

MINUTES of the Highways & Streetscene Committee of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 14th January, 2019 at St. Barnabas Church, Beanacre at 8.15p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Alan Baines (Committee Chair), Richard Wood (Council Chair), John Glover (Council Vice-Chair), Paul Carter, Terry Chivers, David Pafford and Robert Shea-Simonds.

Officers: Teresa Strange (Clerk) and Jo Eccleston (Parish Officer).

Housekeeping: Cllr. Baines welcomed all to the meeting and explained the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire.

375/18 **Apologies:** None.

376/18 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

377/18 **Dispensation Requests:** None.

The Council suspended Standing Orders for a period of public participation.

378/18 **Public Participation:**

A Resident of Norrington Lane wished to speak about agenda item 7d, feedback arising from her previous request under Min228/18c (Highways & Streetscene Committee Meeting 3rd September 2018). She had requested a reduction in speed limit on Norrington Lane from 60mph to 30/40mph and the installation of a footway on the eastern side of Shaw Hill, from the junction of Norrington Lane towards the traffic lights, to enable her to walk to school with her child. She stated that since September she had walked to school every day and that when the weather was windy that she could not hear the traffic. She felt that this was a problem as crossing from Shaw Hill into Norrington Lane she had to rely on listening out for traffic as she could not see if traffic was approaching due to the bend in the road. She reported that she had had a near miss when crossing the road which had been a frightening experience. She said that she had tried walking on the grass verge, but there were lots of brambles and her child had tripped on these. She said that when walking on the footway on the western side of the A365 that when it rained there were lots of puddles which forced her and her child to walk on the edge of the pavement to avoid them. She understood the Parish Council's previous recommendation, that it did not support the provision of a crossing due to the cost implications, but she felt that the installation of a pavement was not too much to ask.

A member asked her where she currently crossed the A365 on Shaw Hill to get to Norrington Lane. She replied that crossing from Norrington Lane onto Shaw Hill was not a problem as you could see the traffic from both sides. On her return journey she advised that she walked just past the entrance to Norrington Lane in the direction of Atworth so that she could see approaching traffic from Atworth direction, but that she still could not see traffic approaching from the Shaw direction

The Council reconvened and agreed to bring forward agenda item 7d.

379/18 **Resident's Requests:**

- a) **Update and Potential Further Action RE Request for 30/40mph Limit on Norrington Lane and Installation of Footway on Shaw Hill (arising from Min.228/18c):** Cllr. Baines, as the Parish Council CATG representative, gave an update on the two issues which the resident had requested. He explained that with regard to the request for a speed limit change, that a metrocount to establish volume and speed of traffic using this road had been carried out, and the data collected showed that this road did not qualify for a change in speed limit. Based on this information CATG closed this issue.
- With regard to the provision of a footway, it was noted that there was a footway on the northern side of Shaw Hill and that this request was for a new footway on the southern side. This issue had been discussed informally with a Highway's Officer who felt that there could be a difficulty with the creation of a footway in this location as the verge was on an embankment which dropped steeply away to a ditch, and would probably require substantial foundations which in turn would affect the cost. Any footway would also need to be long enough to enable pedestrians to cross the A365 safely away from the apex of the bend; the Highways Authority would not allow the installation of a new footway in a location which encouraged pedestrians to cross where it was not safe to do so.
- It was queried whether the Parish Council could request that any cost was met from the "Substantive Fund". Cllr. Baines advised that the Highway Substantive Fund was a county wide fund and that to apply for this, a survey of pedestrian movements would be required in order to establish the number of people who would use a new footway. Some of the cost of any survey would need to be met by the Parish Council, and would need to show that there were enough pedestrian movements to justify being awarded any funding. It was noted that currently there was only one resident crossing this road to walk their child to school from Norrington Lane; with the possibility of another parent as of September 2019. Additionally, the resident had reported that half a dozen dog walkers also cross this road on a daily basis. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council raise a CATG issue to seek information about how far down Shaw Hill a footway would have to go to enable pedestrians to cross safely and investigate any indicative costs.*

380/18 **Documents & Correspondence:**

- a) **Minutes of Last Highways and Streetscene Committee, 3rd September 2018:** The members noted the minutes and any actions which had been taken from the previous recommendations.
- b) **Wiltshire Council Highway Newsletter – September, October, December 2018:** The members noted these newsletters.

381/18 **CATG (Community Area Transport Group) Meeting, 18th October, 2018:**

- a) **Actions/Log of CATG meeting:** It was noted that all issues were either completed or CATG had recommended that the Area Board closed them down. The one exception was the bus gate at Outmarsh which was on hold with CATG pending further information and was also a separate agenda item for this meeting.

b) Actions Following CATG meeting: None.

