

MINUTES of the Highways & Street Scene Committee of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 28th November 2016 at Crown Chambers, Melksham at 8.15 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Richard Wood (Council Chair), John Glover (Council Vice-Chair), Alan Baines (Committee Chair), Paul Carter and Mike Sankey.
Officers: Teresa Strange (Clerk) and Jo Eccleston (Parish Officer).

Apologies: Cllr. Terry Chivers.

Housekeeping: Cllr Baines welcomed all to the meeting.

251/16 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

252/16 **Public Participation:** There were no members of the public present.

253/16 **Wiltshire Council Highways Documentation:**

- a) **Newsletters September, October and November 2016:** The Committee noted these newsletters. A local landowner had recently cut back hedges along Semington Road between the New Inn and Townsend Farm roundabout. The lay-by that used to be the turning circle by the old Forest & Sandridge School has a lot of litter, dented railings and needs a general tidy; some of the trees between this lay-by and the new properties has Dutch Elm disease and there were concerns that this would spread to other non diseased elms close by if not felled. This has been reported to Wiltshire Council via the App.
- b) **Community Speedwatch Quarterly Review – Oct 2016:** The Beanacre Community Speedwatch Group has been hugely successful, and have carried out 2-4 times more sessions than any other Community Speedwatch group in Wiltshire in the past 3 months. Cllr. Sankey reported that a large local haulage company had received several letters warning of the speed that some of their vehicles had been travelling through Beanacre, following these speed checks, and as a result they had now put into their induction training guidance on driving considerately through communities. **Recommended:** *A letter of thanks to be sent to Beanacre Speedwatch Group, highlighting how their speedwatch work has helped to shape the training guidance for drivers of a local haulage company.*

254/16 **CATG (Community Area Transport Group) Meeting, 27th October, 2016:**

- a) **Minutes of the CATG Meeting, 27th October, 2016:** The Minutes were noted.
- b) **Results of West Hill Metrocount:** The Committee noted the results of the metrocount held between 25/09/2016 and 07/10/2016. The 85th percentile was travelling at 34.9mph and the average speed was 29.7mph. This means that it just missed qualifying for Community Speed Watch by 0.2%. However, it may well still be able to be considered for the use of the SID (Speed Indicator Device) as such a close margin.

255/16 **Resident's Requests for Issues for CATG:**

- a) **Parking Restrictions at Heron Court, Bowerhill:** Correspondence had been received from PCSO Maggie Ledbury with regard to an incident that she had attended. A resident of Heron Close was extremely annoyed that a car parked

across a dropped kerb blocked the access to his driveway. He reported to PCSO Ledbury that the issue was due to parents parking at school drop off and pick up times, and that he had written to the Council before about this issue. He had reported to her that he was particularly annoyed that Stirling Close had double yellow lines installed, but Heron Court had not. PCSO Ledbury requested that the Parish Council considered issuing notices to parents of the school reinforcing the issues of inconsiderate parking.

It was noted that when Inspector Brain recently gave a presentation to the Parish Council he had stated that obstruction was an issue that was enforceable by the police, and did not require parking restrictions for them to be able to take action. It was considered that this issue differed from other parking problems in Bowerhill as it was not all day parking, but rather for short periods of the day during the school drop off and collection times. Additionally, even when approved by Parish Councils, there was a two year waiting list for requests to install double yellow lines. The Parish Council had considered a request from a resident of Heron Court to install parking restrictions in June 2015, under Min.099/15. They had not supported this request as they had noted that any breach of parking restrictions, such as double yellow lines, was no longer a criminal offence and thus not enforceable by the police. They had written back to the resident explaining their decision. The Committee considered that this was an issue that required police intervention and that a visible police presence at school drop off and collection times would have more effect. **Recommended: 1.** *The Council reply to PCSO Ledbury, advising that Inspector Brain had informed that obstruction was a police enforceable issue, suggesting that she contact the school and ask them to assist with addressing the issue via their school travel plan. 2.* *This matter is brought up with Inspector Brain when he next attends a Parish Council meeting.*

- b) Additional Dropped Kerbs in Bowerhill:** Following the recent installation of a dropped kerb opposite De Havilland Road, Cllr. Carter reported that the resident had requested additional dropped kerbs so that she could access further into the Industrial Estate and get to the Bowerhill Sports Field and the Milk Churn pub. A letter of thanks from her had been published in the Melksham News for the work achieved to date. The new request was for the Parish Council to consider installing two further dropped kerbs either side of the entrance to Gerrish Transport in Hercules Way, as she currently has to get onto the road at this point. The cost and waiting list times for the installation of dropped kerbs was discussed at some length. It was noted that Hercules Way is not as busy as some of the other roads on the Industrial Estate, but there were issues with cars parking on the pavements, which could additionally hamper her access. It was suggested that the owner of Gerrish Transport, which was also an aggregate merchant, may be willing to assist with installing dropped kerbs himself. It was queried whether there was a statutory obligation to provide dropped kerbs.

