

**MINUTES of the Highway, Footpaths & Streetscene Committee of Melksham
Without Parish Council held on Monday 29th September 2025 at Melksham
Without Parish Council Offices, (First Floor), Melksham Community
Campus,
Market Place, SN12 6ES
at 7:00pm**

Present: Councillors Chris Griffiths (Committee Chair), Alan Baines (Committee Vice-Chair), John Doel, Martin Haffenden, Mark Harris and Anne Sullivan.

Officers: Teresa Strange (Clerk) and Fiona Dey (Parish Officer)

In attendance: Councillor Martin Franks (part)
4 members of the public (part)

On Zoom: 1 member of the public (part)

249/25 Welcome, Housekeeping and Announcements:

Councillor Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting. As there were new members of the public present at the meeting, the housekeeping message was read out. Everyone present was aware that the meeting was being recorded and would be published on YouTube following the meeting and deleted once the minutes were approved.

250/25 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor Pafford as he was on holiday.

Resolved: To approve and accept the reasons for absence

251/25 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Haffenden expressed a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8di: Request for Waiting restrictions on Hampton Park West and Semington Road, as he had raised the issue.

252/25 Dispensation Requests for this Meeting:

None requested. Councillor Haffenden stated he would not vote on agenda item 8di.

253/25 To consider holding items in Closed Session due to confidential nature:

No agenda items to be held in closed session.

254/25 Public Participation:

The Council suspended Standing Orders for a period of public participation.

Two members of the public (MP1 & MP2) wished to speak on agenda item 8bi with regard to an issue with their driveway being blocked in Herons Court.

MP1 explained that he and MP2 have lived in Herons Court for approximately 35 years but parking problems have started in the last 2-3 years - he feels that Herons Court has become an overflow carpark for the school at school drop-off

and pick-up times. He said that the end of the school day pick-up is a particular problem.

He explained that there is a dropped kerb opposite his driveway [not linked to a driveway] where cars often park. He also noted that this was the narrowest point of the road. He explained that due to the length of his vehicle (17.5 foot) and the presence of pillars either side of his driveway he needs to pull fully across the road and use the area with the dropped kerb to manoeuvre his vehicle off his driveway. When cars are parked opposite, they cannot leave.

He followed on that, when asked to move most drivers will, but sometimes he has to wait 20-30 minutes for them to return from the school. They have also had to deal with aggression from drivers, and in one instance the police were called, and the driver was given a caution.

The lack of access from his driveway is impacting their life as they have to schedule appointments and plan activities around times they know they can leave or have to plan ahead and park elsewhere.

MP1 and MP2 noted that other streets on Bowerhill have white lines to demarcate dropped kerbs (Access Protection Marking) and would like similar lines on the dropped kerb opposite their driveway.

Councillor Franks wished to speak on agenda item 9a with regards to deployment of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which records data on Semington Road. Councillor Franks explained that as a representative for Berryfield Ward he has had concerns raised to him by resident about speeding on Semington Road. The resident (and the Councillor) would like for a SID to be permanently deployed on Semington Road. Councillor Franks noted that the parish council at Bishops Canning have recently deployed a number of solar powered SIDs on a permanent basis, and questioned whether this would be an option for Melksham Without?

Councillor Franks explained that Semington Road has been subject to an increase in the volume and speed of traffic and is a 'rat run' for traffic avoiding the A350. Although he feels that more measures are needed on the road to slow the traffic, the deployment of a permanent SID leading to letters and prosecutions would be a deterrent to speeders and provide residents with reassurance that action was being taken.

Two members of the public (MP3 & MP4) wished to speak on agenda item 8ai with regards to measures to prevent traffic damage to their property on Folly Lane, Shaw.

MP3 explained that they live on Folly Lane (A365) on the border of Shaw and Atworth and that their property has previously been damaged by lorries with overhanging trailers knocking out the roof tiles and destabilising the wall. MP3 explained that having started to repair the damage to their house, the speed and proximity of the traffic became obvious as the orange traffic warning bollards on their land, and within 6 inches of their house, were repeatedly hit by cars and lorries travelling past, many at extreme speeds. This resulted in the need for temporary traffic lights for over a month to protect their builders.

As a result, MP3 enquired as to the possibility of including a safety bollard (like those found in other parts of the county) to protect the corner in the longer term. An officer from the Wiltshire Highways Central team has indicated that a bollard would not be possible as the road is an A-road and a bollard would protrude into the road (and could cause more damage to the building if hit).

MP3 explained that they have installed some bendi-bollards as recommended by the Wiltshire Highways Central team, and will also be adding, as recommended, some form of marker board to the building (although ugly). However, they note that while both measures will highlight the location of the building, they will not actively protect the building.

