

MINUTES of the Highways & Streetscene Committee of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 12 July 2021 at 1 Swift Way, Westinghouse Way, Bowerhill, Melksham, SN12 6QX at 8.00pm (started at 8.12pm)

DUE TO THE ON-GOING COVID 19 PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRICTIONS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE FACE-TO-FACE MEETING, BUT WERE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM, DUE TO LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE IN THE COUNCIL'S MEETING SPACE TO COMPLY WITH COVID RESTRICTIONS. THE MEETING WAS ALSO LIVE STREAMED VIA YOUTUBE

Present: Councillors Alan Baines (Committee Chair), John Glover (Chair of Council); David Pafford (Vice Chair of Council) Terry Chivers (Vice Chair of Committee), Mark Harris, Stefano Patacchiola & Robert Shea-Simonds

Present via Zoom: 4 Members of Public

Present in the Meeting Room: 4 Members of Public

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

138/21 Welcome, Announcements & Housekeeping

Councillor Glover welcomed everyone to the meeting (as Chair of Council) and pointed out the various fire exits in case of an emergency.

The Clerk explained to those present, and those via Zoom, the meeting was being recorded and would be uploaded to YouTube and remain until the minutes were approved at the next Full Council meeting.

Councillor Glover informed those present Melksham Without Parish Council were holding two public meetings on proposals for the A350 Bypass to hear the views of parish residents before formulating their response to the current round of Bypass consultations. The meetings would be "in person" and on Monday, 19 July at 7pm at St Barnabas Church, Beanacre and 21 July at 7pm at Bowerhill Village Hall.

139/21 To elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the Highways & Street Scene Committee for 2021/22

Councillor Glover sought nominations for Chair of the Committee.

Councillor Pafford nominated Councillor Baines, which was seconded by Councillor Shea-Simonds.

There were no further nominations.

Councillor Glover proposed Councillor Chivers as Vice Chair of the Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Baines.

There were no further nominations.

Unanimously Resolved: Councillors Baines and Chivers be duly elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Highways & Streetscene Committee.

Councillor Baines took the Chair and thanked Members for their confidence in him as Chair of the Committee.

140/21 To receive Apologies and approval of reasons given

All those on the Committee were present.

141/21 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 received.

142/21 Public Participation

Councillor Baines asked if Members were happy Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of public to speak, which they agreed.

Bader Park/Brabazon Way, Bowerhill speeding concerns

Four residents of Bader Park, Bowerhill were in attendance to voice their concerns at speeding traffic in Bader Park which had resulted with two walls being destroyed by speeding vehicles not being able to negotiate the road and cutting corners. One vehicle due to their speed and not being able to negotiate the road conditions, mounted the pavement and went across someone's drive, resulting in the resident having to jump out of the way.

One resident explained, having lived on Bader Park for over 25 years, had noted this had only become an issue recently, with drivers using Bader Park via Brabazon Way (and vice versa) as a race track, particularly at night, which was also causing a noise issue and disturbing residents.

It was noted due to vehicles parked on either side of the road in Bader Park or Brabazon Way vehicles overtaking were on the wrong side of the road and often met a speeding vehicle coming

in the other direction and felt it was only a matter of time before an accident occurred and as both roads were in a residential area the speed of traffic should be controlled and asked for a 20mph speed limit on these roads, as well as camera monitoring.

One resident explained the Police were aware of the issues, having been contacted on several occasions, to be informed there was not a lot they could do.

The residents also raised concern at the danger of vehicles turning left out of Bader Park into Halifax Road due to the speed of vehicles around the blind bend on Halifax Road from the right and asked for traffic calming to be installed on Halifax Road. It was also noted yellow lines on parts of Halifax Road were broken up and therefore people were parking their vehicles, causing vehicles to be on the wrong side of the road when overtaking on a blind bend, often meeting speeding vehicles coming from the other direction.

Speeding A350 – Beanacre

A resident of Beanacre who had previously been in contact with both the Parish Council and Wiltshire Councillor Phil Alford regarding speeding on the A350 expressed their frustration speeding was still continuing.

The resident noted when speeding had been investigated previously this had resulted in this stretch of road being eligible for Community Speed Watch and a Speed Indicator Device, however, this still did not seem to deter vehicles from speeding and asked what else could be done to alleviate the issue, such as installing permanent deterrents, which were installed elsewhere in the Country and noted a study had concluded temporary speed indicator devices did not work in encouraging drivers to slow down, particularly when moved elsewhere. The resident had also noted more HGVs (some of which were speeding) using this road, due to the closure of Cleveland Bridge in Bath to HGVs.