Recommended: 1. *The Council write to Mr. Gerrish asking if he would be willing to consider installing dropped kerbs either side of the entrance to his yard. 2.* *The Council investigate whether there is a statutory obligation to provide dropped kerbs.*

- c) Bend Warning Signs by the junction to Westlands Lane on A350, Beanacre:** A request had been received from the Team Leader of the Beanacre Community Speedwatch Team for additional signage warning of the bend to the north of Westlands Lane and for "slow" road markings. The Team had witnessed many drivers braking at the last minute as they have not realised how sharp the bend is. They consider it to be an issue from both directions, but when travelling from

the north towards Melksham drivers are not expecting traffic to be waiting to turn right into Westlands Lane. The Clerk had contacted the senior Traffic Management Engineer who had stated that he would consider these measures if supported by the Parish Council. The Committee consider that having undertaken 83 Speedwatch Sessions in the last three months, that the Speedwatch Team were well placed to have identified these issues and that they would support their request if requested through the Area Board. **Recommended:** *The Council reply to the Team Leader of Beanacre Speedwatch Team, asking them to raise this as an Area Board Issue, which they will then support and request via CATG.*

256/16 **Parish Steward:**

- a) **List of Completed Tasks:** The Committee noted this list. The Parish Officer gave an update on a query over cutting back vegetation from the Whitley nameplate and confirmed that this had been put onto the list on two separate occasions and had been actioned both times. She had asked the Highways Engineer about the situation with regard to overgrown vegetation on the footpath over the canal bridge in Semington Road, but had not yet received a reply.
- b) **New Requests: Recommended:** *The following items to be added to the Parish Steward list:*
- *Clear drains of debris and leaves from areas where there has been recent flooding. This to be top priority.*
 - *Clear leaves on the road at the Spa Road turning point as the double yellow lines are covered which has led to parking issues.*
 - *Cut back overgrown vegetation on the frontage of Hornchurch Road, from the southern side of the A365 opposite Melksham Oak School and from the entrance to the new Estate towards Redstocks. Start at Redstocks and work back towards the Falcon Way roundabout.*

257/16 **SIDS (Speed Indicator Device):** The Committee noted the installation schedule.

258/16 **Slow Down in Your Community Stickers:** The Clerk reported that she had given out "Slow Down in Your Community" wheelie bin stickers to the community groups in both Beanacre and Shaw & Whitley. She had done this in good faith and under the impression that they were authorised stickers as they bore both the logo of Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police, and had been printed by the MCAP (Melksham Community Area Partnership). She had subsequently received advice from the Senior Traffic Management Engineer that they did not support the use of such stickers as they considered them to be distracting to drivers and additionally any sticker that actually showed a 30mph were illegal, as the law is very clear about speed repeater signs. The Committee considered that it was not the place of the Parish Council to tell the community groups what they should or should not do with these stickers, but that they would pass on all the information they had received from the Senior Traffic Management Engineer so that the community groups could make an informed decision.

259/16 **Faresaver Bus using Westlands Lane:** The Committee noted that a resident of Westlands lane had written to Wiltshire Council complaining about a Faresaver Bus using Westlands Lane. This was a contracted school bus, however, it did not pick up any students in Westlands Lane. Wiltshire Council had replied to say that they would endeavour to get the bus route changed.

- 260/16 **Update on New Bus Shelter in Hampton Park:** The Clerk reported that the new bus shelter, to replace the one that had been knocked down had now been installed. The police had informed the Parish Council that the driver involved in the accident had been banned from driving for 16 months and fined a total of £365. This information had been passed onto the insurance company with a request for the Excess payment to be recovered from the Driver's insurance.
- 261/16 **Crocus Planting on the verge of Eastern Way by the Town Mayor:** It was noted that the Town Mayor had undertaken crocus planting with pupils from Forest & Sandridge School on the grass verges of Eastern Way. She had sought permission from Wiltshire Council Highways to do this, and they had no objections as it is currently an unadopted road. The project was a Rotary Club initiative promoting the "End Polio Now" campaign.
- 262/16 **Commercial Gulley Cleaning:** It was noted that Grist Environmental offered a commercial gulley cleaning service.
- 263/16 **Report on Parish Flooding to roads:** The Clerk reported that on Monday 21st November the parish had experienced flooding due to all the heavy rain, but that no properties had been flooded. The Parish Caretaker had checked all the vulnerable locations in Whitley at 12.00 noon and everything had been clear. By 2.00pm both First Lane and Middle Lane had flooded and by 3.00pm Top Lane had been flooded. The Flood Wardens did an excellent job, and all their preparation and planning had paid off. They put out warning signs, measured water levels, monitored and kept the Parish Council informed. All this vital information about the speed and depth of the flooding has been passed to Danny Everett to inform the Atkins report and modelling. The following day the Wardens held a debriefing at Whitley Golf Club.
Recommended: *A letter of thanks to be sent to the CAWS Emergency Response Group and the Melksham News to be asked to run this as a good news story.*
- 264/16 **Budget Provision for CATG:** The Clerk asked if the Committee wished to consider budget provision for future CATG projects. Cllr. Carter reported that he had received a request from a resident for two bus shelters in Semington Road, Berryfield; one by the New Inn and one opposite. Cllr. Baines reported that installing a bus shelter at the New Inn had been looked at some years ago, but that there was not enough highways land to accommodate one. It was noted that the replacement bus shelter at Hampton park had cost £7.5K, but this had been paid for by the Insurance company. It was noted that it would be unlikely that the Parish Council would be able to fund two new bus shelters. If future S106 funds become available the Council may be able to provide one bus shelter. **Recommended:** *The Clerk and the Finance Officer to look at some figures to inform the Budget with the Chair of the Finance Committee.*

Meeting closed at 10.10pm

Chairman, 5th December, 2016