MP3 also noted that the closeness of the building to the road edge has increased since the purchase of their property in 2018 as the road edges have encroached so that their garden gate now opens into the curtilage of the roadway. MP3 was concerned that, although the speed limit on the road is 40 miles per hour, the average speed of traffic, including the largest lorries, is at least 60 miles per hour and often much more. She commented that few drivers observe the speed limit, and do not take account of the narrowing of the road prior to their property (when coming from Melksham).

MP3 asked that the parish council challenge the assertion from Wiltshire Council that a safety bollard would not be feasible. And, if this is not possible, what else can be done to ensure that the speed limit is observed, to give drivers the chance to react to the advisory bendi-bollards and markers in place? MP3 just seeks to feel safe in her own home.

The meeting reconvened, and it was agreed to bring the following agenda items forward for discussion: 8bi, 9a and 8ai.

255/25 Highways, Footpaths and Streetscene meeting minutes 21st July 2025
Noted

256/25 Local Highways & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)

- a) (i) Minutes and Action Log of Local Highways & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) meeting held on 14th August 2025 were noted.
- (ii) It was noted that Wiltshire Council is undertaking a review of Area Boards. Wiltshire Councillor Griffin has been asked, by the Melksham Area Board, to raise Parish/Town contributions for LHFIG actions as part of this review.
- b) To consider items arising from Action Log:
 - (i) Issue 9-24-27 A365 Bath Road Bowerhill:
It was noted that the road signing had been installed but the accompanying road marking were pending.
 - (ii) Issue 9-24-11 Semington Road by mobile home park:
It was noted a site visited with the Highways Engineer has been agreed but needs to be scheduled. Councillor Baines advised that the affected property (111 Semington Road) is now for sale and

appears to be empty, so there is currently no resident to include in the discussions

The Clerk advised that discussions are ongoing with the developer and the planning officer with respect to varying the condition from the Inspector in the legal agreement from a bus stop on the northbound side of the road to a bus stop on the southbound side of the road.

(iii) Issue 9-24-25 Semington Road outside New Inn.

Resolved: Members were happy in principle with the option of a bus boarder platform but want to see a detailed plan and a cost estimate.

(iv) Issue 9-24-30 Halifax Road bollard opposite school.

Councillor Harris shared that three white edge-markers had been installed outside the school and seemed to have stopped lorries parking on the verge. He suggested that more were needed further along the road (opposite the village hall) to prevent a pick-up truck and trailer parking on the grass verge.

(v) Issue 9-24-37 Bowerhill Estate holistic review of dropped kerbs

It was noted that a holistic review of dropped kerbs in Bowerhill would be an extensive job. It was suggested that Councillors with local knowledge and the Highways Engineer visit the area to identify the most problematic areas and to identify solutions.

Resolved: Parish Officer to arrange a site visit with Councillors and Highways Engineer to identify priority need for dropped kerbs and to consider the bollards outside the school.

(vi) Melksham Dunch Lane – funded by Section 106 monies from George Ward Gardens development

It was noted that Melksham Town Council (MTC) have £13,000 of S106 monies which is allocated for active travel. If the money is not spent within a year, it will revert to Wiltshire Council. MTC have proposed that they spend the money signing a route around the town for walking and cycling. Although the route will not be within the parish, Melksham Without Parish Council have been asked to comment on the proposal.

Recommendation: To support the MTC proposal for the walking/cycling route around the town

(vii) Issue 9-24-34 Bowerhill Finger Post: To note feedback from Melksham Men's Shed

The Clerk explained that Melksham Men's Shed have agreed to make and install the Finger post. They have requested that they are provided with the lettering, the cost of the materials and a contribution to their project of ~20% of the cost of purchasing a finger post.

Resolved: The Clerk to research the costs for consideration at Full Council.

- c) The end of the consultation period for the Parking Control Measures/Waiting Restrictions (double yellow lines) was noted. It was also noted that a Phase 2 list had been started and that any new requests agreed by LHFIG would be added to that list.
- d) It was noted that the request for Bollards on Kittyhawk Close has been resubmitted as it was missed off the last LHFIG agenda.
- e) The Clerk explained that the land Beverley Close for the proposed extension to the roadway was not considered by LHFIG as the land is not owned by Wiltshire Council. Land Registry searches have revealed that it was sold by West Wiltshire District Council to McLean Homes, who are now part of Taylor Wimpey.

Members discussed the options of asking Wiltshire Council to adopt the land and extend the roadway or suggesting to the residents that they buy the land and use it as private parking. It was noted that legal costs would be involved with either option.

Recommendation: To suggest that the residents negotiate directly with Taylor Wimpey to purchase the land at Beverley Close.

