

MINUTES of the Highways & Streetscene Committee of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 5 June 2023 at Melksham Without Office Space (First Floor), Melksham Community Campus, Market Place, Melksham, SN12 6ES at 7.46pm

Present: Councillors Alan Baines (Committee Chair), John Glover (Chair of Council), David Pafford (Vice Chair of Council), Mark Harris and Robert Shea-Simonds

In attendance: 3 Members of public

Via Zoom: Councillor Stefano Patacchiola

Officers: Teresa Strange, Clerk & Lorraine McRandle, Parish Officer

34/23 To Appoint a New Chair and Vice Chair of Highways & Streetscene Committee

The Clerk sought nominations for Chair of the Highways & Streetscene Committee, following the Annual Council meeting on 22 May 2023 when the committee had been appointed.

Resolved: Councillor Baines to be duly elected as Chair of the Highways & Streetscene Committee for the ensuing year.

Councillor Baines duly took the Chair and sought nominations for Vice Chair of the Committee.

Resolved: Councillor Patacchiola be duly elected as Vice Chair of the Highways & Streetscene Committee.

35/23 Welcome, Announcements & Housekeeping

Councillor Baines welcomed everyone to the meeting noting everyone present had already been made aware of the fire safety evacuation procedures for the building and procedures regarding the recording of the meeting.

36/23 To receive Apologies and approval of reasons given

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Chivers who was attending a medical appointment out of County.

Councillor Patacchiola joined the meeting via Zoom due to work commitments and was aware that whilst he could participate in the meeting, was unable to vote.

Resolved: To note and accept the reasons for absence

37/23 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.

There were no dispensation requests.

38/23 Public Participation

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident of Semington Road expressed their concerns at the level of traffic and speeding on Semington Road, particularly now another housing development had been approved and wished to understand if there was anything in the pipeline to deal with the situation.

The resident advised that he had attended previous meetings and raised concerns at the total disregard for the 30mph speed limit along Semington Road and the inconsiderate and dangerous parking. He also raised a concern at the pointless spend of tax payers' money by Wiltshire Council to try and create a cycle route along the road, which was now unfortunately too dangerous to use. The result of which was that most cyclists used the narrow footpath and put pedestrians in danger.

Concern was also raised that the footpaths on this road were substandard and narrow in places, especially as the hedges were not regularly maintained, the zebra crossings were also poorly marked. With more pedestrians, in particular school children in the future, needing to use these paths, there needed to be an understanding of the total unsuitability of the road with regards to pedestrians and cyclists, as it currently exists.

A representative of the MOT Centre/Garage on the Hill, Bowerhill was in attendance to raise a concern at the churned-up grass verge outside the premises, which were unsightly and now exposing electric cabling and wished to seek a solution, having previously approached Wiltshire Council but to no avail.

The representative informed the meeting his company was more than happy to take on the verge themselves but was unsure how to go about this.

Councillor Baines explained an approach would have to be made to Wiltshire Council Highways, if they wished to make the area into parking spaces in order to ascertain if Wiltshire Council would transfer the land to them, with a planning application subsequently

having to be made to create parking spaces.

It was noted other businesses in Bowerhill had placed boulders etc in order to discourage vehicles parking on verges outside their businesses.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Councillor Baines asked if items 9(b) and the concerns of the resident of Semington Road re road safety strategy could be discussed as part of item 11(a) and moved further up the agenda, which Members agreed.

39/23 To note Minutes of last Highways & Streetscene Committee meeting held on 20 March 2023 and updates on actions taken

Members noted the minutes of the last Highways & Streetscene Committee meeting held on 20 March 2023 and the various actions undertaken.

a) Note response from Sergeant James Twyford Re Lorry Trailer Parking on Lancaster Road (Min 459(b)/22).

Members noted the response from Sergeant James Twyford who since writing to the Parish Council had moved on to another section of Wiltshire Police. His replacement, Sergeant Gemma Rutter was aware of the Council's concerns and a response to the concerns had also been received from Inspector Andy Lemon.

