

**MINUTES of the Highways & Streetscene Committee of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at 1 Swift Way, Bowerhill, Melksham at 7.55p.m.**

**Present:** Cllrs. Alan Baines, Paul Carter, David Pafford, Terry Chivers and Robert Shea-Simonds.

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

**Housekeeping:** In the absence of Cllr. R. Wood as Chair of the Council, Cllr. Baines welcomed all to the meeting and explained the evacuation procedure in the event of a fire.

- 153/19 **Election of Chair of Highways and Streetscene Committee:** Cllr. Baines invited nominations for the Chair of the Highways and Streetscene Committee for 2019/20. Cllr. Chivers proposed, seconded by Cllr. Pafford that Cllr. Alan Baines was elected as Chair of the Highways and Streetscene Committee. **Resolved:** *The Council unanimously resolved that Cllr. Baines be Chair of the Highways and Streetscene Committee for 2019/20.*
- 154/19 **Election of Vice-Chair of Highways and Streetscene Committee:** Cllr. Baines invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Highways and Streetscene Committee for 2019/20. Cllr. Pafford proposed, seconded by Cllr. Carter that Cllr. John Glover be Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee. **Resolved:** *The Council unanimously resolved that Cllr. Glover be Vice-Chair of the Highways and Streetscene Committee for 2019/20.*
- 155/19 **Terms of Reference:** The Terms of Reference for the Highways and Streetscene Committee which were approved at the Annual Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 were noted.
- 156/19 **Apologies:** Cllr. Richard Wood (Council & Committee Chair) had been delayed returning from his holiday due to air traffic control issues, and Cllr. John Glover (Council Vice-Chair) was on holiday; these reasons for absence were accepted.
- 157/19 **Declarations of Interest:** It was noted that agenda item 7a referred to a CATG issue requesting yellow lines on Westinghouse Way and this road abuts the Parish Councils land at the Bowerhill Sports Field and Pavilion.
- 158/19 **Dispensation Requests:** None.
- The Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders for a period of public participation.*
- 159/19 **Public Participation:** There were four members of the public present.
1. Request for new Bus Shelter on Falcon Way, Bowerhill (agenda item 8d): Two residents wished to request a bus shelter on Falcon Way, near to the entrance of Kingfisher Drive. The residents stated that they use buses daily and at various times, and that there are always people at this particular bus stop. They informed

that it was the only bus stop on the route from Bowerhill to Melksham which did not have a shelter and that it was really unpleasant waiting for the bus in inclement weather.

2. Requests for Westlands Lane, Beanacre - speed limit, safe path over bridge, warning signs (agenda item 8a): A resident of Westlands Lane wished to raise the issue of the speed limit over the railway bridge, stating that it was the national speed limit and that there was no footway. She considers this to be so dangerous that she will not walk her dog over the bridge, preferring to drive over the bridge, park up and then walk her dog; she asked whether there was the possibility of getting a footway over the bridge. She also stated that in her opinion that a speed limit of 30mph on Westlands Lane from the A350 to the start of the bridge is too fast as the road narrows and there is no footway. She felt that there should be road signage informing drivers that the road narrows. She stated that there was such signage on the west side of the railway bridge when travelling in an easterly direction, but she felt that this only applied to the bridge itself and not the rest of Westlands Lane towards the A350.

Cllr. Baines, as the Parish Council representative on CATG, informed that there was a speed limit review of the whole C220 route from Atworth to Beanacre a few years ago, and it was recommended that there was no change to the speed limit of this road. There has been no material change since this review to trigger another review. A speed limit of 20mph in the built-up area of Westlands Lane, east of the railway bridge, was previously considered, but the road did not meet the qualifying criteria. The railway bridge as it stands would not be wide enough to accommodate a footway. This would therefore require engineering works, perhaps to widen the bridge, or traffic lights to make it single carriage way, or perhaps a separate footbridge; this would be the responsibility of Network Rail and would be very unlikely to be something they would agree to carrying out due to the costs involved. The resident queried if there was anyone else, she could appeal to in order to address some of these issues. She was informed that there was a scoring matrix when requesting highways works from the Wiltshire Council Highways substantive fund, and again it was unlikely that any scheme for this bridge would score highly enough to be taken forward. It was also noted that HGVs sometimes use this road although they are not permitted to do so. However, the sign coming into Westlands Lane from the A350 was currently obscured by vegetation, so that the weight restriction for this road could not be seen. The removal of this vegetation was something that could be addressed.