The resident informed the meeting they had tried to cross the A350 fairly recently, to be nearly knocked over by a vehicle being driven at least 70mph. The resident was so frustrated they had resorted to writing to businesses whose drivers were going too fast to ask that their drivers are reminded to adhere to the speed limit.

The resident had noted the speed indicator device had been in situ in Beanacre recently and the Police had also undertaken a patrol of speeding vehicles in Beanacre and asked for a permanent speed indicator device or speed cameras to be

installed to discourage drivers from speeding, as it was only a matter of time before an accident would happen.

Another resident of Beanacre supported the views expressed and explained they had also been in correspondence with the Clerk regarding the speed through Beanacre, particularly those coming from the Chippenham side not even attempting to slow down from the 60mph speed limit entering the 30mph speed limit, which was very dangerous and made it difficult getting off their drive or walk along the A350 through Beanacre. They had also noted their house experiencing cracks in the wall. They explained they had also witnessed 'boy racers' coming in and out of the village at high speeds and felt a plan was required to reduce the speed even before the Bypass was built and was explained they were happy to volunteer for Community Speed Watch.

Councillor Baines explained the Parish Council were equally frustrated at the issue of speeding within the parish and the lack of options available to alleviate the issue and had written to both the former and prospective Police & Crime Commissioners regarding concerns at the level of speeding in the parish and what could be done to alleviate it. It was also difficult to persuade Wiltshire Council to have permanent speed cameras and noted an increase in bad driving all round the parish and the need for Police action on this issue.

A365, Bath Road, Shaw – Request for change in 40mph speed Limit

A resident of Shaw Grange, Bath Road explained it was very difficult for residents to exit the driveway due to the 40mph speed limit along this stretch of Bath Road due to a bend in the road making it difficult to see vehicles until too late.

The resident had complained at the height of the grass on the entrance to Shaw Grange, however, it was noted this had since been cut back.

Councillor Patacchiola, being familiar with the area, echoed the comments made and explained a lorry had taken off the front of a vehicle exiting the driveway prior to the grass being cut back. He also noted drivers having negotiated the corner often started to speed up not noticing vehicles coming out of Shaw Grange.

The resident asked if the 30mph speed could be extended beyond Shaw Grange driveway.

Councillor Baines it would take between 12-18 months to get a traffic survey in order to prove a need for a change of speed limit

before a Traffic Regulations Order could be considered to change the speed limit.

Councillor Chivers explained some years ago the Council had tried to get the speed limit lowered along this stretch of road, to be told it could not be lowered as it did not meet the criteria and had to fight to get the 40mph speed limit implemented.

Councillor Baines explained quite recently a traffic survey was undertaken along this stretch of road, following a request for a reduction in the 40mph speed limit to 30mph, resulting in speeds not in excess of what would qualify for Community Speed Watch or a Speed Indicator Device in a 30mph speed limit, let alone a 40mph one and unless there has been a material change along this stretch of road, it was difficult to request a change in the speed limit, however, suggested the Parish Council could ask for a traffic survey in a different location along this stretch nearer to George Ward Gardens (which is a change) and Dunch Lane to ascertain the speed of traffic in order to support a request for a reduction in the speed limit.

Clarification was sought on how many residents were located at Shaw Grange, with the resident confirming there were three residences, with numerous deliveries to these. The resident also explained since moving to Shaw Grange three years ago, they had witnessed an increase in traffic using Dunch Lane.

Speeding on the A365 and Shaw Hill

The Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator for Shaw and Whitley explained he had read with interest previous minutes regarding the speed on the A365 through Shaw/Shaw Hill and explained he had forward the Parish Council his personal opinion on auto speed watch cameras which had previously been requested and stated the issue of speeding was a matter for the Police, where as Community Speed Watch was the best thing to protect itself against speeders and welcomed new volunteers to join Community Speed Watch.

Councillor Baines asked if Members were happy to move the item regarding Bader Park further up the agenda, which Members agreed.

