

**MINUTES of the Highways & Streetscene Committee of Melksham Without Parish
Council held on Monday 2 November 2020**

**(DUE TO THE ON-GOING COVID 19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS THIS WAS A
VIRTUAL MEETING, WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BEING ABLE TO ACCESS
THE MEETING VIA THE PUBLISHED ZOOM INVITATION, THIS MEETING WAS
ALSO LIVE STREAMED VIA YOUTUBE)**

Present: Councillors Richard Wood (Chairman of the Council), John Glover (Vice Chairman of the Council), Alan Baines (Chair), Paul Carter, David Pafford and Robert Shea-Simonds

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

Also Present: Councillor Patacchiola
Wiltshire Councillor Phil Alford (for part of meeting)
5 Members of Public

144/20 Housekeeping & Announcements

Councillor Baines welcomed everyone to the meeting.

145/20 To receive Apologies and approval of reasons given

Members noted Councillor Terry Chivers was not present.

146/20 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

147/20 To consider for approval any Dispensation Requests received by the Clerk and not previously considered

None were received.

148/20 Public Participation

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of public to speak to various items on the agenda.

A resident of Beanacre raised a concern at the level of speeding taking place on

the A350 through Beanacre and noted after reading minutes of previous meetings this had been raised on numerous occasions, however, the level of speeding continued.

They had noted that Councillor Baines at the Highways meeting on 14 September 2020 when the matter of speeding on the A350 was last raised had stated "...there was a history of speeding traffic in Beanacre and there were measures in place to deal with it...". The resident contested this statement as he felt measures were not effective, having witnessed vehicles travelling at excessive speed and wished to see effective speed control and find out who he needed to approach to make sure this happened.

Councillor Baines stated speeding on the A350 had been raised several times over the years and the parish council had tried everything, including asking the local MP to visit Beanacre and witness the speeding herself.

Councillor Baines felt it was a lack of enforcement that was the problem, with speeding being an issue all over the parish.

A resident of Shaw attended the meeting to voice their concern at speeding traffic on the A365 through Shaw and explained he had moved in during lockdown and since then had noted a significant increase in traffic, particularly lorries. The speed of some of the traffic at times was in excess of 50mph on a 30mph stretch of road which was impacting their family's life and asked what could be done to try and alleviate this.

They understood 22 residents had signed a letter asking the Parish Council to look at what could be done to reduce the speed of traffic on this stretch of road.

A resident of Redstocks attended the meeting to voice their concern at bright white LED street lighting which had recently been installed in Redstocks and the impact this had on wildlife, particularly as it remained on all night and felt Wiltshire Council had not followed Government guidelines on light pollution in installing these new lights, particularly in rural areas.

Standing Orders to be reinstated.

149/20 To note the following documents.:

a) To note Minutes of last Highways & Street Scene Committee 14 September 2020 and updates on actions taken

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 with updates and actions highlighted by the Clerk.

Min No - 67/20 Minutes of Last Meeting – Speed Indicator Device

(SID): Investigations were still underway regarding a contractor to deploy the SID with relevant street works licence/highways accreditation and was an item later on the agenda.

Min 68a(i)/20 - Bath Road, A365 Shaw: Request to reduce speed limit from 40mph to 30mph from George Ward Gardens to just after bend on A365 where it changes back to 30mph: Wiltshire Council have been contacted to re-assess the speed limit between George Ward Gardens and traffic lights at Shaw.

Min 68b/20 - Bollard on Old Road, Beanacre: This item has been placed on the next CATG agenda in December for consideration.

Min 68e/20 – Traffic Survey Request for A350, Beanacre: A Traffic Survey had been undertaken in Beanacre previously but was inconclusive due to the volume of traffic. A large number of speeding vehicles were noted, however, the high traffic flow meant the Traffic Survey did not indicate speeding. Councillor Baines stated he had convinced the CATG that Beanacre was a special case and to have both a SID position, which it now has (with a second one hopefully soon) and that it qualified for Community Speed Watch. However, strictly speaking it did not meet the criteria due to high traffic flow.