3. Pedestrian Crossing on A350 by Semington Road Roundabout and Speeding on Semington Road (agenda item 8e): A resident from Semington Road, Berryfield, reported that he had attended a Parish Council meeting in March to express his concerns about speeding traffic on the A350 by the pedestrian crossing to the east of the Semington Road roundabout. At that time, he had reported that drivers were ignoring the red lights at the crossing, and the Parish Council had advised that he recorded the details of the offending vehicles and reported this to the police. The Resident had done this and had taken this information to Melksham Police station where he was informed that the Police were unable to accept such evidence from members of the public. The resident felt that the temporary 30mph limit imposed on the A350 at Western Way, whilst all the highways works to this stretch of road and the Farmers roundabout was taking place, had improved the situation, but reported that some vehicles were still failing to stop for the red lights. He queried whether there was going to be a change in the speed limit on the A350 on the approaches to

the roundabout, and it was noted that this would remain the national speed limit as it is a major route with parts being dual carriageway. However, his concern was that there was no signage on Western Way as you approach the roundabout to warn drivers that there were traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing on the other side of the roundabout.

Cllr. Baines informed that he had raised this as an issue at CATG. He also advised that it had been identified that there was a pedestrian visibility issue from the western (Devizes) approach, due to overgrown vegetation; the lower vegetation had been cleared already by the Parish Steward, and the higher branches had been added to the list for clearance by Wiltshire Council's Contractors by the tractor and flail.

The Resident also wished to make comment on the issue of speeding in Semington Road and asked whether 30mph repeaters could be installed. He was advised that this was not permitted under highway legislation as street lighting denoted that it was a 30mph speed limit. It was noted that the white line markings on Semington Road at the southern end had been refreshed, there was an active Community Speed Watch team, and the developers will be putting in extra road calming measures at the northern end as part of their highway's conditions. The Resident acknowledged this and stated his main disappointment was the response he had received from the Police.

*The Council reconvened and agreed to bring forward agenda item 8d.*

160/19 **Resident's Requests (1):**

- a) **Request for new Bus Shelter on Falcon Way:** One member queried whether the bus shelter outside of Ludlow Hewitt Court, which was no longer a stop on the bus route, could be relocated to the location requested on Falcon Way. It was noted that some residents wished this to be removed. Another member felt that although new shelters were not cheap, that it may be more cost effective to install a new shelter rather than relocate an old one which may not be robust enough to withstand such a move. Additionally, one member believed that although not on the public bus route, the stop at Ludlow Hewitt Court was still a route for private school buses. However, members concurred with the residents that a bus shelter was required. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council accept the need for a bus shelter on Falcon Way near to Kingfisher Drive in principle and investigate the practicalities of providing one.*

161/19 **Documents & Correspondence:**

- a) **Minutes of Last Highways and Streetscene Committee, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019:** The members noted the minutes and the following actions which had been taken from the previous recommendations:
- (i) **Arising from Min.496/18b)ii) – Further Guidance on Use of ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition):** Wiltshire Council could now use static ANPR, and the Clerk had queried whether this could be used to capture motorists who were not adhering to red lights. Wiltshire Council had responded to say that initially the ANPR car will be used to patrol residential parking zones, however, they were lobbying government in an effort to be able to use this facility to enforce all parking contraventions.
  - (ii) **Arising from Min.496/18b)ii) – Government Guidance on Yellow Zig-Zags:** The Government guidance of yellow zig-zag lines was noted; the difference

between yellow and white zig-zag lines is that yellow zig-zags need an accompanying sign to be legally enforceable, whereas white lines are enforceable without any signage.