Clarification was sought from Members whether residents were referring to speeding in Halifax Road, as well as Bader Park and Brabazon Way and whether the incidences had been reported to the Police

The residents confirmed they were referring to Bader Park, Brabazon Way and Halifax Road and that the incidences had been reported to the Police, but this was some time ago with the Police suggesting car

registrations were taken of those speeding, unfortunately, it was difficult to do this due to the speed of the vehicles.

Standing Orders were reinstated in order for Members to discuss this matter.

Councillor Chivers explained the issue of speeding at this location was not an isolated incident as he had witnessed it where he lived and felt it was a Police matter in order to take enforcement action and noted Community Speed Watch was active in his area and did a good job where they could in encouraging motorists to slow down.

Councillor Baines explained unfortunately Speed Indicator Devices could not be placed near a junction and felt the best option would be to put pressure on the Police by writing to the Police & Crime Commissioner and to the Local Police Inspector for an urgent response and seek advice on how to improve road safety throughout the parish.

Councillor Baines explained Community Speed Watch was all very well, but unless you can prove a site met the criteria in order to qualify for Community Speed Watch or a Speed Indicator Devices it was very difficult.

Councillor Glover explained the Police met regularly to set priorities and suggested the Parish Council ask that speeding be put as a main priority for these meetings.

Councillor Pafford explained he lived near Bader Park and was aware of vehicles going fast particularly on the Western end, despite vehicles being parked on the side of the road and had sympathy with the concerns of residents, particularly with the impact on them at night.

Councillor Baines explained some Members of the Parish Council had met with the Highway Engineer to discuss traffic calming along Halifax Road to be told additional traffic calming measures were extremely expensive and following those discussions the Parish Council had submitted a traffic survey request for the Western side of Halifax Road and suggested if vehicles were speeding between Brabazon Way and Bader Park a traffic survey could be undertaken at a suitable location to ascertain the speed, but warned the residents due to a back log, it would be some time before the traffic survey would be undertaken and the results known and whether it met the criteria for further action. The backlog had occurred as surveys were not being undertaken during the Covid pandemic as not typical of usual traffic patterns, and would not start until September for the same reason due to the school summer holiday period.

Recommendation: A Traffic Survey request be submitted to

Wiltshire Council to be undertaken at a suitable location on Bader Park nearer Brabazon Way in addition to the one already submitted for Halifax Road.

**143/21 To note Minutes of last Highways & Streetscene Committee
1 February 2021 and updates on actions taken**

Members noted the minutes of the last Highway & Streetscene Meeting held on 1 February 2021.

a) A365 Shaw Hill - Speeding Traffic (Request for Auto Speed Watch Cameras) (Min 299aiii/20).

i) To note response from Shaw & Whitley Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator regarding Auto Speed Watch Cameras

Members noted the response from the Shaw & Whitley Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator regarding the use of auto speed watch cameras who felt Community Speed Watch had better visibility and therefore was more effective in encouraging drivers to adhere to the speed limit, which auto speed watch cameras did not have. Auto speed watch was automated and although the equipment was reasonably priced, did not have the back-office support to go with it, as this was very expensive.

It was noted Wiltshire Council's Policy was not to implement these and therefore if residents wished to have these installed, they should take this up with the local Police.

Councillor Glover sought clarification on the cost of auto speed watch cameras and where the funding would come from.

Councillor Baines explained the cameras cost approximately £600 each, having come down in price. It was understood funding for these had come from Police & Crime Commissioners and varying tiers of councils in other areas of the country. The Police would also need to support the installation of such cameras before Wiltshire Council would consider paying for them. Therefore, if the Police were receptive to them, the issue of funding could be taken to Wiltshire Council.

ii) To note response from Community Speed Watch, Wiltshire Police (if received)

Unfortunately, a response from Community Speed Watch at Wiltshire Police had not been received.

b) CATG Issue 9-20-15 – B3353 Shaw/Corsham Road. Request for school wig-wag lights (Min 301a(vii))

Councillor Baines explained that Wiltshire Councillor Phil Alford had made investigations following a request for the installation of a wig wag light to find that wig wag lights were not permitted near crossings, which was the case in this instance.

c) Bus Shelters – Real Time Information

The Clerk explained she had been in touch with Phil Grocock at Wiltshire Council regarding his feelings on real time information on bus shelters and explained he felt as more and more people had smart phones to access information such as bus times etc. this would negate the need for real-time information to be installed in bus shelters in the future.

