of the Traffic & Transport & Environment Committee Meeting (TTE) held on 30th June 2025 at Saddleworth Civic Hall at 5.30pm**

Present: Cllr B Beeley (Chair), Cllr K Phillips (Vice Chair), Cllr P Gaul, Cllr M Powell, Cllr D Wall, Cllr B Witt

Paul Clegg (Dobcross Village Community), Paul Sykes (SACG).Ken Bennett, journalist.

Apologies: Cllr E Adamson, Cllr S. Al-Hamdani, Cllr H Bishop, Cllr A Marland,

Cllr J Garner, Mrs T Rhodes

1. Declarations of interest: None declared

**2. Warren Andrew (Mersey Rivers) Presentation.**

Cllr Beeley introduced Mr Andrew, the Trust Project Manager, and he gave a presentation to the meeting.

The Mersey Rivers Trust, who work in partnership with the Environment Agency to improve local rivers and waterways, has obtained match funding to engage with local land owners, volunteers and community groups to target the spread of Knotweed along the banks of the River Tame and its tributaries in and around Saddleworth.

They are currently looking for volunteers who are passionate about making a difference in their local environment, specifically in tackling Non-Native Invasive Species such as Japanese Knotweed, Giant Knotweed and the more fertile and quickly spreading Bohemian Knotweed, which is plaguing our riverbanks. Community groups, friends of groups, individuals and landowners are all welcome.

Mersey Rivers Trust are offering free training for volunteers to help manage these invasive species, and to monitor water quality and aquatic invertebrates in the River Tame and its tributaries, in and around Saddleworth. The funding they have obtained would be used for full training by a team of environmental experts and equipment provided before they would be allowed to work on specific sites.

This is a fantastic opportunity for those who want to get involved in preserving and improving our natural surroundings for the environment, wildlife, and people.

I believe this initiative can significantly contribute towards mitigating the threat posed by Japanese Knotweed and ensure the health of our rivers and aquatic life. If you know anyone who might be interested or if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Treatment should be twice a year in May and September.

Warren answered some questions from Councillors regarding the treatment methods and available funding.

The next round of treatment is September. It was agreed that a public meeting would be arranged for Monday 21st July at 7pm at the Civic Hall for any interested parties to attend. Ken Bennett would publish a report and the Clerk would contact all the Community groups inviting them to the meeting. Warren would prepare the funding bid and apply for permission.

**3. Minutes from Environment meeting held 14th April 2025.**

These were accepted as a true record and signed at the meeting by the Chair of the Committee.

**4. Minutes from Traffic & Transport meeting held 6th March 2025**

These were accepted as a true record and signed at the meeting by the Chair of the Committee.

**5. Matters Arising**

* **Environment**

Cllr Wall advised that Diggle Rifle Range had kindly sent photographic evidence of the signage they had installed warning public access was closed with alternative access points signposted. It was agreed the Clerk would send a thank you from the Committee to them for providing this.

Grouse Shooting/Rewilding Policy. Cllr Wall confirmed that despite our best efforts with three attempts to contact them, we had been unable to arrange a meeting with the Upperwood Estate to listen to their concerns. It was agreed that this item would be added to the agenda of the next meeting and Cllr Wall would prepare a summary in advance of the meeting.

The Community toilet scheme is now under the remit of the Asset Management Committee. But the Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Garner as he has offered to distribute the new signs he has had printed at the different venues.

It was agreed the Clerk would send the list of participating businesses of the Community Toilet Scheme to Mr Bennett.

* **Traffic**

The update received from Highways was shared and discussed.

Platting Road & Doctor Lane – A high friction surface and improved signage is being installed. It was agreed SPC would continue to monitor this.

Lower Turf Lane & Huddersfield Rd – Mr Sykes advised that the solution offered by OMBC would have made the situation worse and there are no other options on the table.

**Concerns not yet addressed from the last meeting re listed below:**

-Diggle to Standedge - no right turn signage out of Diggle needs replacing with a large, bolder sign.