- (iii) **Arising from Min.500/18b) – Correspondence from Wiltshire Council regarding ROW (Right of Way) over Black Bridge:** The Parish Council had queried why an order to modify the definitive [ROW] map and statement by adding a footpath linking Woodrow Road, Murray Walk and Riverside Drive now permitted people to walk a route over a bridge (“Black Bridge”) which had been condemned as unsafe by the Environment Agency. Wiltshire Council had responded to say that the condition of Black Bridge was unrelated to the S.53 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 procedure which enabled modifications of the Definitive Map. The condition of the bridge would fall to the land owner and any negotiations with the Wiltshire Council ROW Warden.
- (iv) **Arising from Min.501/18a) & Min.501/18b) – Roundabout Sponsorship:** It was noted that D J Bewley no longer wished to sponsor the “ex Carson Tyres” roundabout at the junction of the A350/A365. The Parish Council were currently meeting the cost from the contractor to maintain this roundabout whilst a new sponsor is being sought. It was noted that if the Parish Council no longer wished to hold the S96 Licence, then they would have to return the roundabout to Wiltshire Council in the same condition as when it was taken over; namely remove all the planting and return the beds to grass. A member queried whether this was a legal requirement or just a Wiltshire Council requirement; it was considered that as the Parish Council had to sign a S96 Licence that this was a legal agreement, and thus any conditions within it would need to be adhered to. It was noted that Dick Lovett Land Rover and Jaguar dealership had shown an interest in sponsoring the Portal Road roundabout adjacent to their premises, however, Wiltshire Council were already in a legal agreement with this roundabout so the Parish Council were currently unable to take on the S96 Licence. It was suggested that Dick Lovett was asked if they would like to sponsor the ex-Carson Tyres roundabout and that the Parish Council put up their own sign on this roundabout as they are currently paying for its maintenance. **Recommended 1:** *The Parish Council investigate putting up their own signage on the Ex Carson tyres roundabout advertising that they are sponsoring it.* **2.** *The Parish Council actively seek a new sponsor for this roundabout, suggesting to Dick Lovett that they may wish to take on this roundabout as the Portal Road roundabout is not currently available to sponsor.*
- (v) **Arising From 496/18b)v) - Request for New Wiltshire Council Bins where Emptying is to be Paid for:** The Clerk advised that the “one off” bin funding from Wiltshire Council was for replacing existing damaged or missing bins and emptying them. Whilst they will part fund the provision of bins for new locations, they will not then add these to their emptying schedule. She advised that she had sought quote from Wiltshire Council’s contractor, ID Verde, to have any new bins not on Wiltshire Council’s schedule emptied, and was awaiting a response.
- (vi) **Arising from Min.498/19d) - Request for Metro Count for Bowerhill Lane:** The Parish Council had sought advice from the Highway’s Department about whether this lane would qualify for a 40mph speed limit. They had responded to say that when there was a review of the speed limit on A365 when Melksham Oak was constructed, it was not considered appropriate to make

Bowerhill Lane 40mph. Additionally due to the low density of frontage development along the lane, it probably would not qualify. It was also felt that drivers would not typically drive above 40mph, due to the single-track nature and sharp deviations in the road. The Parish Council therefore considered that requesting a metro count would not achieve anything and that the road layout meant that the speed of vehicles was self-enforcing.

- b) **Wiltshire Council Highway Newsletter:** It was noted that these had been emailed to members when they were received in order that the information was current. It was agreed that this worked well and there was no requirement for them to be printed out for the agenda papers.
- c) **Wiltshire Council Briefing Note No.19-016 – Changes to submission of Highway Improvements and Traffic Survey Requests:** This Briefing Note informed that the new way of issues being considered by Wiltshire Council was that residents made their initial request to their town or parish council, and if supported by them it would then be considered by Wiltshire Council; if not then the town or parish council would inform the resident that this issue was not supported and would not be considered by Wiltshire Council. It was noted that this was already the model that the Melksham Without Parish Council used, and Wiltshire Council wished to roll this out to all parish and town councils.
- d) **SLCC Article – Department for Transport Guidelines regarding “Pointless” Road Signs:** This article was noted and that the Department for Transport had published guidelines for councils saying that pointless road signs should be removed as they waste tax payer’s money, clutter streets and confuse motorists.
- e) **Wiltshire Council Briefing Note No.19-010 – Freight Strategy and Freight Management Update:** This update was noted, and that the Council needed to update its fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4) to cover the local Plan period to 2036.
- f) **Planned Replacement of Shaw Hill Traffic Lights:** It was noted that replacement of the Shaw Hill traffic lights was a project scheduled for early next year and had been given priority over other schemes on the Programme.

162/19 **CATG (Community Area Transport Group) Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2019:**

- a) **Actions/Log of CATG meeting:** The following developments from issues in the parish were noted as follows:
  - (i) **Issue 6914 - Request for Ground Socket to Assist SID (Speed Indicator Device) Deployment on A350 Beanacre:** This issue had been put on hold as the SID is not working and investigations are being made into a replacement.
  - (ii) **Issue 6527 – Outmarsh – Request for Direction Signs to Air Ambulance HQ:** Highways are going to develop a signing scheme for consideration by Wiltshire Air Ambulance and have recommended that this issue was closed down.
  - (iii) **Issue 7049 – A365 Redstocks – Request for Junction Improvements:** Highways are investigating the possibility of improving the entrance to this junction.
  - (iv) **Issue 7166 – A350 Western Way Dual Carriageway – Safety Concerns at Puffin Crossing:** There is no sign when travelling eastbound to inform that there are traffic lights on the other side of the roundabout. Cllr. Baines had informed the CATG meeting about this and they were investigating this.
  - (v) **Issue 7167 – Bowerhill Westinghouse Way – Request for Parking Controls:** CATG are unable to fund this request. If the Parish Council wish to

take this forward, they will have to fund this; a ball park estimate for this work would be in the region of £2,500.