Min 68i/20 – To install HGV signs in Westlands Lane: The cutting back of vegetation has been placed on the Parish Steward list.

69/20 Bus Shelters - Bus shelter end panels now fitted on Mitchell Drive and Halifax Road opposite Beaufort Close (smashed glass panel also replaced at same time with poly carbonate).

The Parish Council have also agreed to look at repairing/replacing any Wiltshire Council bus shelters, as they no longer have the resources to do this.

Councillor Baines explained there would be an update on the A350 at the Area Board meeting on 4 November.

Councillor Glover noted the presentation was also available on Seend Parish Council's website.

b) To note Minutes of last CATG (Community Area Transport Group) meeting 24 September

Councillor Baines went through the CATG minutes of 24 September 2020:

Issue 6914 - A350 Beanacre: Request for ground socket for pole to assist Speed Indicator Device (SID) deployment. A site for this has been agreed with costs in the region of £531.38 with funding being 50/50 between CATG and the parish.

Issue 9-19-10 – Westlands Lane, Beanacre: Request for warning signs of road narrowing for westbound vehicles – Signage installed and funded centrally (no cost to CATG)

Issue 9-19-9 – Falcon Way, Bowerhill Request for Bus shelter near Kingfisher Drive for southbound travel: It was confirmed groundworks would be funded by 50% by CATG (with the other 50% MWPC). The approximate cost for groundworks would be in the region of £1,200 for a 2 bay shelter. This item to be discussed at item 10b on the agenda.

Issue 9-19-11 – Portal Road, Bowerhill: Request for Bowerhill nameplate and white gates. Parish Council to liaise with Dick Lovetts when they have moved on site.

Issue 9-20-3 – A350 Western Way: Pedestrian safety at signal controlled crossing on dual carriageway:

The installation of signal enforcement cameras; notices for pedestrians to ensure traffic has stopped before crossing; review of signal phase timings; installation of rumble strips to warn drivers.

It was noted this crossing was due to be upgraded as part of the Re-allocation of Road Space Project (subject to successful funding bid).

Some of funding from the developer of George Ward Gardens has been allocated to Dunch Lane/Shurnhold fields to improve access.

However, Network Rail had concerns regarding the stretch of Dunch Lane over the railway bridge following an incident where a vehicle struck a parapet and knocked debris onto track. Therefore some funding may be diverted towards this.

There was funding for improvements to the A365 footpath from Dunch Lane to Shaw, which was later on the agenda.

c) To note Wiltshire Council Policy documents relating to Permanent 20mph Speed Restrictions and 20mph Speed Restrictions outside schools

Policy documents relating to permanent 20mph speed restrictions and 20mph speed restrictions outside schools had been circulated to Members for their information.

Councillor Glover noted given the information within the report, the majority of Bowerhill could be considered for 20mph as it had various traffic calming measures in place and due to the design of side roads.

Councillor Baines stated the difficulties with implementing a 20mph zones/limits was the speed needed to be no more than 24mph, which defeated the object of creating a 20mph zone and felt the real issue was enforcement.

It was noted the town had various estate roads with 20mph speed limits, however, there was no enforcement for those travelling over this speed and it did not seem to make a difference in reducing the speed of vehicles.

The Clerk reminded Members at a previous Highways meeting it had been agreed the Clerk would arrange a meeting to explore ways to enhance traffic calming measures in Bowerhill.

150/20

To consider residents' requests for support by the Parish Council including requests for CATG (Community Area Transport Group next meeting 3 December 2020):

a) A350 Further requests to investigate reducing speeding on A350, Beanacre (14/9/20 Min 68/20e)

Councillor Baines noted installing Average Speed Cameras had been suggested in various correspondence received, but expressed concern Wiltshire Council would not support this type of camera or any speeding camera being installed.

Councillor Baines expressed frustration at the level of speeding in the whole of the parish and noted the only things currently available to deter speeding were Speed Indicator Devices (SID) and Community Speed Watch. Whilst SIDs warned drivers to reduce their speed, this only worked on those who would abide by speed limits, this did not tackle those drivers

who would speed anyway. Community Speed Watch could only send a warning letter to remind people of the speed limit, therefore the only option available would be to try and encourage better enforcement through cameras or Police enforcement and suggested lobbying Wiltshire Council to consider their policy on speed cameras.