Councillor Harris explained he had contacted the Police and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), as an individual and received a response which would be followed up, in order to make sure they continue to make an effort to try and resolve the situation. He had also contacted the Fire Service, as one trailer was parked in front of a fire hydrant.

It was noted officers had also been in touch with the DVSA and would be writing to all the businesses in Bowerhill in due course, as resolved at a previous meeting.

It was noted Sergeant Rutter had also tasked a PSCO to monitor the situation and to talk to various drivers/businesses on Bowerhill.

The Clerk explained she had also spoken to both Sergeant Gemma Rutter and the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) about the concerns of trailers parking on Bowerhill Industrial Estate during a recent visit to the Campus. It was understood both the PCC and the new Wiltshire Chief Constable would be

attending the Area Board meeting on Wednesday 14 June and therefore there may be an opportunity to raise this at the meeting.

Councillor Pafford, as one of the Council's representatives, for Melksham Area Board gave his apologies for this meeting and suggested Councillor Harris be his substitute and therefore raise the concerns on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that the Chairman would also be absent at the Area Board meeting.

Clarification was sought if a question could be raised during the meeting. The Clerk agreed to investigate this.

40/23 Local Highways & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) (formerly Community Area Transport Group – CATG)

- a) **To note draft Minutes and action log of Local Highways & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) meeting held on 9 May 2023. (Recommendations awaiting ratification by Area Board on 14 June)**

Councillor Baines provided an update on the meeting as follows:

Bath Road, Shaw Footway Improvements

Improvements to the footway are unlikely to take place until February half term 2024. Also awaiting Melksham Town Council to confirm funding of £1500, which had been suggested by Councillor Alford at a previous meeting.

Active Travel Scheme – Farmers Roundabout

Signing to promote use of shared use cycle route to and from Holt Road and town bridge. Awaiting input from Melksham Town Council.

Melksham Dunch Lane funding via Section 106 monies from George Ward Gardens

Consultation on full closure over rail bridge or one way operation from East to West and new parking controls to be carried out by the Town Council. Awaiting Melksham Town Council to undertake the consultation.

Issue 9-22-10: Berryfield Semington Road – request to install 2 bus shelters It stated the shelters will have Real Time Information (RTI) facility (or to be ready for RTI installation).

Recommendation: To seek clarification if RTI could be installed at the same time.

Issue 9-22-12: Bowerhill Halifax Road – request for drop kerbs to link Brampton Court with Sunderland Close. Now complete

Issue 9-22-13: DeHavilland Place and Dowding Way – Request for footway extensions and drop kerbs. Now complete.

Issue 9-22-16: Berryfield Village directional signage. Now installed and the lamppost that was obscuring one of the signs has now been removed.

Issue 9-22-17: Melksham Without (various roads). Request for Parking Control Measures.

It was noted several requests have been outstanding for over 3 years. Whilst there appears to be movement on these requests, there is a slight delay in the request regarding Canal Bridge. Semington Parish Council have a concern it could move the problem the other side of the bridge. Therefore, Semington Parish Council will consider any requests they may have, in order to co-ordinate measures around the canal bridge. Any waiting restrictions request for Semington would come under a separate regulation order, as they are in a different area to both the parish and the town.

Issue 9-19-11: Bowerhill Portal Road – Request for Bowerhill nameplate and white gates.

At the meeting it was noted the costs would not raise above the £3000 estimate.

Issue 9-22-11: A350 Beanacre – Request for measures to control entry speed at North end of village: Gateway design underway.

Issue 9-22-22: Shaw Corsham Road – Traffic signal shutters: Awaiting staff resource.

Issue 9-19-9: Falcon Way/Kingfisher Bus Shelter. The Clerk informed the meeting that Bowerhill Residents Action Group (BRAG) were still chasing a response on the state of the verges on Falcon Way, following Heron Homes removing several trees and shrubs. The Clerk stated she had contacted Heron Homes in May for an update and had chased again earlier in the day. BRAG had indicated they wished to put something in the local press to highlight the issue about how unkempt a lot of the verges were.