Councillor Glover felt people would still look for this information at bus shelters and the Parish Council had some shelters in the Parish capable of having real-time information installed.

d) Speeding Issues within the Parish (2/11/20 Min 150a & b/20). To note correspondence from the following on this issue:

i) Police & Crime Commissioner (former and candidates before May election)

Members noted the information contained within the correspondence from Mr Jonathan Seed, former candidate for the Police & Crime Commissioner (before May election) and the former Police & Crime Commissioner.

The Clerk sought clarification if Members wished officers to re-send the letter to new candidates for the position and the new PCC in due course.

Recommendation: To re-send the letter to the new candidates for the position and the new PCC in due course.

ii) Article in local media regarding Wiltshire Police Response to Community Safety Concerns

Councillor Baines noted the Police had recently undertaken more speed checks than in the past and had an increased awareness they needed to do more. Several people had been arrested for driving offences.

144/21

To consider residents' requests for support by the Parish Council including requests for CATG (Community Area Transport Group next meeting 9 September 2021):

a) Speeding on A365 Shaw

i) To consider further complaints regarding speeding on the A365 Shaw Hill and installation of Auto Speed Watch Camera (14/9/20 Min 68a(ii)), (2/11/20 Min 150b(i)) & (1/2/21 Min 299a(iii)/20)

Councillor Baines noted several items of correspondence had been received regarding speeding on the A365 Shaw Hill reiterating what they had said previously, requesting the installation of average speed cameras which are not Wiltshire Council policy, auto speed watch cameras and listing the various incidences which have occurred in recent years. It was noted that some of these were not in the parish but in Atworth. It was also noted one incidence referred to was actually as a result of mechanical failure and not speeding and also some due to driver error.

ii) To consider a further request for a Traffic Survey regarding the speed limit on the A365 between Dunch Lane and Shaw (24/2/20 Min 434/19), (14/9/20 Min 68a/20) & (1/2/21 Min 301b(ii)/20)

Councillor Baines explained a traffic survey had only recently been done on this stretch of the A365 (December 2020), therefore the Council could not request another be undertaken at the same location within two years.

Councillor Glover explained Wiltshire Council's policy on speed indicator devices was not to keep them up at the same location for more than two weeks and sought clarification on what would happen if they were left up in the same location.

Councillor Baines explained they would be confiscated

by Wiltshire Council, as had happened elsewhere. Whilst the Parish Council did have its own speed indicator device unfortunately it had recently been vandalised beyond repair.

If the Parish Council had more than one, there would be extra costs for additional batteries and charging and installation costs.

Councillor Glover suggested the Parish Council write to Wiltshire Council to explain their Policy on the installation of speed indicator devices and why Wiltshire Council seemed to be different to other councils.

Recommendation: To write to the Highways Portfolio Holder to ask for clarification on Wiltshire Council's policy regarding the installation of SIDs in the County.

b) Speeding on A350 Beanacre

i) To consider further complaints regarding the speed of vehicles on the A350 through Beanacre from 2 residents of Beanacre (14/9/20 Min 68e/20) & (2/11/20 Min 150a/20)

Following concerns of residents of speeding in Beanacre earlier in the meeting, Councillor Baines explained it was difficult to find a way forward, given what Wiltshire Council would or would not allow and what the Police could do and explained the Parish Council had already met with the local MP Michelle Donelan to impress upon her the level of speeding on this particular stretch of the A350.

Councillor Baines explained a speeding survey had been undertaken several years ago, which did not show an issue of speeding, due to the level of vehicles using the road masking those vehicles which were speeding. However, at the time he had fought for Community Speed Watch in this area, resulting in Community Speed Watch and a speed indicator (SID) in two locations in Beanacre and once the SID had been replaced the SID installation schedule would be resumed as soon as possible.

Later in the meeting, Councillor Baines noted a late paper regarding the speed of traffic coming from a national speed limit straight to a 30mph in a village and what others had tried.

Councillor Baines agreed to discuss with the Highway Engineer via CATG whether there was any scope for a tapered approach to speed limits coming into villages.

c) To consider a request for a warning sign outside Shaw Pet Centre, Bath Road, Shaw to warn drivers of vehicles exiting the site

Correspondence had been received from a resident requesting a warning sign be erected outside Shaw Pet Centre to warn drivers on the A365 of the concealed entrance, following a near miss whilst trying to exit the site, which was compounded by high vegetation on the verges either side of the entrance to this site.