257/25 Requests for support by the Parish Council including requests for the Local Highways & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) next meeting on 28th October 2025 (deadline 14th October):

a) Shaw and Whitely

- (i) Request for bollard outside 54 Folly Lane, Shaw (A365 towards Atworth)

Members considered the request from the residents of 54 Folly Lane (MP3 and MP4). The feedback the resident had received from Wiltshire Council that a bollard outside the property not being feasible was challenged by the members, especially as the edge of the road was encroaching towards the property. Concerns were also raised about the speed of the traffic passing the property which might impact the effectiveness of the bendi-bollards and marker boards being installed by the residents.

Resolved: The Clerk to arrange a visit to the site with a Wiltshire Council Highways Officer and Wiltshire Councillor Alford to discuss options for protecting the property and to feed back to the committee.

Recommendation 2: The parish council submit a request to Wiltshire Council for a traffic survey to be undertaken on the A365 Folly Lane.

b) Bowerhill

- (i) Request for action to prevent driveway being blocked in Herons Court

Members considered the request from the residents of Herons Court (MP1 and MP2). The options of double yellow lines or white lines to demarcate dropped kerbs (Access Protection Marking) were discussed. It was noted that a Traffic Order for waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) had recently undergone consultation and therefore it might be years before the next Traffic Order. It was also noted that although white lines can be implemented faster, they are not enforceable. Members also considered where the lines should be implemented

and agreed that they should mark all the dropped kerbs on Herons Court to prevent just moving the parking issues further up the close.

Recommendation: The parish council support the request for Access Protection Marking (white lines) on all the dropped kerbs on Herons Court and submit the request to LHFIG for their consideration.

c) Beanacre

- (i) Request to change signage and install camera on Westlands Lane to deter Heavy Goods Vehicles.

Residents had requested signage and a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera for the bridge on Westlands Lane to deter Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) using the route over the weight-limited bridge and to minimise the necessity for residents to have to keep taking photos of the ongoing problem. The Clerk advised that the media had reported that Wiltshire Council last month approved a plan to protect weak, weight restricted sections of road, including bridges, by installing mobile cameras that recognise number plates.

Resolved: Officers to investigate Wiltshire Council Plans for the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to protect weight restricted sections of road and see how the bridge in Westlands Lane can be included.

d) Berryfield

- (i) Request for Waiting Restrictions Hampton Park West and Semington Road

Councillor Haffenden highlighted two issues in Berryfield. The first was that vehicles parked on the hatched areas by the traffic calming island on Semington Road meaning that the bypass for cyclists can't be used. He suggested that double yellow lines be added either side of each island. Members acknowledged the issue but felt that any action should be put on hold until the previously agreed holistic review of traffic measures on Semington Road was completed.

Secondly, he felt that the lack of double yellow lines consistently along both sides of Hampton Park West meant that lorries and other vehicles parked on both sides of the road narrowed it and partially blocked access to the roundabout.

Recommendation: To submit a request to LHFIG for double yellow lines (waiting restrictions) along both sides of Hampton Park West.

e) Ad-hoc road markings to identify and consider new requests for 2025/26

- (i) It was noted that line markings cannot be added on Tedder Gardens as the road has not yet been adopted.
- (ii) The current list of ad-hoc road markings was noted (Item 4f on LHFIG minutes)

258/25 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

a) To consider request for SID2 deployment on Semington Road
Following the representations in the public participation session by Councillor Franks, the Clerk clarified that Speed Indicator Device 2 collects data on the number and speeds of vehicles travelling in excess of the trigger limit of 35 miles

per hour. The device does not collect photos or number plate information, so prosecutions are not possible from the data. She also explained that Wiltshire Council guidance is to deploy SIDs for 2 weeks at a location for maximum effectiveness. Longer deployments are possible but have to be justified.

The Clerk reminded members that a traffic survey was conducted at two locations on Semington Road in December 2024 which concluded the traffic survey results did not meet the current eligibility triggers. However, it had been agreed that the SID location could remain on Semington Road and that a holistic review of traffic measures on the road would be conducted.

It was noted that SID1 is currently deployed on Semington Road for 2 weeks in each 16-week cycle. SID1 provides feedback to drivers on their speed but does not record any data. Members discussed the option to utilise SID2 on Semington Road. Councillor Baines flagged that some lampposts are not suitable for SID2 (due to its weight) but the Parish Officer has already confirmed with Wiltshire Council that the lamppost on Semington Road would be suitable.

Recommendation: To update the SID schedule so that SID2 is deployed on Semington Road and that SID1 is swapped into its location.

- b) It was noted that the damaged lamppost has been replaced in Beanacre, and the SID location on the A350 has been reinstated.
- c) The Clerk explained that National Grid run a Community Grant Programme for communities affected by their projects. It had been suggested that an application could be made for the purchase of new Speed Indicator Device to monitor the temporary 20mph limit on Westlands Lane as National Grid had not agreed to purchase at this time.

Resolved: To compile a list of items which could be purchased via the National Grid Community Grant Programme, including a new Speed Indicator Device, for submission in 2026.