Councillor Baines noted the verges between the bus stop and the A365 roundabout were unsightly since the removal of the vegetation. However, the land still belonged to Heron Homes and was not being maintained by Wiltshire Council, whereas the around area the bus stop did appear to still be maintained by Wiltshire Council.

New/Ongoing Issues:

Issue 9-23-7: Melksham various roads: request for Parking Review.

Councillor Baines clarified these were the new requests recently submitted by the Parish Council, however, these would be considered

along with the other requests submitted some time ago (Issue 9-22-17). However, were awaiting details of the requests to be submitted by the Town Council in order to be considered in one Traffic Order.

i) Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) on Bus Gate, Semington Road (Issue 9-23-4). To note correspondence from Wiltshire Councillor Seed

Issue 9-23-4: Bus Gate at Semington Road: request for Camera Enforcement.

Councillor Baines noted Councillor Seed was taking up this issue. However, in recent correspondence to Caroline Thomas, Portfolio Holder for Transport at Wiltshire Council he had stated it was a condition of the Air Ambulance HQ planning consent the bus gate be moved, however, this was not the case. The Air Ambulance had requested it be moved, however, the costs associated with this, as provided by Wiltshire Council, were too high to justify their charity funds being used towards moving the gate.

It had previously been suggested the funding or some of the funding not used to fund highway improvements at the A350 pedestrian crossing near Townsend Farm could be used to move the bus gate, in order to cause less inconvenience to Wiltshire Air Ambulance and residents located on this part of Semington Road.

Councillor Baines asked if Members wished to highlight to Councillor Seed his comment regarding there being an obligation on Wiltshire Air Ambulance to fund moving the bus gate via a planning condition needed amending.

Councillor Glover noted buses used the access the other side of the bus gate without the requirement to unlock the gate, therefore sought clarification why the other users could not do the same, noting the gate was currently unlocked.

Councillor Baines stated a legal order was required to allow the Air Ambulance fuel deliveries to go through the bus gate and emergency vehicles. It was understood the farmer had a key to enable opening of the bus gate for farm machinery.

Councillor Patacchiola clarified the bus gate was effectively a short bus lane and therefore the rules for driving in a bus lane applied here. However, there can be an exemption list for certain users or those who may need access via a Traffic Order.

Councillor Glover sought clarification if authorised vehicles could use the open side of the bus gate.

Councillor Patacchiola clarified those who had authorisation had to use the bus gate lane, only emergency vehicles could use the bus lane itself.

It was noted Councillor Seed had suggested the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera should be provided by Wiltshire Council and not the Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG), given Wiltshire Council will receive the revenue from fines.

Recommendation: To highlight to Councillor Seed his comment in correspondence to Councillor Caroline Thomas, regarding the obligation on Wiltshire Air Ambulance to fund the moving of the bus gate was incorrect.

ii) **Speeding Concerns A365 Shaw Hill and Corsham Road (Issue 9-23-6). To note DfT Circular on Speed Limits**

Issue 9-23-6: A365 Bath Road/Shaw Hill and B3353 Corsham Road – speeding concerns.

Councillor Baines advised that at the LHFIG meeting it was clarified roundels were not permitted within a 30mph speed limit, where there were street lights, for the same reasons as for repeater signs. They could only be placed at the entry points to reinforce the main signs.

Accesses along Bath Road would have been required to have sight-lines adequate for the 40mph speed of the road. Additional traffic flows were likely to cause bunching of vehicles and reduce overall speeds. It was restated at the LHFIG meeting that previous analysis of conditions concluded that a 40mph speed limit was appropriate and the most recent traffic count/survey did not show evidence of excessive speeds.

Councillor Baines highlighted a speed limit review, if the Parish Council requested one, would cost c£2900 and it was very unlikely to justify a change in limit and therefore would not be good use of resources. Therefore, this issue had been closed down and the criteria for speed limits supplied to the parish council and included on the agenda.

Councillor Baines queried if instead of 30mph roundels whether 'slow' could be painted on the road instead, as this was not a reminder of the speed limit per se and suggested making a request to Wiltshire Council for 'slow' markings to be installed.