It was noted a request had already been sent to Wiltshire Council for these verges to be cut back.

Councillor Chivers whilst sympathising with the request, felt this issue was the same for anyone trying to exit a driveway along this stretch of road and felt if the Parish Council approved this, it would set a precedent for further requests.

Councillor Baines explained the business itself could install a sign on their own land, warning drivers of a concealed entrance.

d) To consider a request for a mirror on Sandridge Road (opposite New Road) to enable vehicles exiting New Road to see oncoming vehicles

Correspondence had been received from a resident requesting a mirror on Sandridge Road opposite New Road, in order to see oncoming vehicles. The resident also stated site lines were impacted by high verges at this junction.

It was noted following a request to Wiltshire Council the verges had been cut back, however, it was still difficult to see traffic coming from the Calne direction, with the verge needed to be cut back even further.

Councillor Baines informed the meeting Wiltshire Council would not accept the installation of a mirror on the highway, as they have to be carefully positioned due to the sun, also over time they can be displaced and cause dazzling to drivers.

Councillor Chivers explained mirrors could be installed on private land, but not the public highway.

e) To consider resident request for highway safety improvements to junction of Hornchurch Road/Dakota Close/Manston Close, Bowerhill

A resident of Hornchurch Road had written to the Council concerned at highway safety on the junction of Hornchurch Road/Dakota Close and Manston Close, Bowerhill.

Councillor Pafford explained Hornchurch Road formed a crossroads with Manston Close and Dakota Close. Vehicles often parked outside houses on the left of Hornchurch Road on the slight hill leading up to the Tesco store, which meant drivers having to negotiation a mini roundabout and drive on the wrong side of the road up a slight hill with their view obscured, often meeting people travelling in the opposite direction.

Councillor Pafford went on to explained he had witnessed some vehicles negotiating the roundabout on the wrong side and felt it was a serious issue for drivers coming out of Dakota Close and Manson Close in particular, especially if vehicles coming down the hill indicate too late. He noted this road was used by children on a regular basis and felt the installation of double yellow lines on the uphill stretch of Hornchurch Road towards Tesco would go some way to resolve the issue.

It was also understood this part of Bowerhill was already subject to a 20mph speed limit.

With regard to traffic calming, it was noted ironically the parked vehicles provided traffic calming.

With regard to waiting restrictions and the installation of double yellow lines, it was noted this would take some 18 months to 2 years to implemented.

It was suggested a conversation with the local PCSO to offer friendly advice to drivers or those parking inappropriately might help.

Recommendation: To approach the Assistant Chief Inspector, Deb Smith seeking help with this issue in seeking assistance from the local PSCO.

f) To consider a request for signage in Bowerhill to remind people to turn off their engines while stationary (request from BRAG)

Councillor Harris explained following a search on the internet noted some areas had erected signs asking people to turn off their

engines whilst stationary, mostly outside schools and asked if one could be installed near Bowerhill primary school.

It was noted that drivers often parked their vehicles not just outside Bowerhill School on Halifax Road, but elsewhere in the vicinity. The issue was also relevant to elsewhere in the Parish, such as outside Shaw School.

It was suggested enquiries could be made with the Highway Engineer to ascertain if such signage was available.

Councillor Pafford suggested the schools in the parish could be approached to ask them to remind parents to switch off their engines whilst stationary, given the level of fumes given off and the impact on the environment, as this would be in their interest, given the impact on children in particular.

Recommendation: To contact both primary and secondary schools in the parish to ask that they remind parents/etc. to switch off their engines whilst awaiting to pick up children given the impact fumes have on the environment and on people's health.

To also ascertain from the Highways Engineer if such signage is available.

g) To consider request for traffic calming in Westlands Lane

A request had been received from the Beanacre Community Group for traffic calming and a traffic survey to be undertaken in Westlands Lane.

Councillor Baines explained, having looked at before, Westlands Lane was not suitable for traffic calming, however, improved signage on the bridge had been installed.

With regard to the request to undertake another traffic survey, Councillor Baines noted the last one was undertaken in 2016, with the results of the survey showing an average speed of 29.4mph in a 30mph area. There had been no specific changes which would give a different result than previously recorded and given the current backlog of requests, one would not be undertaken for some time.

