

MINUTES of the Highways & Streetscene Committee of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 24 February 2020 at 1 Swift Way (off Westinghouse Way), Bowerhill Industrial Estate, Melksham at 7.35 pm

Present: Councillors Richard Wood (Chairman), Alan Baines (Chair), Terry Chivers, David Pafford and Robert Shea-Simonds

Officers: Teresa Strange (Clerk) and Lorraine McRandle (Parish Officer)

429/19 Housekeeping & Announcements

Councillor Baines welcomed all to the meeting and explained the fire evacuation procedures for those present.

430/19 To receive Apologies and approval of reasons given

Both Councillors Glover and Carter were on holiday, and gave their apologies.

Resolved: To note and accept the reasons for apologies.

a) To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

b) To consider for approval any Dispensation Requests received by the Clerk and not previously considered

None were received.

431/19 Public Participation

One member of public was present who wished to speak to item 7a on the agenda, requesting a change in speed limit on the A350 dual carriageway, South of Melksham.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow them to speak to this item.

The member of public stated he was new to the area, having moved into the new Bellway estate off Semington Road with his young family. The resident stated the following:

“On Monday 18 November at 8.35am my wife and child aged 4 were nearly involved in a serious accident whilst walking to school. They were walking from the direction of the Bellway estate and crossing the A350. They crossed at the toucan crossing from the south.

When the lights turned green for pedestrians to cross, they crossed carefully. There was an HGV in the inside lane so walked slowly as their view of the traffic on the other lane was impaired. As they passed on the inside lane my wife was able to see around the side of the HGV. It was very lucky she was walking slowly, as a Land Rover in the outside lane had to brake very hard and did not stop in time before the crossing. Had my wife and child not looked then there would have been an accident with catastrophic consequences. The light was red so the traffic should have stopped sooner.

Vehicles regularly pass through the lights when they are red. This happens in either direction of travel, morning or afternoon. This can happen 5-6 times per week. If vehicles are not passing through the red light, they are braking hard to stop which is also very dangerous.

I am here to ask for action to be taken so this does not continue to happen.

This issue has been raised before in March 2019 by a resident of Semington Road. They raised the same issue – cars failing to stop.

It was decided then that unless there is a material change, then there would be no review of the speed limit as this was taken some time ago in Wiltshire.

A material change has happened with the building of the new Bellway estate and the 150 houses that will follow. There must be consideration for the extra people walking to school.”

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Councillor Baines noted that there were two signs warning of traffic lights when approaching from the East, however, there were none coming off the roundabout and having requested additional signage and a change in lighting sequencing at a CATG meeting, it was felt the signage was adequate and the lights worked as expected. Also, vegetation on the far side of the road had been cut back to maintain sight lines.

Councillor Baines felt there was little scope for relocating the crossing given various constraints.

Various options were discussed which may help alleviate the issues, and whilst sympathetic to the issue, it was felt there was no more that could be done within Highway regulations, that had not already been done.

Further discussion ensued and it was:

Recommendation: To forward a request to CATG that signage be

installed on both sides of the crossing and in the middle to warn pedestrians to ensure that traffic in both lanes has stopped before crossing.

432/19

To consider the following documents/correspondence:

a) To note Minutes of last Highways & Street Scene Committee 4 November 2019 and updates on actions taken

Members noted the various actions that had been taken by officers since the meeting on 4 November 2019.

Councillor Baines informed the meeting that CATG have agreed to fund any signage under £500, as this was felt more cost effective due to the administration involved.

i) Halifax Road to consider replacing the traffic calming chicanes outside Bowerhill Primary. To note comments from Ruth Durrant School Travel Plan Adviser, Wiltshire Council, PCSO Adam Almond and school

Following concerns from a resident near to Bowerhill School that their driveway was being blocked by parents dropping off/picking up children from the school at a previous meeting, it had been suggested that the matter be raised with the Local Authority to look at the school's Travel Plan.

Ruth Durrant, School Travel Plan Advisor, Wiltshire Council had written stating to her knowledge Bowerhill Primary School had not updated their Travel Plan since 2006 and would therefore require a substantial rewrite and whilst a travel plan is not enforceable, it does indicate a school's willingness to engage in improving the school travel situation and the soft measures proposed should complement any highway engineering solution.