With regard to sight lines being sufficient, Councillor Patacchiola sought clarification who was responsible for maintaining these, particularly at this time of year, as the sight lines were reduced.

With regard to guidance on speed limits, Councillor Patacchiola noted it classified the Bath Road section of road as rural, whilst up until where

the speed limit changed, it is urban. As the road was classified as rural it put it in the most stringent speed restriction of 40mph, based on the fact the road is bendy and vulnerable users on the road. It was not considered urban because the entrance into the new development was just before the change of speed and then, it is not urban again until the beginning of Shaw village. Therefore, it would be useful to see why the new business centre at Bath Road was not considered urban and felt there had been material changes, since the speed limit was last reviewed. He did however, appreciate it was a very marginal case having read the guidance, and appreciated a request for a speed limit review might not succeed.

Councillor Baines suggested it would be worth discussing the issue with Councillor Phil Alford, as Wiltshire Councillor for both Shaw & Whitley and for residents of George Ward Gardens, particularly as residents of George Ward Gardens used the inadequate footway along this stretch of road, in order to access Shaw School. It was noted whilst improvements to some parts of the footway had been delayed, hopefully he would be able to influence the situation, given the concerns regarding the narrowness of the footway in places, which could be improved without spending vast amounts of money.

In respect of the accesses, Councillor Baines explained the landowners would be responsible for maintaining the visibility splays and if these were becoming obstructed, they needed to be raised on the Wiltshire Council's App.

Councillor Patacchiola highlighted that point 136 in the guidance might be worth reviewing and used as evidence for requests to Wiltshire Council in the future.

“136. In some circumstances it might be appropriate to consider an intermediate speed limit of 40 mph prior to the 30-mph terminal speed limit signs at the entrance to a village, in particular where there are outlying houses beyond the village boundary or roads with high approach speeds. For the latter, traffic authorities might also need to consider other speed management measures to support the message of the speed limit and help encourage compliance so that no enforcement difficulties are created for the local police force. Where appropriate, such measures might include a vehicle-activated sign, centre hatching or other measures that would have the effect of narrowing or changing the nature and appearance of the road”.

Recommendation: To discuss the possibility of painting ‘slow’ on Shaw Hill, with the Highway Engineer, to ascertain if this was a possible solution, if so to see if this could be done informally or raised as an LHFIF request again.

b) To consider any questions raised at the LHFIG meeting for the parish council to respond to

i) To consider writing to Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Street Scene and Flooding to progress waiting restriction requests

Councillor Baines sought clarification if Members wished to escalate the Parish Council's waiting restriction requests to Councillor Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport given the Council's frustration some had been in the system for at over 3 years.

The Clerk informed the meeting she had spoken to the relevant Wiltshire Councillors regarding the frustration with this issue and the potential for the Council's concerns to be raised at a forthcoming Area Board meeting.

Councillor Baines noted it did not appear the Council's requests were progressing as quickly as hoped, despite the Parish Council stating they were prepared to contribute towards the costs, without the need to wait for Melksham Town Council or Semington Parish Council to submit their requests.

Recommendation: For the Clerk to have informal discussions with Highways to ascertain when the Parish Council's waiting restriction requests will be actioned and to escalate to Councillor Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport to investigate, if a favourable response is not received.

41/23 To consider residents' requests for support by the Parish Council including requests for the Local Highways & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) next meeting on 27 July 2023

a) To consider requests to change the 'No Entry for HGVs – Except for Access' signage on Westlands Lane (A350 End), due to HGVs using Westlands to 'access' sites along Westlands Lane

A resident of Westlands Lane had reported that he felt that HGVs were using the signage "Access only for HGVs" to give them access either deliberately, or by misinterpreting the signage. He requested a change in signage to "No access for HGVs".

Councillor Baines clarified the signage was a 'Weighting Restriction except for Access' sign at Westlands Lane and was the approved signage relating to access to properties and did not mean access throughout the whole lane. Therefore, felt it was an issue of Satnavs directing drivers via this route. It was unclear if

there was a way around this issue, as even if the Parish Council were able to get weight restrictions imposed, banning over weight vehicles on the railway bridge, there would be nowhere for HGVs to turn around.