Councillor Chivers noted due to the narrowness of the road and the number of vehicles which parked on the side of the road it would be very difficult to speed on this section of the road. With regards to the request for traffic calming, the vehicles parking on the side of the road acted as natural traffic calming.

It was noted Wiltshire Councillor Phil Alford had provided a toolkit

which was prepared by a consultant employed by Broughton Gifford Parish Council to undertake an independent traffic calming study in Broughton Gifford. The toolkit included useful ideas on traffic calming measures with proposals put forward costing around £25,000, which would be jointly funded by Broughton Gifford Parish Council and CATG.

Councillor Baines felt it would be interesting to note how effective the traffic calming measures would be in Broughton Gifford and noted the costs involved in providing traffic calming measures.

h) Traffic Survey Requests

i) Bader Park

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting with a:

Recommendation: A Traffic Survey request to be undertaken at a suitable location on Bader Park be submitted to Wiltshire Council in addition to the one already requested on Halifax Road.

ii) Update from Wiltshire Council regarding back-log of requests

Members noted correspondence dated 3 June from Sustainable Transport, Wiltshire Council stating following the Government's Roadmap out of lockdown, traffic surveys would resume from 21 June (subject to Government advice at the time) after they had been put on hold due to lockdown.

However, due to lockdown, there was a backlog in requests which had been received and the small window between restrictions being lifted and the start of the school holidays, meaning many of the traffic survey requests would not be commissioned until the Autumn and to bear this in mind when submitting requests.

i) To consider the following requests from BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group)

i) To have short sections of path laid at De Havilland Place and Dowding Way to connect the existing path with the roadside kerb on Halifax Road

Councillor Harris explained a Member of BRAG who was partially sighted and used a guide dog had asked if a short section of path could be laid at De Havilland Place and Dowding Way to connect the existing path with the roadside kerb on Halifax Road. At present they had to

stop at the kerbside, then walk into the road to the white 'give way' lines and stop again before crossing the footpaths on the opposite side which lead to the industrial estate. This was particularly challenging for guide dogs who are trained to stop at the kerbside, but not at white lines.

ii) Dropped kerbs on footpaths off of Halifax Road leading to Pegasus Way and Avro Way

Councillor Harris stated two of the three footpaths off of Halifax Road (one leading to Pegasus Way and the other to Avro Way) do not have dropped kerbs.

Councillor Glover explained the Parish Council had looked at this before with regard to drop kerbs. However, once at Bowerhill Industrial Estate there were several areas where there were no dropped kerbs and therefore the issue needed to be looked at as a whole.

It was agreed that there was a need to look at footpaths into the industrial estate as well, as otherwise they could lead people to area where there is none further on.

iii) Tactile paving on footpaths off of Halifax Road leading to Pegasus Way, Avro Way and Hercules Way

Councillor Harris asked if tactile paving could be provided on footpaths off of Halifax Road leading to Pegasus Way, Avro Way and Hercules Way.

Recommendation: To request CATG investigate the installation of short sections of footpath at De Havilland Place and Dowding Way to connect the existing path with the roadside; and dropped kerbs and tactile paving on footpaths off of Halifax Road leading to Pegasus Way and Avro Way.

iv) To repaint street name plates in Bowerhill which are faded

Councillor Harris noted several of the street name plates in Bowerhill were faded and asked if these could be repainted.

Recommendation: To approach the Community Pay Back Scheme to ascertain if this was something which they could undertake.

Community Area Transport Group (CATG)**a) To note Minutes and action log of last CATG (Community Area Transport Group) meetings held on 4 March and 10 June 2021.**

Members noted the minutes of 4 March and 10 June 2021.

Councillor Baines stated with regards to the footway improvements along the A365 it had originally been suggested some monies from George Ward Gardens Section 106 agreement could be used to install drop kerbs and extended the footway at Church Farm bus stop and widening the existing footway and replacing existing drop kerbs on either side of Dunch Lane.

With regard to bus stop on Bath Road, near Church Farm, Councillor Baines stated he had cleared the hard standing of vegetation and felt there was no requirement for dropped kerbs at this location therefore agreed the bus stop was adequate in its present form and the funding should be concentrated on dealing with the issue of substandard dropped kerbs at Dunch Lane which would still leave some funding for other footway improvements, it does not cover maintenance unfortunately, which is the main issue footway between Dunch Lane and Shaw.