Both Councillors Glover and Pafford noted in other parts of Europe there were alternatives that did not require enforcement that were effective, but noted there would be considerable costs involved in installing the necessary infrastructure.

Members supported the frustration of residents at speeding within the parish and felt the only option was to ask for better enforcement to discourage drivers from speeding with a suggestion by Councillor Carter that the Parish Council lobby the Police & Crime Commissioner to look at providing more enforcement.

Councillor Alford requested to speak to this item, which Members agreed.

Councillor Alford stated if the Parish Council wished to pursue the option of lights as raised by Councillor Glover and Pafford he was be happy support this at CATG.

Councillor Alford explained whilst there were elections for the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) next year it was understood one of the proposed candidates at least was keen to reduce speeding and improve enforcement.

Councillor Baines suggested the Parish Council contact Councillor Wayman, Portfolio Holder for Highways explaining the problem of speeding all over the parish and the need for effective enforcement of speed limits and if there was anything Wiltshire Council were contemplating in respect of improving adherence to existing speed limits and to copy in prospective candidates for the PCC asking if they become the next PCC this is something the Parish Council are looking at getting some action on and to contact the current PCC also.

Councillor Shea-Simonds raised a concern the member of public in their correspondence had stated they felt everyone was passing the buck and hoped this was not levelled at the Parish Council as correct procedure had been followed in

passing on any requests to Wiltshire Council and CATG and supported the suggestions already raised by other Members.

Minutes had been circulated from the Highways meeting of 3 September 2018 noting since the end of May 2016 Community Speed Watch (CSW) had reported over 11,000 vehicles speeding at 36mph or over in Beanacre, with over 1100 being lorries. Over 700 vehicles were doing 46mph or over with the fastest speed report at 70mph. It was noted these were recordings taken during the day.

It was noted Beanacre CSW had been one of the most prolific groups in their effective reporting of speeding vehicles in the whole of Wiltshire and that the Parish Council had tried all sorts of different ways in tackling speeding.

The Clerk reminded Members, some time ago Beanacre CSW had been told to stop as too many vehicles were being reported and Enforcement could not keep up. At the time the Parish Council had expressed their concern to the Police and Crime Commissioner that this decision had been made.

Recommendation: To contact Councillor Wayman, Portfolio Holder for Highways explaining the problem of speeding all over the parish and the need for effective enforcement of speed limits and if there was anything Wiltshire Council were contemplating in respect of improving adherence to existing speed limits. To copy in prospective candidates and the current PCC stating that this is something the Parish Council are looking at getting some action on.

To investigate what other options are available to deter speeding, such as those in other parts of Europe to raise with Community Area Transport Group (CATG).

b) Bath Road, A365 Shaw

- i) To consider email from 22 residents (Shaw Hill, Shaw & Whitley) regarding reducing speeding on A365 through Shaw, as well as other highway safety measures. (14/9/20 Min 68/20a ii)**

22 residents of Shaw Hill, Shaw and Whitley had signed a letter expressing their concerns at the speed of traffic on the A365 through Shaw as well as suggesting various highway improvement measures which may help with

speeding or at least improve drivers awareness of the speed limit through Shaw:

- Auto Speed Watch Cameras. It was noted these did not require people having to stand on the side of the road recording speed but would require them to assess data.

Information was available from Corsham & Box Matters regarding this initiative.

Recommendation: Councillor Alford research Auto Speed Watch Cameras and their cost.

- Installation of Double White Lines on Shaw Hill (before bend towards Lowden): Councillor Baines stated it was unclear whether this location qualified for double white lines or if they could be applied in a 30mph speed limit.

It was agreed to make enquiries on whether this site did qualify and whether they could be applied in a 30mph.