Councillor Baines suggested once the new headteacher had been in post for a suitable period it would be worth chasing them up for a revised travel plan. It was suggested all travel plans for all schools within the parish under Whitehorse Academy be requested.

A copy of the school's October Newsletter was included in the agenda pack which included an article on International Walk to School month showing statistics on the numbers of students walking to the school in a particular month. It was noted the school would be rerunning this initiative.

PCSO Almond had also written providing various suggestions would could help alleviate the parking concerns outside the

school, such as removing the current traffic control system to open both lanes, during busy periods the road could become one way, Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) if the issue is at the point that it constitutes ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour), a Community Protection Notice (CPN). All of these options can be enforced by the Council and would not be dependent on Police presence.

Councillor Baines felt it was not appropriate at this time to remove the traffic calming measures currently in place.

The Clerk explained the previous headteacher raised a concern there was only one entrance and exit gate preventing a “drop off” system, however, he had not pursued this further as Wiltshire Council had indicated a cost of £10,000 just for the feasibility study, and that was prohibitive at the time.

Members noted the information received and suggested the Clerk to request an update from the school on the Walk to School initiative since the newsletter.

ii) To note correspondence from Dave Jinks, Senior Line Manger, Taylor Wimpey regarding parking/drop off provision at proposed new school on Pathfinder Way development.

Following concerns raised by Members at inconsiderate and unsafe parking outside primary schools and the council’s desire that careful thought and planning needed to be given to pupil drop off and collection points at new schools, as well as prevent inconsiderate parking on residential roads the Clerk had contacted Taylor Wimpey regarding the proposed primary school on Pathfinder Way.

David Jinks, Taylor Wimpey had responded noting the Council’s concerns and agreeing it would be useful to take on board the concerns, given recent experiences when designing the school, however, the design of the school would be in the hands of Wiltshire Council.

Members noted the information contained within Mr Jink’s letter.

iii) To consider investigating if all schools in the parish have zig zag markings to enable use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Enforcement

Councillor Baines stated in order to use ANPR enforcement outside schools there needed to be a regulation yellow zig zag on the road otherwise it cannot be enforced.

A recent Highways Newsletter regarding the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition outside schools was circulated with the agenda pack which included information on ANPR systems where inconsiderate parking takes place, such as outside schools.

Recommendation: Write to Whitehorse Academy to investigate if they have yellow zig zag outside Bowerhill School and if not to forward a request to CATG for zig zags to be installed outside the school.

b) Electric Vehicles. To note campaign from Living Streets regarding installation of charging points and the impact on pedestrians

The Clerk explained that this issue had been raised at a recent Neighbourhood Plan meeting, where it was suggested that in the future people may be able to charge their vehicles off of lampposts using a card system. However, it was noted that some lampposts rather than being adjacent to kerbs were adjacent to properties at the expense of pedestrians and noted there was a campaign by Living Streets inviting people to contact their local council to take action on electric vehicle chargers.

Members noted the information.

c) To note announcement of funding for A350 Melksham bypass

Wiltshire Council had issued a statement following the Government announcement at its support to fund two major road improvement schemes in Wiltshire, the A350 Melksham bypass and A338 at Salisbury with an investment of £150m.

Members noted the information contained within the statement.

d) To note update on X72 replacing the D3 bus service

Correspondence had been received from Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Waste and Phil Grocock, Wiltshire Council Bus Network Manager regarding the removal of the D3 service by First Bus, explaining tenders were currently with suppliers to take over the evening and Sunday bus service between Devizes and Bath, the results of which should be known by the end of the month.

It was noted the daytime services would be picked up by Faresaver on a commercial basis, therefore there would be little disruption to the travelling public.

Members noted the information contained within Councillor Wayman and Phil Grocock's correspondence and were reassured that the concerns of local residents were being addressed following the sudden announcement of the loss of this bus service and the impact this would have for residents who relied on this service.

e) To note verbal update on real-time information in bus shelters in the parish

The Clerk informed the meeting she had spoken to Phil Grocock, Wiltshire Council Bus Network Manager, regarding the possibility of installing real-time information in bus shelters in the parish. Phil Grocock had stated Wiltshire Council were about to go out to tender to replace the existing system they had in various parts of the County and were in the process of getting prices for new Real Time Information, therefore later in the Summer would have an idea of costs associated with installing the latest system which he would forward on.