Councillor Baines noted some of the HGVs were not necessarily accessing the battery storage facility on Westlands Lane, some were using it to access Whitley from Beanacre. The battery storage facility on Westlands Lane had been informed on several occasions to remind HGV drivers to use the Corsham Road end to access the site, with officers continuing to do this, if reports are received.

Recommendation: To discuss the issue with the Highway Engineer to ascertain if there is any alternative signage which could be installed.

The Clerk stated a late paper had been received from a resident of Westlands Lane requesting signage be installed reminding people to dispose of their litter responsibly, as well as the installation of a litter bin on Westlands Lane; and raised concerns about the state of the verge too.

Councillor Baines noted the verge on the Western side of the railway bridge had previously been cut by a local farmer, however, this land was now in the ownership of the solar farm and was no longer being cut on a regular basis. Residents used this piece of verge, as there was no footway on this section of Westlands Lane, but were now having difficulty as it was currently overgrown.

Councillor Baines queried if a litter bin was provided, who would empty it, given Wiltshire Council's policy was not to install new bins, with the responsibility lying with the respective town/parish council to install and empty new bins, unless an under used bin from elsewhere could be installed at this location. Concern was raised if Westlands Lane would be on a Wiltshire Council 'bin emptying route' given its remote location. It was also felt that a bin at this remote location could also attract more litter. Currently any litter dropped could be classed as fly tipping and therefore anyone doing this could be prosecuted.

Recommendation:

1. To request the solar farm company or their agent maintain the verge.
2. To not proceed with the request for litter signage or a new bin on Westlands Lane.

b) To consider a request for improvements to the verge outside a business on Lysander Road, Bowerhill and to note response from Highways following inspection of the verge in February

Following the concerns raised by a business owner on Bowerhill Industrial estate earlier in the meeting, members discussed how best to resolve this issue.

Councillor Baines noted that Wiltshire Council were still grass cutting verges which still had grass growing, however, if individual businesses were able to purchase/adopt the area in front of their premises, it could result in the grass cutting regime being confused and intermittent.

Recommendation:

1. To support the concerns and forward these to Wiltshire Council to ascertain if a solution could be found to the situation of churned up verges as a whole on Bowerhill Industrial estate. Various ad hoc means were being tried by businesses and this could do with looking at holistically with a consistent approach.
2. To assist the business in navigating to the correct people to talk to at Wiltshire Council with regards to any potential purchase/planning of the frontage for improvements.
3. To inform Councillor Holder (as local member) and Councillor Seed (as Chair of LHFIG) to make them aware of the situation.

c) To consider a request for improved line marking on A365 (Devizes Road) to enable safe maneuvering of vehicles onto Hornchurch Road, Bowerhill

Councillor Baines felt the current road markings were adequate and the issue was drivers turning right into Hornchurch Road not indicating or entering the right lane soon enough which was causing drivers behind them to try and overtake when they were turning right. It was noted there was a ghost island at this junction and therefore anyone overtaking at this point were breaking the law.

Recommendation: To not progress this request.

d) Proposed A350 Bypass (Standing Item): To note any updates since the last meeting.

The Clerk informed the meeting there was no update as was still awaiting the outcome of the M4 to South Coast Study, which was due to be published in the Spring.

42/23 Footpaths

- a) **To consider requesting CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding held by Wiltshire Council is used to fund safe walking routes to schools.**

The Clerk explained that she had been to a recent training event where elsewhere in England parish/town council projects had been funded by the CIL element that their Local Authority had held, some from a grant scheme. Whilst that approach was not employed by Wiltshire Council it still may be worth approaching them for some of these funds. It seems that the "CIL 123 Infrastructure" list had just been replaced in May with a new "Wiltshire Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022 Appendix C Updated May 2023" which included new projects that would be relevant. Namely, "Infrastructure projects identified through the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Groups (LHFIG) that provide for pedestrian and cycle improvements. [NEW]" and "Since the previous Infrastructure List, new projects have been added to the List. The List can also be updated mid-year to reflect any new projects that need to be included and ensure that the Council retains an agile approach to the prioritization and allocation of CIL funding." The Clerk advised that she had calculated that Wiltshire Council had received some £5,598,644.67 in CIL from development in the parish of Melksham Without * and has passed on £693,385.71 to Melksham Without*

*Some passed to MTC following the Boundary Review

Recommendation: To request Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding held by Wiltshire be used to fund safe walking routes to schools.