- SLOW painted on road surface. Councillor Baines stated if dressing was only topdressing this may not be appropriate, as paint often disappears with wear and tear.
- Closure of Cleveland Bridge to HGVs. This is only a temporary closure whilst repairs take place, with BaNES having just received funding to undertake this work. Wiltshire Council had looked at the most appropriate route for HGVs prior to closure making a recommendation the main route for HGVs would be the A350.
- Road Surface. Councillor Baines, stated unfortunately, Wiltshire Council were not undertaking much road resurfacing at present, unless road surfaces had deteriorated badly, they would only be given a surface dressing.
- Pavements: Councillor Baines stated the Parish Steward had done his best to clear vegetation/soils to make the pavement wider along the A365, in the time he had available, however, the job was more extensive just for one person.

It was noted there may be some additional action between Dunch Lane and Shaw as part of the road/pavement space reallocation scheme as a result of Covid, with an item on the agenda later.

Councillor Baines stated the issue of vegetation encroaching on footways, was an issue across the whole parish, with various things tried with varying success, such as use of mechanical diggers, however, this had resulted in damaging the footway in places, where vegetation has taken root within the footway and suggested approaching Wiltshire Council to see what action could be undertaken.

Councillor Alford agreed to endorse this approach and to follow this up with Wiltshire Council.

The Clerk explained previously she had asked if the diggers which were in the area undertaking flood alleviation work, could be used to clear overgrown vegetation along the A365 in Shaw, but was told in order to undertake that sort of work, at that location, it would require traffic management and therefore was not that straightforward and also expensive.

- Better positioning of the 30 mph signs for Shaw.

Councillor Baines explained a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was required to impose 30mph, with the location of the limit defined in the TRO ie where it starts and finishes. Changing a speed limit is a long and involved legal process, which would require a statutory consultation period.

- With regards to the 'No repeater signs in 30mph' speed areas, Councillor Baines explained that unfortunately, this is still a Traffic Regulation Order matter until changed nationally.
- Revising limit on A365. Councillor Baines explained that unfortunately, without a material change it is difficult to get speed limits reduced. However, at a previous meeting following a request to reduce the speed along this stretch of road, it was noted there had been a material change with more people walking between

George Ward Gardens and Shaw School and therefore the Parish Council had asked that the limit on this section of the road be reviewed at least.

- Speed Indicator Device. Councillor Baines explained deployment had been suspended for various reasons. However, it had been agreed once everything was back up and running to have the SID deployed in both directions on the A365 going out of Shaw towards Atworth.
- Installation of Average Speed Cameras. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

It was agreed this was a comprehensive list of concerns, with Councillor Alford agreeing to investigate some of the issues raised.

c) To consider request to reduce speed limit on B3353 (Corsham Road), particularly outside Shaw Primary School

Correspondence had been received from Councillor Alford after having received complaints from concerned residents at the speed of traffic on Corsham Road outside the school.

Councillor Alford noted in Wiltshire Council's Policy Document relating to 20mph speed limits outside school, Shaw School would have to put this in their Travel Plan. It was also unclear whether this location would qualify for a 20mph limit, as it was on a main road.

Councillor Wood referred to 20mph timed signs outside schools in other areas and whether something like this could be installed.

Councillor Baines explained Wiltshire Council were not in support of 20mph temporary speed limits outside schools, but noted that other authorities had introduced these and suggested a change in policy by Wiltshire Council be sought to look at the installation of part-time signage outside schools, which would allow traffic to flow freely at other times.

The Clerk noted in the report for 20mph Speed Limits Outside Schools, Wiltshire Council had stated 'that in rural areas all

schools to have 30mph speed limits unless there are extenuating circumstances' and the implementation of that was to be considered at the 2004 Speeding Review and as a result most schools have a 30mph speed limit at their main entrance.

It was noted the data for collisions outside schools was low between pedestrians and vehicles, with casualties recorded as passengers not as pedestrians outside schools.

Recommendation: To ask Wiltshire Council what improvements they can provide to reduce speeding outside Shaw School.

d) To consider request for support from residents of Redstocks on the impact of newly installed bright white lighting on the area

Councillor Baines explained Wiltshire Council were currently in the process of changing street lighting to LED, which was much more energy efficient with Melksham appearing to be one of the first areas to be swapped over.