It was noted that any system would need to have access to a power supply nearby, most Bowerhill shelters had an electric supply, however, it was noted some in Shaw may not.

The Clerk asked and Members agreed that the new shelters to be installed on Pathfinder Way and Semington Road had an electricity supply to enable Real-time Information to be installed.

433/19 CATG (Community Area Transport Group) meeting (16 December 2019)

a) To note Notes/Action Log of CATG meeting

Councillor Baines updated Members on the meeting as follows:

- Installation of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Beanacre. A Highway Engineer needed to investigate an appropriate site for a ground socket as locations were limited for various reasons.
- With regard to the Redstocks nameplate, it was noted the Council were awaiting an invoice, which the Clerk agreed to investigate.
- CATG had supported the request for parking restrictions at Semington Bridge.
- Bus shelter Falcon Way/Kingfisher Drive. Estimate costs of installing a shelter £6000, however groundworks would be

required.

- The next meeting was due to take place on 23 March 2020 at 4.30pm at Melksham Fire Station.

Members noted the Action Log/notes from the CATG meeting held on 16 December 2019.

b) To consider any actions following CATG meeting.

i) Issue 9-19-9: To consider budget costings to inform specification for new shelter at Falcon Way/Kingfisher Drive

The following quotes had been received for a bus shelter at Falcon Way/Kingfisher Drive:

Quote A

£3,700 + VAT (3 bay pitched or barrel roof, enclosed shelter with double entry)

£4,600 + VAT (4 bay pitched or barrel roof, enclosed with double entry)

£80.00 + VAT (Full length perch seating (per metre))

£240.00 + VAT (Full length bench seating (per metre))

Quote B

£6,446.00 + VAT (3 bay enclosed shelter with double entry)

£374.00 + VAT (2 bay aluminium seating)

The Clerk raised a concern that the two quotes did not appear to be quoting against the same specification, given the difference in price and noted CATG could install a shelter at this location for £6000, plus any grounds works required and sought clarification from Members on whether they just used the information provided for specification purposes and to ascertain three quotes.

Recommendation: For the Clerk to obtain three quotes with the following specification: a 3 bay enclosed single entry barrel roof shelter with perch seating in green.

Ask developers what specification they were proposing to install in the first instance to enable the Council to comment

and to ask when they are likely to be installed.

c) To note dates of future CATG meetings and parish council's Highway Committee meetings schedule accordingly.

A list of dates for future CATG meetings was circulated for Members' information, along with a list of dates for Highway & Streetscene Meetings and Full Council meetings when the minutes would be approved.

CATG	Highways	Full Council
23 March 2020	24 February 2020	9 March 2020
4 June 2020	27 April 2020	11 May 2020
24 September 2020	7 September 2020	14 September 2020
3 December 2020	2 November 2020	16 November 2020
3 March 2020	8 February 2020	15 February 2020

Members noted the list of dates.

434/19

To consider residents' requests for support by the Parish Council including requests for CATG (Community Area Transport Group next meeting 23 March 2020):

a) Change in speed limit for the dual carriageway on the A350 on the South side of Melksham. To consider submitting to CATG again, now further evidence available.

The matter was discussed earlier in the meeting under public participation.

b) Bath Road (A365). Request to change speed limit from 40mph to 30mph from George Ward Gardens to just after bend on A365

Correspondence had been received from a concerned resident of Bath Road, Shaw at the speed of traffic leaving Melksham, just before the bend on Bath Road and the impact this had on vehicles trying to leave properties along this stretch of road, requesting that the speed limit be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

It was noted that the speed limit on this stretch of road was 30mph previously due to the former George Ward School being located on this stretch of road, however, once relocated elsewhere, the speed limit was amended in line with Traffic Regulations and unfortunately as there had been no significant change since the development of George Ward Gardens this could not be changed.