382/18 **Resident's Requests:**

- a) Request for "Children Playing" sign at the Beeches, Shaw:** A request had been received from residents of the Beeches in Shaw for a "children playing" sign at the Beeches. Members noted that the children's play area on the Shaw Hill Recreation Field is enclosed with fencing for safety, and that if children were just generally playing out in the streets or crossing to get to the play area that their safety was down to parental responsibility. It was additionally noted that there weren't any "children playing" signs at any of the other parish council owned or maintained play areas. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council do not support this request.*
- b) Request for sign for Swift Way (off Westinghouse Way, Bowerhill):** It had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that there was no street signage informing drivers of the location of Swift Way, just off Westinghouse Way. It was noted that Swift Way was shown on Google Maps. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council contact Wiltshire Council Street Naming Department to inform them that there has never been a street sign for Swift Way and to request that one is installed.*
- c) Request for "No Overnight Lorry Parking, Access Required" sign for layby on A350 at Beanacre outside St. Barnabas Church:** A request had been received for a "No overnight lorry parking" sign in the layby outside St. Barnabas Church as the resident felt that the layby was not wide enough to accommodate articulated lorries. Correspondence had also been received requesting that the Parish Council did not support this request, as there are no formal HGV parking facilities in either the parish or Melksham Town, and thus HGV drivers must park where they can. Some members concurred with the latter as they acknowledged that it was very difficult for drivers to find somewhere to stop in order to meet with the requirements of their permitted driving hours. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council do not support this request.*
- d) Concerns Raised Regarding Shaw Traffic Lights:** The Wiltshire Council ward member had raised resident's concerns with regard to the timings of the traffic lights at the bottom of Shaw Hill, as the resident felt that drivers were jumping the lights. It was additionally noted that officers had reported some of the lights not working on a couple of occasions. The Wiltshire Council senior Traffic Engineer had replied to say that these lights were now 21 years old, but that unfortunately there were older signal controller units in the County that would take priority with regard to any refurbishment or replacement. He did state that this set of signals was on Wiltshire Council's radar and that they would continue to be monitored. It was felt that any faults with these lights should continue to be reported to Wiltshire Council so that this builds up the evidence required to support future replacement.

383/18 **Footpaths & Rights of Way:**

- a) Work Undertaken by Volunteer on Rights of Way Clearance and Maintenance:** Members noted that a volunteer who regularly walked and checked the ROWs in the Parish had been undertaking further maintenance and clearance works for the Parish Council. He had cleared brambles and vegetation from stiles and reported to officers those which were blocked and beyond his efforts. The Parish Council had purchased a saw and some heavy-duty gloves

and safety googles to help him with these tasks. It was noted that the Parish Officer had thanked him for carrying out this work.

- b) Request for Kissing Gate at MELW89, Shaw Hill:** A resident had sent a request to Wiltshire Council for a kissing gate to replace the stile on footpath MELW89 on Shaw Hill. The resident had reported that due to the configuration of the stile it was very difficult to climb over as it was so wide. It was noted that the main farm gate to the field in question was often open so people could access the footpath easily, however, when closed the stile was difficult to negotiate.
Recommended: *The Parish Council ask the volunteer who has been clearing ROWs in the Parish to take a look and seek his view.*
- c) Kissing Gates in Bowerhill – Arising from Min.306/18d (Full Council 19th November, 2018):** It was noted that the Parish Council had previously resolved under Min.306/18d, to “contribute £414.00 toward the cost of kissing gates to replace stiles in the parish on ROW MELW35 and MELW36”. This formed part of financial support of the West Wilts Ramblers towards their Area Board Grant Application for the replacement of stiles with kissing gates. However, the Officers had sent correspondence to the ROW Officer highlighting that the S106 Agreement for the development of 450 dwellings extending the East of Melksham provided a financial contribution towards the upgrading of ROW with kissing gates and MELW36 formed part of this legal agreement, and was also one of the footpaths that was included in the Area Board grant application. It was noted that at the last Area Board meeting it had been agreed to defer this item pending further information from the West Wilts Ramblers. It was felt that an Area Board grant should not be spent on kissing gates which the developer had an obligation under their legal agreement to provide. **Recommended:** *Officers to chase up the ROW Officer on this issue, and copy in the Community Engagement Officer prior to the next Area Board meeting.*

384/18 **Roundabout Sponsorship:**

- a) S96 Licence for “Dick Lovett/Milk Churn Roundabout on A350:** It was noted that Dick Lovett’s were very receptive to the idea of roundabout sponsorship. The Parish Council had explained that they already held the S96 Licence for the ex-Carson tyres roundabout on the A350 and were actively seeking a sponsor for this as they were currently maintaining it. Dick Lovett was also very interested in the sponsorship of the roundabout directly adjacent to their site (by the Milk Churn). They currently had a planning application for the development of land next to Herman Miller for a Mini and BMW dealership, and under the “Sui Generis” rule did not have to make any CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) contributions. The Parish Council had therefore asked if they wished to take on the sponsorship of both roundabouts as a community benefit. It was noted that Dick Lovett had confirmed that their contractors had the necessary street works licences to work on roundabouts. The Clerk had contacted the Highways Department to enquire about taking on the S96 Licence for the “Milk Churn” roundabout in order that Dick Lovett could sponsor it. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council take on the S96 Licence for the “Milk Churn” roundabout on the A350 and chase up Wiltshire Council Highways to expedite the sponsorship.*