It was noted this lighting was brilliant white light and more intrusive to the environment compared to the previous amber lighting.

Correspondence had been received signed by several residents of Redstocks concerned at the impact this lighting was having on wildlife, particularly as the lights seemed to be on all night.

Councillor Baines explained he was aware of residents in other areas expressing the same concern. It was noted the new lights provided concentrated pools of light whereas the previous lights spread lighting.

It was noted some time ago, Wiltshire Council, in order to save money had resolved to switch off street lighting at midnight (except pure footways and junctions).

Standing Orders were suspended to allow a resident of Redstocks to speak to this item.

The resident explained whilst Redstock residents accepted the change to more efficient lighting, were concerned at the impact this was having on wildlife and was aware of studies elsewhere

in the world, on the use of LEDs and using different coloured lighting to reduce the impact on wildlife. New Zealand in particular, were looking at low level amber LED lighting to reduce the impact on wildlife.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Recommendation: To ask Wiltshire Council to reconsider the use of bright white, to less intense LED lighting in rural areas to reduce the impact on wildlife. To reference the New Zealand study looking to install low level amber lighting to reduce the impact on wildlife.

To also state the Parish Council see no reason to keep lights on all night except as previously, on pure footways and junctions and to copy in Wiltshire Councillor for Redstocks, Councillor Nick Holder.

e) To consider a request for the installation of a Children Crossing sign at the new crossing on Shaw Hill

Councillor Alford had contacted the Parish Council after receiving a request from a concerned resident at the lack of 'Children crossing' signs near the newly installed crossing at the traffic lights at the bottom of Shaw Hill.

It was suggested 'WigWag' lighting had previously been installed near the lights, however, it was understood these may have been removed when the new lights and crossing were installed in order not to distract drivers, given the amount of safety/road signage installed at this junction.

It noted there were already 'school' warning signs on both the A365 when approaching the school from Atworth (before the traffic lights) and on Corsham Road just before the school (opposite the church).

Councillor Alford explained the complainant felt the current signage lacked sufficient impact to warn drivers and sought additional safety measures, such as flashing lighting.

Recommendation: To ask Wiltshire Council what improvements they can provide to improve safety outside Shaw School.

151/20

Community Area Transport Group (CATG)

- a) **To provide response to CATG regarding schemes to be taken forward as local priority as not taken forward for “Highways Response to Covid-19 - Re-allocation of Road Space Government” funding bid**
 - i) **Whitley West Hill to Top Lane – provision of footway**
 - ii) **A365 Dunch Lane to Shaw Footway improvements**

Correspondence had been received from Mark Stansby, Senior Traffic Engineer, Wiltshire Council stating whilst only 2 out of the 28 schemes suggested had been selected for bids, the Cabinet Member had asked that CATG consider schemes not taken forward with a view to implementing these as local priority schemes through the normal CATG funding stream.

Recommendation: To support both schemes be put forward for consideration, however, if one scheme only can go forward to prioritise the A365 Dunch Lane to Shaw footway improvements.

152/20

Requests outside of scope of CATG

- a) **To note request for yellow zig zag lines outside Bowerhill Primary School to go via School Travel Plan route**

Following a request for zig zag lines outside Bowerhill Primary school being forwarded to Wiltshire Council for consideration, Members noted, following correspondence from the School Travel Advisor, this request needed to go via the School Travel Plan route following liaison with the new Head, which the Clerk agreed to do.

- b) **To consider response from Area Highway Engineer regarding proposed planters on highway (Berryfield and Portal Road, Bowerhill)**

Members noted correspondence had been received from the Area Highway Engineer regarding appropriate locations for commemorative WWII planters in Berryfield and Bowerhill.

It was noted whilst referencing the location in Berryfield it stated ‘The land at the rear of the footway where the parish sign is situated is not public highway. It is Council maintained land which is part of the planned maintenance transfer to the parish.’