**SPC suggested that a large warning no right turn sign be painted on the carriageway and/or provide a larger, more visible sign as you come out of Diggle village.**

Cllr Beeley to doublecheck if this has been completed.

Cllr Phillips advises that the signage on the Dobcross mini roundabout is not clear when coming from Diggle. A number of incidents recently when cars have lost control**.**

Highways please can you inspect?

-Since Clough House (once the famous Doris and Joan hairdressers) has been renovated there are instances of vehicles parking and blocking the pavement. There is already one yellow line there but it needs a double one. The pavement is at 2 levels and when vehicles are parked there the normal level is blocked. The lower one with 2 steps down is not well lit and not accessible by wheelchairs or prams which are then forced into a very busy road. Oldham Road narrows at this point and matters are worse because of vehicles parking opposite. (Today 14th March about 2pm the road was reduced to one lane because of parked vehicles on either side)

Cllr Marland is following this up with Highways to ascertain when the TRO will be implemented.

-Cllr Beeley Junction of Stamford Rd with Oldham Rd, Waterhead/Springhead.

Councillors request again that the double yellow lines are extended outside the

old launderette as this is a very dangerous junction.

Highways please investigate and advise.

**6. Public Questions**

* **Environment -** None received
* **Traffic -**None received

**7. New Concerns to report**

* **Environment -** None received
* **Traffic**

Cllr Beeley shared an email received from GMP in answer to Cllr Marland’s request on how the Parish can support the Speed Watch Scheme. They advised a recruitment drive has been carried out and these volunteers are currently being vetted before an induction in the next few weeks. In terms of support, they will be able to share where the volunteers are operating and when Councillors can join them.

Mr Sykes raised a concern re Stamford Rd, the new speed cushions on Stamford Rd, especially those on the corner by Hey Church, where Stamford Rd meets St John St. This is one of a number of complaints concerning the recent changes to the road. Drivers must pull out into the middle of the road to turn left.

Highways please can you inspect?

Cllr Powell raised a concern on a parking issue from North Nook onto Thorpe Lane. Thorpe Close is a cul de sac with 3 vans and 4 cars regularly parked in the turning area so there is no space for emergency vehicles.

Highways please can you inspect?

Mr Clegg advised that in Dobcross, as well as across the borough, more than half of the gulleys are full of plants and so are inefficient in clearing water during heavy rain, giving rise to flooding issues on Wood Lane. We understand there is a programme of clearance across the borough but this area has not been done for a number of years.

Highways please can you inspect?

Cllr Wall advised that the footpath on Long Lane, Greenfield is part of Oldham Way when it crosses from Binn Green. Off road dirtbikers are being a nuisance and damaging the footpath. Signage up but ignored. Grid reference Dick Clough SE 0106904182.

GMP and Highways are requested to monitor.

Cllr Beeley updated the meeting on the campaign to save Moorgate Crossing. Network Rail are conducting a works review and we are hoping for a public enquiry. The next meeting of the Moorgate Action Group is 15 July 7pm at the Civic Hall.

Cllr Beeley raised a concern from Cllr Garner regarding the loss of the 356 bus in Friezland. It was agreed the Clerk would forward this to TfGM copying in Mayor Burnham and the Bee Network requesting it is reinstated.

**8. Format of Meeting/Terms of Reference to be agreed**

It was agreed Cllrs Beeley & Phillips would meet to discuss and agree this.

**9. Energy Saving Civic Hall – Funding Streams**

Cllr Phillips advised the Environment Committee had been exploring options to reduce the carbon footprint of the Civic Hall and we have been trying to reduce the energy usage. Solar panels may be an option but we are in a conservation area. She suggested the Committee explore ideas for funding and it was agreed to add this to the next agenda.

**10. Items for the next agenda**

Terms of Reference - for approval

Summary Report & Policy Proposal Games Shooting. Policy

Invasive none natural Species River Tame – follow up

Energy saving – Funding Streams

**Next meeting: Monday 8th September at 6pm.**