259/25 Police and Crime Commissioner Reports

- a) The extracts of the Police and Crime Panel reports were noted.
- b) The Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Police road safety data for Melksham Without Parish were considered.

It was noted that it appeared that enforcement on the A365 Bath Road in Bowerhill had started after the Clerk had flagged some of the excessively high speeds recorded on the Speed Indicator Device directly to local police representatives.

Councillor Haffenden questioned whether the increase in the numbers of people reported for speeding (speed awareness course, fine and points, or court) is due to more activity by the police or an increasing number of people speeding. The Clerk noted that the PCC Road Safety conference meeting has been rescheduled to the end of November.

Resolved 1: The Clerk to ask the PCC whether increase in the numbers of people reported for speeding is due to more activity by the police or an increasing number of people speeding.

Resolved 2: The Clerk to request to Wiltshire Police that undertake sessions to identify speeding motorists on Pathfinder Way.

Resolved 3: The Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Police road safety data to be sent to the resident at 54 Folly Lane and are used to support the request for a traffic survey to be undertaken on the A365 Folly Lane.

260/25 Road Safety Working Group

Analysis of Speed Indicator Device data is on-going.

No new items/projects have been identified for review by the Road Safety Working Group.

261/25 Rights of Way and Footpaths

- a) The Clerk explained that Right of Way MELW100 in Beanacre is blocked by 2 houses which were built in the 1960's on its route and suggested that a detour could possibly be funded by the National Grid Community Grant Programme to link with MELW67 to create a safe walking route into Melksham from Beanacre.

Resolved: To add reinstatement of MELW100 to the list of items to be considered for the National Grid Community Grant Programme in 2026

- b) Upgrade to MELK40 Western Way to Burnet Close

The Clerk explained feedback from Wiltshire Council indicated that delineation between pedestrians and cyclists on shared use pathways is contrary to Department for Transport's guidance and therefore a white delineation line won't be included on the new pathway. Members challenged this assertion as there are already examples of white lines to segregated cyclists and pedestrians on the shared use path at The Spa.

Resolved: The Clerk to inform Wiltshire Council that other shared use paths, such as the Spa, are marked for pedestrians and cycles and that the parish council would still like to see similar marking on the new MELK40 path.

The Clerk reported on a meeting that she had with the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) officer. The WALC officer meets with Perry Holmes (Director of Legal & Governance at Wiltshire Council) and Ian Thorn (Leader of Wiltshire Council) every 6 weeks. The Clerk explained to the WALC officer, the parish council's frustration that there are no triggers for Wiltshire Council Highways to spend allocated S106 money and that in the case of MELK40 the parish have had to involve Melksham Independent News to get any traction, or communication, on the issue. The Clerk has requested that this was raised by WALC when he next meets with Wiltshire Council leaders.

262/25 Wiltshire Councillor Alford on Whitley and Shaw maintenance site visit

A suggestion had been received from Wiltshire Councillor Alford to form a pavement on the verge outside 109A Middle Lane in Whitley. Councillor Baines explained that a similar proposal had been made previously but was not

requested/supported by the local residents. Members also noted that the road was narrow at that point, and the verge wasn't wide enough for a footpath.

Recommendation: To not support Wiltshire Councillor Alford's suggestion for a new footpath on Middle Lane in Whitley.

263/25 To receive feedback on progress of holistic reviews:

a) Semington Road

The Clerk explained that there are conflicting proposals in s106 agreements and the LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Improvement Plan) for pedestrian and cycle routes from the end of Semington Road across the roundabout with the A350 and towards the town centre. She suggested that the scope of the planned holistic review of traffic on Semington is expanded to include cycling and pedestrian routes around the roundabout with the A350 and along Semington Road.

Recommendation: To widen scope of holistic review of Semington Road to include cycling and pedestrian routes around the A350 roundabout.

b) A365 Bath Road (Bowerhill)

It was noted that planning applications had now been submitted for the developments planned on the A365 in Bowerhill (PL/2025/06105 Old Loves Farm, PL/2024/11426 Gompels, and PL/2025/06749 Land adjacent to Melksham Oak Community School). A holistic, not chronological piecemeal review of the planning applications with access from the A365 at Bowerhill should now be progressed with the planning/highway officers at Wiltshire Council. The Clerk explained that she will approach Wiltshire Councillor Holder to try to get engagement for this work.

Resolved: The Clerk to approach the Cabinet Member for Highways at Wiltshire Council to get engagement for a holistic review of the planning applications and wider highways issues, as per LHFIG requests, on the A365 in Bowerhill.

264/25 National Highway improvements

- i. The outcome of the Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body Board Meeting on 17th September 2025 to reiterate their support for progression of the A350 Melksham Bypass was noted.

Meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

Chairman, 20th October 2025