**(vi) Issue 7176 – Redstocks – Request for Village Nameplate and Single-Track Road Sign:**

The Parish Council are willing to fund this request. Residents had confirmed the wording for this signage, which will be “Welcome to the Hamlet of Redstocks” and the Parish Council have passed this onto Highways.

It was noted that Cllr. Jon Hubbard was the new chairman of CATG and the next meeting had been rescheduled to 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

**b) Actions Following CATG meeting:**

- i) Request for Parking Controls on Westinghouse Way:** It was noted that in addition to the cost in the region of £2,500, there was a very long waiting list for waiting restrictions and this could take at least two years to install and there would still be the issue of enforcement should the waiting restrictions not be adhered to. It was felt that as this road was on the industrial estate that it was better that vehicles parked here rather than being pushed onto the residential side. Also, the business who requested this issue had already confirmed that some of the parked vehicles belonged to their own staff despite having their own car park. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council advised CATG that they do not wish to take this issue forward.*

163/19 **Resident’s Requests (2):**

- a) Requests for Westlands Lane, Beanacre - Speed Limit, Safe Path over Bridge, Warning Signs:** It was noted that this had already been discussed with the resident in public participation. It was felt that a speed review of this road was not something that could not be brought forward, however, it was suggested that the Parish Council contact the Highway’s Engineer to establish whether suitable road narrows signage could be installed. The issue with the signage coming into Westlands Lane from the A350 currently obscured by vegetation, so that the weight restriction for this road could not be seen, to be reported on the My Wiltshire App system. **Recommended 1:** *The Parish Council raise a CATG issue to investigate the possibility of road narrow signage. 2. The overgrown vegetation obscuring existing signage to be reported on the App.*
- b) Request for Beanacre Village Signage on Westlands Lane:** A request had been received for signage on Westlands Lane to indicate where the village of Beanacre commenced. It was noted that there used to be a Beanacre village sign on the west side of the bridge, near to the entrance to the National Grid entrance. It was felt that if there was a sign indicating where the village of Beanacre commenced, there should also be one opposite to indicate where the village of Whitley starts. The Parish Council would be required to fund these signs which would be in the region of £300 each. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council agree in principle to the provision of such signage, but await the receipt of community benefit funding from the installation of the battery storage facilities in Westlands Lane before progressing any schemes.*
- c) Request for Bowerhill Village Signage and Village Gates:** BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) had asked whether there was a possibility of installing Village Gates to indicate the boundaries of Bowerhill Village, similar to those in the village of Seend and Lacock. They considered that these should be on the entrance to Portal Road from the A350, on the A365 on the Devizes side of Melksham Oak, on the A365 as you leave the Spa Roundabout and at the

entrance to Pathfinder Way. It was noted that Taylor Wimpey, the developers of Pathfinder Place, were going to create a village entrance on Pathfinder Way as part of the Public Art Contribution; this reflected a requirement from Wiltshire Council's Planning Department that the northern side of this development needed to maintain a rural buffer to accord with the Core Strategy, and to ensure that it was clear that this was the entrance to the village of Bowerhill. It was noted that village picket entry gates cost approximately £1,400 each. There were two Bowerhill signs on the A365 by the Turnpike garage, but that a sign was needed on Portal Road. **Recommended 1:** *The Parish Council raise a CATG issue to install a Bowerhill sign on Portal Road. 2. The various options for the provision of village gates on the A365 to be investigated.*

