



**Minutes of an extra meeting of the FULL COUNCIL
to consider the resurfacing of Ongar High Street.
Held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, BANSONS, BANSONS WAY, ONGAR
Tuesday 20th August 2019.**

325/19 Those present and apologies for absence

Chairman Cllr Birch

Councillors Azzopardi, Battersby Browning, Dadd, Freeman, Mendoza, Reynolds, Vaz,

The Clerk, Alex Burghart M.P., five members of the public

Resolved. The council to record and accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Cole and Feetham. Proposed Cllr Reynolds seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

326/19 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

There were no declarations of interest

327/19 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda previously notified to the Clerk.

A resident asked for clarification about the extent of the resurfacing and what will happen to repairs outside that area and what arrangements have been made for footways. He supported the idea of the embossed surface and requests that the council be imaginative about the colour chosen.

328/19 To consider approving Prismo Imprint surfacing for use in Ongar High Street

The Chairman reminded the Council that the work necessary to fit setts would require an eight week, 24 hour a day closure of the whole High Street with a 28 mile diversion for through traffic. There is no budget for this choice and insufficient time to complete the work in the foreseeable future. The advice from Essex Highways is that setts are not a practicable option. It was acknowledged that the County Council is the senior partners in this project, and County Councillor McEwen is to be thanked for pursuing the matter on OTCs behalf.

If tarmac is chosen. The road will be closed overnight for three weeks, if impression is also chosen, that will take another week of night closure. Budget is available and could be done in current year.

The embossing is seen as a good compromise, but Councillors were concerned about making-good after repairs by utility companies. Essex Highways claim that there is no requirement for repairs to be made to the same standard or finish but Cllr Dadd reports that there is an obligation to repair to the same standard as the surrounding road if imprint is chosen. The Highways Authority will make-good by re-instating the imprint after repair at their own expense, but this will not be a priority.

Concern was expressed about the poor state of the existing setts, but it has been explained that they did not have the correct base and substrate. As a consequence, they were not well-supported and cannot resist the weight of traffic. Whatever decision the Council makes, these setts will be lifted and replaced by tarmac as a temporary measure.

It was understood that there is outstanding work to be done on sewage pipes outside Budworth Hall, and the council should require the work to be done first.

Speaking against the idea of impressed tarmac, the Council were reminded that in December 2018, minute 157/18 recorded a unanimous decision to choose setts, and some Councillors saw no reason why this should not be upheld. Observations from other streets show that embossing does not wear well and is difficult to repair.

Cllr Dadd summarised the Neighbourhood Planning point of view by noting that although setts would be attractive and more in keeping with the historic aspect of the high street, a pragmatic compromise is needed. The embossed tarmac would give most of the benefits.

Before considering the motion, a recorded vote was demanded.

Motion. The Council approves the use of Prismo Imprint surfacing for use in Ongar High Street. Proposed Cllr Dadd seconded Cllr Battersby. With three votes in favour, five against and one abstention the **motion failed**.

In favour	Cllrs Battersby, Birch, Dadd,
Against,	Cllrs Azzopardi, Browning, Freeman, Mendoza, Reynolds.
Abstained	Cllr Vaz.

The Council's position remains unchanged and the Clerk will write to Essex Highways informing them of the decision and request a timetable for the work to be done.

329/19 Items for next agenda.

There were no items for the next agenda