

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Highways and Rights of Way Committee held on 24th January, 2018 in the Undercroft Room, St. Mary's Church, North Woodchester at 11am

Present: Cllrs. Warnes, Dunbar, Hamilton, McNealey

In attendance: The clerk and two members of the public.

2018/1 To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2018/2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

2018/3 To discuss and agree Terms of Reference for the newly-formed Highways and Rights of Way Committee for agreement by Full Council on 1st March.

Councillors resolved to appoint Cllr. Warnes as Chair of the committee with Cllr. Dunbar as lead on highways issues.

Terms of Reference were discussed and agreed (copy attached). These will be adopted by the Full Council at the meeting in March.

2018/4 To discuss issues on Rights of Way and agree any further action.

The stile leading from Tower House Drive to the bottom of Little Hill is in need of repair.

The land manager is aware of the issue and has installed a temporary barrier with a diversion in place until the stile is fit for purpose.

Councillors discussed a concern from a resident that one of the kissing gates in the village was impassable with a disabled buggy. The clerk will confirm which gate poses the problem before Councillors are able to discuss whether the Parish Council are able to help provide a solution.

2018/5 To define current Highways issues in Woodchester.

Councillors discussed a list of traffic management issues on Selsley Road collated by Cllr. McNealey, some of which have already seen improvements.

- i. Lorries parking too close to the junction with the A46 while loading/unloading – **The previous Highways Manager agreed an advisory white line be painted at the junction. The clerk will follow this up with the newly-appointed Highways Manager.**
- ii. Limited visibility for traffic travelling from Nailsworth turning left onto Selsley Rd.
- iii. BT engineers frequently parking by cable cabinet on northern side of road, also causing obstruction to junction – **More recently engineers have parked further up the road causing less of an obstruction at the junction.**
- iv. Vehicles parking on the northern side of the bridge over the cycle path restricting visibility for downhill traffic. Parking on footpath at the corner of Beech Grove.
- v. Many vehicles parked on northern side of road opposite The Avenue. Not enough room for downhill and uphill traffic to pass. Vehicles resorting to driving along the pavement, even when it is used by pedestrians. Acute problem at peak traffic hours.
- vi. Damage to historic granite block kerb edging.

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v-vi County Councillor Robinson had offered some funding to replace these low kerb stones with higher concrete blocks. Councillors agreed this would not deter drivers from mounting the pavement as there are several places with a dropped kerb. At times drivers have little option but to mount the kerb to allow a vehicle to pass. If unable to do this, there are occasions when traffic would block the road. The main problem arises when drivers drive on the kerb without due attention to pedestrians. The clerk will contact Cllr. Robinson and decline the offer of concrete blocks, but ask that if funding is available to repair some sections of granite stones and embed them more firmly, that would be appreciated.

The use of bollards was discussed. Councillors agreed this would not leave enough width for pedestrians and that they would be damaged.

- vii. Pinch point at junction with Southfield Rd and uphill where road narrows and residents cars and Post Office users park. Traffic frequently queuing to pass at peak hours.
- viii. Residents and shop users vehicles parked outside village shop. Limited visibility for both downhill and uphill traffic. Potential danger to pedestrians emerging from shop.
- ix. Limited visibility for traffic emerging from the two houses and shop car park (uphill of the shop). Shop car parking spaces not well used.

viii-ix – Drivers are encouraged not to park directly outside the Village Shop.