- b) **Footpath 107 leading from its junction with Path No 4, Murray Walk. To note additional information relating to the Public Inquiry to be held on 13 June at 10.00am.**

Councillor Baines informed the meeting he would be attending the meeting as a member of the public and, if possible, would speak to the application relating to the section in the town. With Councillor Doel attending the hearing on behalf of the Parish Council relating to the section of new path in the Parish.

It was noted Councillor Doel was not registered to speak, as anyone wishing to speak had to register within 7 days of receiving the official notification of the hearing some time ago and it was too late once the Council had considered the notification.

Councillor Baines explained he was also not registered to speak, but if there was an opportunity would do so, regarding proposals in the town, however both his private submission and the Council's submission on proposals had been forwarded to the Planning Inspector for their information.

43/23 Road Safety/Speed enforcement

- a) **To support and develop a strategy to improve road safety in the parish, maximizing the levers that the council have control or influence over.**

Councillor Richardson had produced an outline of a strategy, in order for the council to maximize the levers that the council had control or influence over with regard to road safety, following agreement at the Annual Council meeting to develop such a policy.

Both thanks and appreciation were expressed for the input of Councillor Richardson in producing a draft strategy. However, concern was raised the 'levers' available to the Council were extremely limited, as they were not the Highway Authority and therefore had to abide by the policy/criteria set out by Wiltshire Council. If the Parish Council wished Wiltshire Council to take a different stance they would have to do this via Wiltshire Council representatives.

Councillor Baines thought it would be useful to have something regarding highway safety, similar to the list of requests to developers for new developments; for an consistent approach to requests.

The Clerk explained Broughton Gifford Parish Council had employed a consultant to look at highway safety in the village who had produced a set of recommendations.

Councillor Baines noted it was unclear what the advantages of doing this were, as following the advice, several submissions were made to the Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) for gateways, traffic calming measures etc, noting the Parish Council submit similar requests, without the need for employing a consultant.

It was noted a trial had taken place in Devizes at removing line marking in order to make drivers slow down, however, it was unclear what the outcome of this was, with a suggestion this could be investigated.

Concern was expressed that highway issues were complex and broad, with a lot of officer time required in formulating a strategy. It was also unclear what the outcome would achieve, particularly as the Parish Council already referred issues to the Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) for consideration and also had various qualifying locations for both Community Speedwatch and Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS).

Councillor Patacchiola stated he understood the strategy was meant to be a high-level policy on things the Council would support, so there was some form of consistency, with what the Parish Council were able to do, in line with Wiltshire Council's own guidance. To develop

anything beyond this, such as a strategy to change how Wiltshire Council did things he felt, was further than the remit understood at the Annual Council meeting and would be a long-term plan and would take a long time to see action from it. It would also be difficult to change Wiltshire Council's strategy.

Councillor Shea-Simonds proposed the formation of a Working Party to look at the strategy in principle and report back to the next Highways Meeting, however, there was no seconder for this proposal.

It was noted at present, if a resident raised a highway safety concern that the Parish Council have been reasonably successful in requests submitted to LHFIC achieving safety improvements. Also, the Parish Steward had been engaged in getting vegetation cut back from narrow footways adjacent to the highway and highway safety/speed signage.

Recommendation 1: To refer this matter back to Full Council for consideration.

Highway Safety Concerns on Semington Road

Members appreciated the concerns raised by a resident of Semington Road earlier in the meeting, regarding the increase in traffic on and the level of speeding and their frustration developments were being approved along Semington Road without consideration for any mitigation against the increase in traffic.

