

# Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Highways and Rights of Way Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020

Present: Cllrs. Warnes, Dunbar and McNealey.

In attendance: The clerk.

**2020/01 To receive apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2020/02 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**

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

**2020/03 To confirm the minutes of the Highways and Rights of Way Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.**

These were confirmed as a true record. It was agreed they be signed when the committee next meet in person.

**2020/04 To discuss '20 is plenty' signage and agree a course of action.**

Cllr. Dunbar circulated notes to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recent evidence locally has found these signs to be ineffective in reducing speeds. As a result, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) are no longer funding signs of this nature. Councillors agreed that the '20 is plenty' signs in the village be taken down. They have been up for a number of years, are worn and tatty, and it was agreed, no longer have an impact on driver behaviour.

According to the Police, larger signs and 'gateways' at the entrance to villages have some impact.

It was agreed the clerk look into the cost of 'village gateways' and signage welcoming drivers to the village and asking that they drive carefully.

Cllr. Dunbar agreed to find out whether a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be required for this. Cllr. McNealey agreed to consult other villages locally.

A speed camera could also be considered for Selsley Road, but the use of these has currently been put on hold pending investigation into their effectiveness. Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSG) have provided GCC Road Safety Team with speed data from their VAS site at Frocester. GCC will consider the evidence and advise whether their use is again permitted at appropriate sites.

Once the committee have the information they require on welcome signs, 'gateways' and speed cameras, a recommendation will be put to Full Council for agreement.

**2020/05 To discuss and agree whether to pursue a reduction of speed limits on roads within our parish.**

It was agreed that this is currently not worth pursuing. Unless there is a history of serious road traffic accidents, the current Highways Commissioner and the Police have no interest in seeking to reduce speed limits.

Initials.....

- 2020/06 To discuss signage for Selsley Road with regard to HGVs and vulnerable road users and agree a course of action.**  
 At a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, Local Highways Manager Paul Helbrow agreed to look into GCC providing 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs at the top and bottom of Selsley Road. It was confirmed that this would not require a TRO.  
 To exchange the weight limit sign on Rooksmoor Hill for a sign stating 'Unsuitable for HGVs' would require a TRO.  
 Where there is no pavement, a number of properties and the requirement for pedestrians to use the road to access facilities, a 'vulnerable road user' sign is appropriate. These would not require a TRO.  
 It was agreed the clerk chase up the 'SLOW' road markings for Selsley Road which it was agreed by the Local Highways Manager would be replaced.
- 2020/07 To discuss and agree any historic paths in the parish to put forward as part of the Ramblers' 'Don't Lose Your Way' campaign.**  
 Comparing current Rights of Way with that of 1880, Councillors had not identified any historic paths for consideration by The Ramblers.
- 2020/08 To discuss and agree priorities for Highways Local funding.**  
 Councillors agreed to request funding for 'Unsuitable for HGVs' and 'vulnerable road user' signs for Selsley Road in the first year. 'Welcome to Woodchester' signs/village 'gateways' and the resurfacing of the bottom of Bospin Lane would be requested for funding for the second year.  
 This recommendation will be put to Full Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> June for agreement.
- 2020/09 To receive an update on the resurfacing of the 'Cycle Path'.**  
 Sections at Rooksmoor and Frogmarsh have not yet been resurfaced. They cannot be completed until COVID-19 social distancing measures are relaxed and the fencing is removed at Rooksmoor.  
 The condition of the surface of the bridge between Pauls Rise and Birds Crossing is a concern. A report on the structure was carried out late in 2019 by Gloucestershire Rights of Way. The Parish Council have not seen a copy of this report. The clerk will follow this up.  
 It was agreed that the 'cycle path' would benefit from more signage to improve understanding and encourage respect for other users. Should the track receive 'multi-use' status in the future, the need to educate users will be more crucial.
- 2020/10 To receive an update on the status of Water Lane.**  
 'Road Closed' signs have been replaced after having been removed by members of the public. The condition of the road is very poor. The amount of silt has increased due to work by Severn Trent.  
 The clerk will contact Severn Trent and ask that the area is reinstated.  
 The clerk will contact Gloucestershire Highways to enquire about the process for downgrading Water Lane to a Right of Way, maintaining vehicular access to farmers.
- 2020/11 To receive any comments from members of the public.**  
 There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 7.56pm.

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

Initials.....