- d) **Request for Action Regarding Speeding Traffic on Semington Road:** It was noted that there was already CSW on Semington Road and this was also a SID site. As discussed with the resident in public participation the developers of the 150 dwellings on Semington Road would be installing additional road calming measures as a condition of their planning permission.
- e) **Request for Metro Count on Woodrow Road to enable a new Community Speed Watch Team:** An active member from the CSW team in Beanacre had recently moved to Woodrow Road and wished to resurrect the CSW team there, which had been inactive for some years. Wiltshire Police had advised that as it had been some time since a CSW team had operated in this location that a new metro count would need to be carried out to confirm eligibility. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council request a metro count for Woodrow Road via CATG.*
- f) **Request for Community Speed Watch Signs:** The Clerk explained her frustration that for the last two and a half years she had been chasing Wiltshire police for CSW signage. She had now been informed that these needed to be requested via CATG. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council request CSW signs via CATG for all the CSW areas in the parish.*
- g) **Request for Action Regarding Parking Issues on the Junction of First Lane and Top Lane, Whitley following White Line Marking outside of the "Toast Office":** The Clerk advised that the white line markings had now been installed outside of the Toast Office, and the positive result of this was that vehicles were now parking in the allocated bays and not outside of resident's driveways. It has also enabled the buses to get through without over running the verge and compromising the ditch. However, vehicles were now parking on the junction of Top Lane and First Lane, on the bend. This was obscuring the view for drivers when trying to exit this junction, or when entering First Lane was causing vehicles to be on the wrong side of the road on a bend as they were passing parked vehicles. It was noted that PCSOs were unable to issue fixed penalty notices, but it was felt that if they attended this location, they could give some words of advice to drivers. **Recommended:** *The Parish Council ask if the PCSO could attend this junction and offer some words of advice to drivers about where they park.*

164/19 **SID (Speed Indicator Device):** It was noted that the Town Council had indicated that they were going to buy their own new SID when the old one stopped working, and that they were considering a change of the existing agreement with regard to joint usage (the Town Council, the Parish Council and Atworth Parish Council) but they had not provided any further information on this matter. It was felt that the Parish Council should get some quotes themselves for a new SID and the Clerk explained that there were several different models, that gave out different messages, and were powered by

different options. The members reviewed the different options and felt that a solar powered model would be a better replacement as the batteries would not have to be charged up separately. They also wished the display to show "Your speed... Slow Down". **Recommended:** *The Parish Council investigate the cost of a new solar powered SID with a display that says "your speed...slow down"*.

165/19 **Footpaths & Rights of Way (ROW):**

- a) **Correspondence Regarding Relocation/Installation of Kissing Gates:** It was noted that a resident had reported that a kissing gate on MELW18 had been removed. This was on land which was due to be developed as part of the 450 dwellings approved on land to the north of The Spa, and the resident was concerned that the developers had removed this. It was noted that this was all part of upgrading works to some of the ROWs and this gate had been moved by the West Wilts Ramblers to MELW24. The developer would be undertaking ROW improvements to MELW18 as part of the S106 Agreement including the provision of new kissing gates.
- b) **Correspondence Regarding Proposed Extinguishment of Some Width of Bridleway MELW41:** It was noted that the width of this bridleway in the proposed area to be extinguished would be 5.1m wide, which was more than the 3m required for two horse riders to pass each other. Additionally, the Parish Council had commented that if some of the width of this bridleway was to be extinguished then the bridle gate on the Eastern Way needed to be moved to be in alignment with the bridle gate further up the bridle gate. Wiltshire council had advised that this had been spotted and that they would be working with the landowner to action this.
- c) **Order Made to Divert Bridleways MELW25 (part) and MELW25a (part, Tanhouse Barn, Redstocks):** It was noted that no objections had been received to this proposal and so the order had now been made.
- d) **Rights of Way Obstructed by Maize:** Correspondence between the West Wilts Ramblers and Wiltshire Council's ROW Department regarding ROWs blocked by maize crops was noted.
- e) **Masonry repair Works Undertaken on Packhorse Bridge (Monkton Farm) MELW5:** It was noted that stone maintenance and repairs had been carried out on the arches of the packhorse bridge, which is Grade II listed and dated 1899. These works had been carried out whilst keeping the ROW open to the public.

166/19 **Traffic Regulation Orders & Planned Roadworks:**

- a) **Temporary Closure of Woodrow Road, Lower Woodrow and Forest Lane:** It was noted that this section of road would be closed between 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 to enable Ringway to carry out repairs to the culvert under the carriageway.

167/19 **Parish Steward:** The Parish Officer advised that the Parish Steward had been carrying out lots of great work in the Parish, such as rag wort pulling, clearing vegetation on footways, removing rotten ROW posts and had addressed some ditch works at the request of the flood wardens. It continues to be an excellent service.

Meeting closed at 9.54pm

Chairman, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2019