It was noted in commenting on the various planning applications, that the Council had asked for traffic calming measures to be installed and/or funding for these. Community Speedwatch was also available in Semington Road, as well a site included on the speed indicator device (SID) schedule.

Councillor Baines explained with regard to the latest planning application for 144 dwellings on Semington Road (PL/2022/02749), the Parish Council had suggested there be a contribution for a safe walking route to the school at Pathfinder Place. The Parish Council had also noted the Section 106 legal agreement relating to Bowood View (16/00497) was required to provide a major financial contribution to improving the crossing across the A350. However, as Wiltshire Council had undertaken this work themselves, this financial contribution was still available and therefore, the Parish Council had asked for this to be used for highway measures in the immediate vicinity, particularly with regard to safe routes for pedestrians in Semington Road.

With regard to the concerns of the resident at the faded pedestrian crossing, it was understood, as part of the Section 106 Agreement relating to planning application (PL/2022/02749) for 144 dwellings, they had to refresh the line markings.

Recommendation 2: To re-emphasise to Wiltshire Council, the need for traffic calming on Semington Road for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on the newly established cycle route.

b) To consider supporting the petition calling for 20mph outside Melksham Oak school

Councillor Baines asked if Members wished to support the campaign by both the Governing Body of Melksham Oak and Wiltshire Councillor Nick Holder, to reduce the speed limit outside Melksham Oak School to 20mph.

It was noted Wiltshire Council were showing support to implement the change in speed limit, if there was enough support from the community.

Recommendation: For the Parish Council to support the request for a 20mph speed limit at the beginning and end of the school day and during term time only. For the extent of the 20mph speed limit to extend to the end of The Spa, where the shared path is no longer segregated from the A365.

c) Speed Indicator Devices (SID)/ANPR Cameras

i) To note the new Wiltshire Council guidance on Speed Indicator Devices and ANPR Cameras.

Members noted the new guidance on Speed Indicator Devices and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, which was particularly welcome.

ii) To receive feedback from Councillor Patacchiola on Speed Indicator Device (SID) Installation Training Course.

Councillor Patacchiola explained he had attended the Wiltshire Council training course for volunteers on speed indicator device (SID) installation, which had been quite informative and meant he was able to move a device, if necessary, and perhaps others could do, in due course, if they attended the course. However, he was happy with the current arrangement.

iii) To approve a quotation from Solagen to re-programme the device in line with Wiltshire Council's criteria and to note correspondence from Senior Traffic Engineer.

A quote of £180 (excluding VAT) had been received from Solagen to reprogramme one of the Council's speed indicator devices (SID) in line with current Wiltshire Council

guidelines. This would also prolong the battery life as it would not be activated at speeds below 30mph.

It was noted Councillor Baines had volunteered to drop off the device and collect it on the same day to save the high delivery and collection charge. However, Solagen had suggested leaving the device and collecting another day, with the Clerk stating this would be queried with them, having indicated previously, it would only take approximately 2 hours to do.

Recommendation: To approve the quotation and to reimburse Councillor Baines for his mileage costs.

iv) To note update on SID Data Pilot

Members noted the information regarding the speed indicator device (SID) Data Pilot which had recently taken place across Wiltshire with data being collected from town and parish councils in the pilot.

v) ANPR Survey. To consider a response to Wiltshire Council's survey

Whilst most of the survey related to sites outside the parish, suggestions for sites to be put forward for consideration were also being sought.

Recommendation: To put forward the following site suggestions:

- Semington Bus Gate
- Westlands Lane
- A350 Beanacre
- Western Way (A350). Crossing from Caravan Park to Lonsdale Gardens
- Semington Road, Berryfield
- A365 (outside Melksham Oak)
- Shaw Hill
- Corsham Road, Whitley

44/23 Roundabout Sponsorship

a) To consider a response from Melksham Town Council and to consider a way forward with regard to the Section 96 Licence for former 'Carsons Tyre' roundabout A350/A365 if necessary

The Clerk explained Melksham Town Council wished to take on all the roundabouts and seek sponsorship and maintain

them, but unfortunately did not have current capacity to take on this roundabout that was already planted and maintained.