The Clerk was surprised at this comment as the Parish Council had not started negotiations on transfer of assets as yet and had raised this with the Highways Engineer.

c) To consider response from Area Highway Engineer regarding public art panel to be installed on highway verge at Pathfinder Way, Bowerhill

Correspondence had been received from the Area Engineer stating Highways were happy with the location and installation of the proposed artwork subject to Melksham Without Parish Council confirming this art work was covered in their Public Liability Insurance.

Recommendation: To confirm that the public art panel will be covered under the Parish Council's public liability insurance.

153/20

Speed Indicator Device (SID):

a) To consider quotations from contractors to erect the SID on a regular basis

Councillor Baines explained it had been difficult to obtain quotations from contractors with the relevant Street Works Licence/Highway Certification and Public Liability Insurance.

However, one quotation had been received of £193 + VAT from the Council's grass cutting contractor, however, this particular contractor would have to get their operatives trained up with the necessary qualifications to fulfill this role.

It was hoped that another person with the relevant qualifications would have been able to quote for this work, but unfortunately, due to workload pressures. was unable to provide a quote.

The Clerk clarified there had been a delay in obtaining additional quotes as officers had been helping with the community response to Covid 19, but was actively looking for suitably qualified contractors to approach and would report back her findings.

Councillor Baines explained that unfortunately the SID inherited from Wiltshire Council, which the Parish Council had shared with the Town Council and was installed by the Town Council's Amenities Team had developed a fault which was found to be beyond repair. The Town Council had decided to purchase their

own devices and therefore, the Parish Council had to purchase their own device and seek a suitably qualified person to install it.

It was noted another larger contractor had provided a quote some time ago, but this quote was significantly higher than the one provided above, hence having to source further contractors.

154/20

Bus Shelters:

a) To note work undertaken to repair and add additional side panels to Wiltshire Council bus shelters in Bowerhill

The Clerk informed the meeting the installation of side panels to the shelters in Mitchell Drive and Halifax Road had been completed with a good write up in the Melksham News.

Residents had expressed their grateful thanks to the Parish Council for undertaking this work.

b) To note indicative pricing for a new bus shelter for Falcon Way and recommend to Full Council if Wiltshire Council or the parish council should purchase

The Clerk explained only one quote of £7,821 had been received so far as an indicative price for a 3 bay, single entry shelter with seating (including installation costs) from the contractor who had undertaken the work above whilst they were on site and sought a steer from Members on a way forward.

Councillor Baines reminded Members CATG had agreed to provide a hardstanding at this location (with the Parish Council paying half the costs), with the Parish Council having to pay for the shelter.

It was noted the status of the land where the shelter was to be located was in question and that land ownership needed to be ascertained, however, it was noted Wiltshire Council did maintain this land.

The Clerk asked whether the Council wished to install a 3 bay or 2 bay shelter.

Councillor Baines stated a 3 bay shelter would be preferable with a single entry point, given its location.

Councillor Glover sought clarification on whether this shelter would include 'real time information' boards.

The Clerk clarified Wiltshire Council were currently looking at a new system. Therefore, Councillor Glover asked that the shelter had the capability for 'real-time information boards' in the future.

Following discussion on the costs:

Recommendation: To seek a comparative quote for a 3 bay, barrel roof bus shelter with single entry from Wiltshire Council from their preferred manufacturer/supplier and 2 further quotes and to ascertain the status of the land in question from Land Registry.

155/20 Footpaths & Rights of Way:

Correspondence had been received from Wiltshire Council stating Modification Order to MELW152 was now **confirmed** (from MELW66 at Woodrow Road around the edge of the field known as "Forty Acres" by the River Avon, approx. length 1980 metres).

Members noted the above and expressed disappointment that despite objections from both the Parish Council and landowners this application had been approved.

156/20 To consider budget requests for Highways & Streetscene in 2021/22

The Clerk asked what budgetary considerations needed to be borne in mind from this group for 2021/22 budget setting.

Recommendation: That the same level of CATG match funding of £14,250 be included in the 2021/22 budget for consideration.

Meeting closed at 9.08pm

Signed by the Chair.....
Full Council meeting 23 November 2020