It was noted within the correspondence it was noted there was

concern that the footpath along Bath Road was narrow, making it difficult for pedestrians and it was agreed to place this on the list for the Parish Steward to investigate.

c) To install dropped kerbs in the vicinity of Brampton Court Bowerhill

Correspondence had been received from Wiltshire Council stating that residents of Brampton Court had raised concerns with their local MP at the lack of dropped kerbs in the vicinity of Brampton Court.

It was agreed to wait and see if the Parish Council receive an approach from residents seeking the installation of dropped kerbs in this area as no location details had been supplied.

d) Requesting for 30mph sign be painted on Woodrow Road coming from Lacock

Correspondence had been received from a resident of Woodrow Road requesting 30mph be painted on the road coming from Lacock.

It was noted the 30mph sign had been moved further along the road and the hedges cut back to give better visibility, therefore, it was felt no further action was required as the new signage was adequate for this stretch of road.

e) To consider request for new bus shelter at Corsham Road, Whitley

Correspondence had been received from a resident of Whitley asking if a bus shelter could be installed on the Bath bound side of Corsham Road.

It was noted several years ago following a request from a local resident a bus shelter was installed at this location at a cost of £5000 to the Parish Council, but due to complaints from nearby residents it was taken out.

Recommendation: Not to progress this request further due to the complaints received previously and the uncertainty of future bus provision in this area.

f) To consider request for side panels on bus shelters in Mitchell Drive and Halifax Road, Bowerhill

Quotations for the installation of full end panels had been received for the above shelters.

Quarter End Panel:	£253.00 + VAT each
Half End Panel:	£312.00 + VAT each
Full End Panel:	£468.00 + VAT each
Installation:	£450.00

It was noted there was insufficient room in the footway in Halifax Road on the Eastern end for a full panel, however, there was sufficient room for a full panel on the Western end.

The Clerk explained these panels could be funded via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from the Pathfinder Way development.

Recommendation: To install full width panels (at £468.00 each + VAT) on the shelter at Mitchell Drive, at Halifax Road (opposite Beaufort Close) to install a full end panel on the Western end and a half panel on the Eastern end (£468.00 and £312.00 + VAT), with installation costs of £450 per site.

435/19 Shurnhold Fields:

a) To consider use of Section 106 funding for highway improvements relating to George Ward Gardens, to improve the access to Shurnhold Fields Public Open Space

The Clerk explained that £10,000 was available from Section 106 monies from the George Ward Garden development for highway improvements, such as improving access and visibility to Shurnhold Fields and sought a steer from Members.

It was noted that Melksham Town Council would also be considering this matter and at a recent Shurnhold Fields Working Group meeting, a recommendation had been made to use the monies for highway improvements to Dunch Lane.

Recommendation: To improve access to the car park of Shurnhold Fields in order to remove traffic off of Dunch Lane and relieve congestion.

436/19 Traffic Speed Survey Result – Woodrow Road (30mph Speed Limit)

The results of the speed survey undertaken between 11 December 2019-17 December 2019 were circulated to Members in their agenda packs.

It was noted the speed of traffic had only increased marginally from when undertake 5 years ago with an 85th percentile speed of 38.3mph.

It was noted to qualify for speed watch the 85th percentile speed needed to be above 35.1mph in a 30mph limit.

The Clerk informed the meeting that a resident who undertook speed watch in another part of the parish and recently moved to this area and was keen to undertake speed watch in this area and that a new traffic speed survey had been requested.

To note the information and welcome the offer from the resident to undertake speed watch in the area.

437/19

Footpaths & Rights of Way:

- a) **Public Path Extinguishment and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order. Melksham Without Path No 41 (part) Extinguishment and Definitive Map and Statement Order has been made following no objections.**

To note.

- b) **Melksham Without Footpath 66. To note Planning Inspector Appeal Decision. The appeal is allowed against refusal of new Public Footpath off of MELW66 – Woodrow**

To note the appeal outcome which allowed for a new footpath (circular route for dog walkers), which was against the wishes of Wiltshire Council, the landowners and the tenant farmer.

- c) **Rights of Access from MELW40 Praters Lane from Sandridge Common. To note outcome of discussions with landowner**

Councillor Baines on behalf the Council had undertaken discussions with the landowner regarding Rights of Access from MELW40 Praters Lane from Sandridge Common.