- x. Overgrown vegetation on bank on right hand side below Church Lane causing downhill drivers to come down the bend on the wrong side of the road – **Gloucestershire Highways recently cleared the vegetation on this bend, a considerable time after it was first reported. The clerk will add this to a list of regular maintenance work to discuss with Mr. Smith.**
- xi. Vehicles travelling uphill tend to accelerate upon reaching Lawns Park where the road widens out. Footpath finishes at this point but we have several families with small children and young adults with special needs walking up the hill from this point.
- xii. Road narrows and there are posts with reflectors, which helps slow traffic. Hill becomes steeper and downhill traffic moving quickly at this point. Previous traffic calming measures have now faded and worn down – **Gloucestershire Highways have agreed to re-paint these road markings. The clerk will follow this up with the newly-appointed Highways Manager.**
- xiii. Sharp bend in road opposite the gateway to NT Boundary Court. Downhill traffic frequently travelling on the wrong side of the road. Occasional minor accidents at this point.
The clerk will contact the Highways Manager to ask that the white lines are re-painted on the bend at Boundary Court and lower down at Church Lane.
- xiv. Existing signage “Welcome to Woodchester. Please drive carefully” satisfactory.
- xv. Potholes on left hand side of road which were repaired in winter 2016/17 beginning to emerge.
- xvi. Loose slats on the cattle grid – **These have been repaired. The fence at the cattle grid is damaged and was reported to Gloucestershire Highways. The clerk will follow up.**

2018/6 To discuss and agree how to gather traffic speed/volume/flow information to inform future Parish Council strategy on road safety.

Councillors agreed that the overarching issues on Selsley Road and the A46 are the volume and speed of vehicles.

Councillors discussed collating more data to provide a clearer picture of the issues.

Councillors resolved to carry out speed and volume surveys at agreed points. Several residents had offered their support with data collection. Cllr. Dunbar will arrange dates

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and times. The Police will be informed prior to the surveys taking place. The clerk will contact Minchinhampton Parish Council for the loan of speed guns. The clerk will find out from the Highways Manager what data is required to make a case for a reduction in speed limit or the introduction of traffic management schemes.

The results of this data will then be presented to the Full Council for agreement on further action.

The clerk will send previous data taken in 2012 on the A46 to Cllr. Dunbar to provide some comparative results.

2018/7 To discuss a 30mph speed limit on the A46 as suggested in correspondence from residents.

Issues on the A46 include speeding vehicles, the problem of visibility when exiting Selsley Road, crossing the A46 on foot and the potential issues with the Rooksmoor development.

Speed and volume data will be gathered to provide evidence of the need for improved safety on the A46.

The clerk will contact Cllr. Robinson for any recent traffic monitoring along the A46.

There may be more data Councillors are able to gain access to. The clerk will contact Minchinhampton Parish Council to ask if they have comparable data for Minchinhampton Common.

There may be the possibility that district meetings be held with interested Parish Councils to help bring about a cohesive approach to road safety. Cllr. Dunbar will follow this up.

2018/8 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

The speed of traffic in Frogmarsh was raised as an issue. Councillors agreed this would be discussed at a future meeting.

Cllr. Hamilton thanked the Committee for their work to date.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm.

Chair..... Date.....

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WOODCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Highways and Rights of Way Committee Terms of Reference

Membership:

Membership will exist of at least three members with a quorum of three.

Standing Orders:

The committee shall act under the Standing Orders of the Council at all times.

Strategic Aim:

To effectively enhance and monitor Highways, Transport, Street Lighting, Road Safety, Public Rights of Way, the Cycle Track and Watercourses in and around the parish of Woodchester.

Environmental issues will be considered unless overlap exists with the terms of reference of the Planning Committee. In this instance the clerk, in discussion with the Council Chair will decide which committee is best-placed to consider the issue.

Ongoing Activity:

Report areas of concern at the earliest opportunity.

Liaise with the community about the needs of the parish.

Recommend any proposed expenditure to the Full Council.

Liaise with the Authorities and Police to ensure that the needs of the community are on their agenda and to work in partnership wherever possible.

Act as a link between the community and the authorities especially when discussing strategic plans and throughout consultation processes.

Meetings:

To be called as and when necessary with reasonable frequency.

All meetings will be in public and minuted by the clerk with a report to the next Full Council.

Signed.....

Date.....

To be reviewed May, 2019

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