Councillor Baines explained the Highway Engineer had stated neither him or the Parish Steward should clear the vegetation which was encroaching on this footway as it might reveal defects in the surface and create a trip hazard. Councillor Baines felt the footway was already in a bad condition. Therefore, he had took it upon himself to clear the footpath of vegetation between the bus stop opposite Shaw Farm and the stone wall along Bath Road and revealed at least an additional foot of footway with no defects and therefore it is possible to improve the width of the useable footway without causing trip hazards and revealing defects in the footpath.

However, Councillor Baines explained it was not so easy to clear the footway at Dunch Lane end as there is a steep bank and would require traffic management at a huge cost and in order to do it could cost around £30,000 to do.

The Clerk explained she had tried to get the vegetation scraped back before when specialist equipment was being used elsewhere in the area, but unfortunately it could not be used due to the angle the machinery needed to be to

cut it back, which would have required traffic management.

b) To note update from Councillor Baines following the CATG Meeting on 4 March & 10 June

Members noted the update from Councillor Baines following the CATG meetings.

c) To note future meeting dates of CATG

Members noted CATG meetings were proposed as follows:

9 September 2021
25 November 2021
24 February 2022

The parish council's Highway & Streetscene Committee meetings had been scheduled accordingly to meet the deadline dates for requests at CATG.

146/21 Requests outside of scope of CATG

None to note.

147/21 Community Speed Watch

a) To note minutes of Community Action for Whitley & Shaw (CAWs) meeting held on 18 May which include a Community Speed Watch update and Speed Watch figures.

Members noted the information contained within the minutes regarding Community Speed Watch in the villages which noted during April 3040 vehicles passed whilst on watch in a 30mph zone with 508 travelling above the limit with 73 of these vehicles travelling between 36mph and above, with one doing over 45mph.

It was noted as a rule it was found 10% of drivers either cannot not or do not bother to control their vehicles within the legal speed limit.

b) To note update Community Speed Watch Scheme Bolstered by New Enforcement Officer

An update had been received from the Community Speed Watch Scheme stating the scheme would now have more powers to tackle those determined to speed following the appointment of a Community Speed Watch Enforcement Officer. This new role was part of significant investment

made by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and Wiltshire Police.

Recommendation: To contact the Community Speed Watch Enforcement Officer regarding speeding issues within the parish in supporting the local Community Speed Watch Schemes.

c) Enforcement Officers to Challenge Speeding Motorists article

Members noted the information contained within this article.

d) To note article on Community Speed Watch local activities

Members noted that following public concern regarding the safety of roads, Wiltshire Police had undertaken six weeks of increased road safety activity during January and February. During this period, 136 arrests had been made across Wiltshire for drink/drug driving offences and 130 speed checks carried out across Wiltshire.

148/21

Speed Indicator Device (SID):

a) To note advice from Street Lighting regarding the installation of SID devices on street lighting and information on preferred specification

Members noted the advice from Street Lighting on installing SID devices and appropriate specification.

Councillor Baines noted the old SID inherited from Wiltshire Council was considerably heavier than the one which had replaced it and therefore there should be no issue in replacing the vandalized SID with one of a similar specification.

It was noted in order to installed a SID on a lamp post permission was required of Street Lighting, they also needed to be informed when it was being moved to a different location.

b) To consider replacing the Speed Indicator Device (SID) recently vandalized prior to outcome of claim with insurance providers

The Clerk explained costs of replacing the SID had been received from the original supplier of £2000 + VAT, but there was a 7-8 lead time as they were made to order and

asked approval from Members that officers went ahead and ordered the replacement as the supplier was happy to hold this price.

The Clerk clarified the insurers were happy to meet the whole costs of replacing the device, however, there may be an excess to pay, but would check.

Councillor Patacchiola asked if the height the SID should be erected was specified; as there may be a possibility of mounting higher so out of reach of deliberate damage again in the future.

The Clerk confirmed the height the SID needed to be erected had been specified to the contractor in order to be out of reach, but could be mounted higher consistent with visibility and explained there was a set of rules that had to be adhered to when erecting SID devices.

Recommendation: To approve the purchase of a replacement SID to the same specification as the original model from Solagen at a cost of £2000 + VAT.

c) To note correspondence from the Community Speed Co-ordinator for Shaw & Whitley regarding the permanent installation of SID devices to encourage drivers to reduce their speed.