It was explained that the landowner had experienced problems with people misusing the existing Right of Way, such as dog walkers shutting gates, therefore, cutting off the farmers' cattle accessing water.

It was agreed there was no further action the Parish Council could take at this time.

Recommendation: To inform Wiltshire Councillor Phil Alford and Rights of Way Officer, Wiltshire Council of the outcome of discussions with the landowner and to ascertain if they could come up with a proposal the landowner would accept.

- d) **Blocked Right of Way, Beanacre.**

At a recent Full Council meeting, Wiltshire Councillor Alford

informed Members that Wiltshire Council, until a dispute between neighbours had been resolved were taking no further action on the blocked Right of Way in Beanacre. Members were asked if they wished to pursue this matter further given the historical significance of this footpath for the village as it was the footpath to the village well.

Recommendation: To write to the Rights of Way Officer, Wiltshire Council to ask that that footpath is opened up, due to its historic nature of access to the village well.

438/19 Traffic Orders & Planned Roadworks:

- a) To note forthcoming scheduled works to undertake substantive maintenance of the A365/B3353 Traffic Signal junction within Shaw.**

Members noted these works were due to commence on 2 March 2020 and were timed to allow the bulk of the work to be undertaken during the School Easter Holidays.

- b) To note proposal to reverse traffic flow on town bridge, during current works closure from 23 February 2020.**

Members noted that whilst works were being undertaken on the town bridge the flow of traffic on the one-way system had caused significant tail-backs, therefore Wiltshire Council were proposing to reserve the traffic flow on the town bridge from 23 February 2020.

439/19 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

- a) To approve revised schedule.**

Members noted the revised schedule for the installation of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which had been circulated to members with their agenda papers.

Councillor Baines stated with regard to weeks 21 & 22 Beanacre (outbound) a site for this was still to be investigated and felt would not be resolved by week 21 & 22, therefore, it was agreed to remove this from the list for the time being, but to keep the site in for later in the schedule, as hopefully a position would have been agreed by then.

- b) To note advice from insurance broker regarding public liability insurance, if using self-employed contractor.**

The Clerk explained she had sought advice from the Council's insurance broker regarding public liability insurance, if the Council wished to use a self-employed contractor to erect the SID device

around the parish.

The advice from the insurance brokers stated if employing someone who is self-employed and therefore invoicing the council, they would need to have their own insurance in place, they would also need to inform their car insurance provider of the work they were undertaking.

The Clerk explained if someone was employed to undertake this work, as an employee, they would automatically be covered by the Council's insurance.

Members noted the advice.

Recommendation: The Clerk to investigate options.

440/19 To approve quotation for weed spraying in the parish

A quotation had been requested from the Council's previous contractor to undertake two weed sprays (Spring and Autumn) throughout the parish - Complete Weed Control:

To spray various roads/footways within the parish	£867.00 + VAT
Bowerhill Roads	£306.00 + VAT
Bowerhill Industrial Estate	£199.00 + VAT

It was noted that Wiltshire Council's contractors do not weed spray roads on Bowerhill Industrial Estate and whilst undertaking weed spraying on Bowerhill residential roads did not go around the bus shelters, therefore they were asked to quote for this.

Recommendation: To approve the two quotes at a total of £1,646.40 each.

441/19 To consider any action for grass verges being damaged by vehicles within the parish

Correspondence had been received from residents concerned at the damage being undertaken to verges within the parish by vehicles.

It was noted due to recent heavy rain for an extended period of time, there were examples of verges in a worse condition within the parish.

Whilst noting the concerns of the residents, it was felt due to recent weather conditions and the fact large vehicles, such as tractors and buses have to negotiate the narrow lanes damage unfortunately was inevitable, it was agreed not to pursue this request further.

442/19 To note verbal report on work carried out by Parish Steward.

The Clerk explained she had received an email earlier in the day from Wiltshire Council stating the Parish Steward programme had been suspended until April in order to deal with pothole repairs following the long spell of heavy rain, however, officers were still compiling a list of jobs ready for April.

Meeting Closed: 9.42pm

Chairman, 9 March 2020