It was noted the financial implications in carry on maintaining the roundabout were over c£2000 per year and a decision had previously been made to not continue with the Section 96 Licence and maintain the roundabout. However, it would cost £750 to take out the planting and return to grass as per the conditions of the Section 96 Licence.

Concern was expressed at having to remove the planting, in line with the conditions of relinquishing the Section 96 licence, given how established it was.

Recommendation: For the Clerk to speak to Councillor Holder, Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change, as well as the Highway Engineer, to ascertain if it was necessary to remove the planting and return to grass.

45/23 Wildflower Verges/Green Spaces

a) To note update on Bee Route proposals for a wildlife corridor along Semington Road.

The Clerk had passed information on the Wessex Water's Foundation Environment Fund to Howard Yardy, Wildlife Officer, Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. He hoped to apply in order to help with the Bee Route project, including the costs associated with obtaining a Streetworks Licence.

The Clerk explained enquiries had been made with the Council's grass cutting contractor who were happy to supervise the work on the highway associated with the project, however, they needed to clarify whether their insurers were happy with this arrangement.

b) To consider a request for different grass cutting regimes in order to encourage wildflower verges

Correspondence had been received from a resident concerned at the grass cutting regime on verges and the impact on wildlife. They also raised a concern the new trees recently planted in Berryfield Park had been damaged by grass cutting contractors, noting in other areas tree wardens were tasked to look after trees and asked if this was something which could be implemented in Melksham.

It was noted the resident had complained about the amount of grass cuttings left on the verge, however, this arrangement was part of Wiltshire Council's contract with their contractor.

The Clerk highlighted having looked at the photos of that trees provided, that the area in question was owned and maintained by Selwood Housing and not Wiltshire Council, however, officers could make Selwood aware damage had occurred.

With regard to the question relating to tree wardens, the Clerk explained she would put this on the June Full Council agenda for consideration.

c) To consider a request for a wildflower area on parts of the green to rear of Beverley Close, Bowerhill and to inform neighbouring properties

A request had been received from a resident of Bowerhill for parts of the green to the rear of Beverley Close, Bowerhill to be a wildflower area, as well as volunteering to repaint a bench located on the green.

The Clerk stated prior to making the application, the Council needed to have consulted with neighbouring properties within the vicinity, to make sure they were happy with the proposal and that no objections were received.

Councillor Harris explained he was happy to deliver any correspondence to neighbouring properties if approved.

Recommendation: To request Wiltshire Council leave parts of Beverley Close as wildflower areas (ie 2 cuts per year, cut & collect/compost on site where appropriate), as long as no objections are received from neighbouring properties.

d) Brabazon Way Project. To note update on Garden Licence and consider any next steps

The Clerk provided an update on this project explaining whilst Wiltshire Council were aware of the desire for a wildflower project on Brabazon Way and had removed from their maintenance list, unfortunately their contractor had recently cut the grass. The draft licence was still awaited from Wiltshire Council's estates team.

45/23 Weed Spraying. To note Wiltshire Council will not be undertaking weed spray this year. To consider undertaking an additional weed spray this year.

The Clerk explained the Parish Council had recently agreed to undertake one weed spray this year in the Spring, at the time it had been stated there would be no harm if Wiltshire Council undertook a weed spray as well in the Bowerhill area (only area covered by Wiltshire Council). However, Wiltshire Council had now confirmed that there were not weed spraying this year and

therefore sought a steer from Members if they wished to undertake an additional spray this year.

The Clerk informed the meeting that whilst the Council's contractor had been instructed to undertake weed spraying in the parish, this had not taken place as yet.

Councillor Baines explained it was quite late to be weed spraying, particularly given the dry weather, therefore, as it was taking place later in the growing season, there was no point in undertaking a second weed spray later in the year.

Recommendation: Not to undertake a second weed spray.

Meeting closed at 10.06pm

Signed.....
Chair, Full Council, 19 June 2023