It was noted there was a set of rules which Wiltshire Council had regarding the installation of speed indicator devices with devices only being allowed to be in-situ in one location for 14 days at a time and not being used at the same location within 8 weeks, hence why the Council had previously said no to permanent devices being installed.

It was noted several members of CAWS had approached the Shaw & Whitley Speed Watch Co-ordinator to ask if the local community could buy or part buy devices, prompting the co-ordinator to seek advice from the Clerk on how much the devices cost. The Clerk had responded with those details but also explained the various rules and regulations made by Wiltshire Council governing the installation of SID devices and access to a contractor with the relevant Street Works Licence in order to install them.

It was suggested if the SID is vandalized intentionally, the Parish Council may have to look at whether it is worth having one.

Recommendation: To write to Wiltshire Council to ask

them to explain their policy on prohibiting the installation of SIDs at a permanent location.

149/21 Traffic Orders, Wiltshire Council.

- a) The County of Wiltshire (B3107 Bradford Road And C212 Melksham Lane, Broughton Gifford, Melksham And Melksham Without) (50mph Speed Limit) Order 2020 and The County Of Wiltshire (C211 East Lane and B3107 Melksham Road, Holt) (50mph Speed Limit) Order 2020.**

Whilst noting the Order for a 50mph speed limit along this stretch of road had been confirmed, Members expressed disappointment Wiltshire Council had not listened to the request of the Parish Council (in line with the Police suggestion) that the speed limit be reduced to 40mph following a fatality.

- b) Temporary Road Closure of B3353 (part) Corsham Road from its junction with Newlands Road to its junction with Pound Pill to install fibre optic cabling from 23 August to 3 September.**

Noted.

- c) Temporary Road Closure of Bradford Road (part), Melksham from its junction with Farmers Roundabout for a distance of approx. 50m in a South Westerly direction to install flow monitoring equipment and associated works from 21 August for 2 days.**

Councillor Baines stated the temporary road closure was required in order to install flow monitoring equipment in response to flooding issues in Shaw, Whitley and Shurnhold.

- d) To note A365 (part) Temporary Road Closure from junction with A350 to Scholars Way to carry out carriageway resurfacing, patching works, road markings and adjustment of ironworks will continue in force (previous application from 16 June-30 June)**

Councillor Baines explained the temporary road closure order had been extended for one day with the work being completed.

150/21

Footpaths & Rights of Way:

a) The Wiltshire Council Parish Of Melksham Path No. 107 & Melksham Without Path No. 151 Rights Of Way Modification Order 2020.

Councillor Baines stated this order related to the new path to Woodrow from the river, which was partly in the town and partly in the parish. There had been no need for a representative of the Parish Council to attend the meeting and noted a recommendation had gone to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that the order be confirmed with a slight modification being made correcting the symbol used in the key for points C to D.

b) To consider a request to upgrade approximately 8 stiles with kissing gates on MELW47

Correspondence had been received seeking an upgrade in approximately 8 stiles on MELW47 from New Road to Oakley Farm to kissing gates.

Councillor Baines noted that another right of way in the area, which recently had kissing gates installed may be severed as part of the A350 Bypass proposals and therefore some of the gates installed may be able to be used elsewhere.

It was noted in one of the reports for the A350 Bypass the usage of public rights of way and bridleways had been recorded and noted only one person had used the MELW47 during the recording period.

c) CPRE. To note article 'Know your Pathways'

Members noted the above article which was extremely useful in identifying the various definitions of footpaths.

151/21

Fibre Optic Installation in Beanacre. To note email from Gigaclear and schedule of works to be undertaken (road closure implications).

Members noted the schedule of works and the road closures in place for mid July.

152/21 Highway verges. To note Briefing Note No 21-11 update from Wiltshire Council regarding maintenance of highway verges

In response to balancing the need to ensure highways were managed safely with the need to protect wild spaces and to encourage wildlife, particularly insects, Wiltshire Council had reviewed their recommendations for grounds maintenance and proposed changes to the grass cutting schedule for both rural highway verges and urban areas which Members noted.

153/21 Stopping up of Highway adjacent to 168 Littleworth Lane, Whitley.

Members noted an application will be made under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up the highway adjacent to 168 Littleworth Lane, Whitley.

Meeting closed at 21.24pm

Signed
By the Chair, Full Council meeting,
26 July 2021