385/18 **Traffic Regulation Orders:**

- a) Revised TRO for C395 Outmarsh outside Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Semington Road:** It was noted that the revised TRO for the bus gate at

Semington Road came into effect on the 4th December. This TRO restored the original TRO preventing traffic other than buses and designated key holders using the bus gate, with the new exception of fuel delivery vehicles to the Air Ambulance site and any emergency vehicle on a blue light run. Members expressed concerns that the bus gate was not actually being closed and that unauthorised vehicles were still going through the bus gate. **Recommended 1:** *The Parish Council to reply to Wiltshire Council Highways to state that the designated keyholder is not closing and locking the bus gate, and should do so to prevent unauthorised vehicles from using the bus gate.* **2.** *Semington Parish Council and Semington Bus Gate Watch to be copied in on this correspondence.*

b) Temporary Closure of Westlands Lane for Drainage Survey: It was noted that a TRO to close Westlands Lane, Beanacre, will come into effect on 18th February 2019, between 08:00 and 16:30, until 20th February to enable Ringway to carry out a drainage CCTV survey and associated works.

386/18 **Discretionary Gully Clearance:** It was noted that Wiltshire Council had funding for some discretionary gully clearance and that the Parish Council's interest in being on that list had been registered. Wiltshire Council Highways were aware of the vulnerable gullies in the parish and at a recent SLCC branch meeting acknowledged that due to the work carried out by the flood wardens they did take any reports seriously and prioritised accordingly.

387/18 **Gritting Routes in the Parish:** Members noted a map of the primary and secondary gritting routes and the location of grit bins in the Parish. It was noted that there were 4 grit bins in Whitley and one grit bin on Sandridge Hill. Concern was expressed that Top Lane, Whitley was not on the gritting route and should be as this was the route of the D3 bus to Bath, with buses now every half hour. Additionally, Portal Road was not shown on this map, and this is now the preferred HGV route into Bowerhill Industrial Estate. It was felt that these two routes were both strategically important roads and that they should be on the gritting route. It was also queried why Westlands Lane, Beanacre, was on a primary gritting route when there was a steep humped back bridge on this road and therefore unsuitable for HGVs. **Recommended:** *Wiltshire Council Highways are requested to add Top Lane, Whitley and Portal Road to the gritting route, and query the inclusion of Westlands Lane on the primary route.*

388/18 **Community Speed Watch:**

a) A350 Beanacre – Priority in November: It was noted from the Community Policing Team Newsletter that the A350 at Beanacre was set as a priority for Community Speedwatch (CSW) support for two weeks throughout November. Two checks were completed by local officers, and words of advice were given to 5 drivers in relation to their speed. Additionally, the newsletter gave an answer to a previous query raised by the Parish Council over the permanent use of the SID (Speed Indicator Device). The Parish Council had always been led to believe that the effectiveness of SID as a speeding deterrent and educational tool was reduced if it was left up in one location all the time. However, it had been noted that permanent SIDs were in place in the villages of Box and Christian Malford. It was noted that these were permitted as they were located where there was a history of proven accidents at these points.

b) Update on Actions Following Meeting with Michelle Donelan MP:

- (i) Erection of SID for Southbound Traffic:** An Area Board issue had been raised to request CATG funding for a metal pole socket to enable the SID to be erected to capture traffic movements on the northbound carriageway.
- (ii) Outstanding signs for Beanacre CSW:** It was noted that Michelle Donelan had been asked to query with Cllr. Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste, the current situation with CSW signage for Beanacre. For two years the topic of the provision of CSW has gone backwards and forwards between Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police. The very active Beanacre CSW team are frustrated that there are no CSW signs to act as an additional speeding deterrent.

389/18 **Waiting and Parking Restrictions:** It was noted that there was a deadline date of 31st January, 2019 to submit any waiting and parking restriction requests to Wiltshire Council. This process was just to get any requests on the list to Wiltshire Council, who then had a schedule of which areas would be actioned first. It had previously been noted that it would be at least two years before any requests for the Melksham Area would be actioned. The Parish Council had not received any requests that they supported and wished to put forward.

390/18 **“Living Streets” Campaign to call on Government to Outlaw Pavement Parking:** It was noted that the “Living Streets” campaign was for people to be able to walk on pavements without worrying about vehicles blocking their way. They stated that parking on pavements is currently covered by criminal and civil law, with different rules in different parts of the country. The campaign was seeking clearer rules with regard to pavement parking and to outlaw dangerous pavement parking. It was felt that the Parish Council should support this campaign, as it is unacceptable for users of the pavement, in particular those with mobility issues or with pushchairs, to be forced off the pavement and into the road. **Recommended 1:** *The Parish Council promote this campaign and share the accompanying poster on social media/press release. 2. The Parish Council ask Michelle Donelan MP to support this campaign.*

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Chairman, 11th February, 2019