



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 13th MARCH 2023

1. **Present:** Councillors: R. Davies (Chairman); A. Barton; R. Campbell; N. Ingledew
I. Johnston; H. Parker; P. Rice; S. Parker
2. **Apologies:** Nil
3. **Absent:** Nil
4. **Public Question Time:** There were two members of the public present.

Mr R. Bean read a statement regarding the recent accident on the A4 and asked the Council to look at providing more Speed Indicator Devices and to look at how speed awareness can be raised.

Mrs K. Parker Headteacher from the Corsham Primary School, Rudloe expressed concerns about the safety and speed of traffic on the B3109 past the school. There are currently 263 children at the school and the new Highway Code prioritises pedestrians. She is concerned about the current speed limit and how to make the school more visible.

5. **Declaration of interests:** Nil
6. **Minutes**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2022 were taken as read and signed as a true record.
7. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. **B3109 Bradford Road by the School:** Cllr Davies reported on the recent meeting with representatives from Wiltshire Highways; Cllr D. Walters; Parish Councillors and the Cabinet member for Highways. Several issues had been raised about the safety of the road. He stated that there are twelve dropping off sites in Dickens Gate which has a 20 mph speed limit. Some forty pedestrians cross the road from Dickens Gate and also children from Park Place and he felt that the toucan crossing was in the wrong location and a health and safety risk.

The Speed Assessment report was considered. The report stated “taking into consideration the data collected, site observations and assessment against DfT criteria, a case cannot be made to support the introduction of a 30 mph speed limit. It is however recommended that a 40 mph speed limit be introduced in section 1. The existing speed limits (50 mph) should be retained in sections 2 and 3. Given the overarching concerns leading to the request to reduce the speed limit are in relation to pedestrian safety, particularly within section 1 with narrow footways around Corsham Primary School cited as a concern, it is recommended that measures to further improve pedestrian facilities be investigated.”

The report also suggested that “the Parish Council liaise with the school in relation to moving the existing fence line back to provide a wider footway, particularly in the location of the existing pedestrian refuge island. It is considered that there would

be substantial benefit in having a wider footway at this location and there is space for this to be provided if the fence were to be set back. The land currently in the curtilage of the school could be transferred to Highway ownership as a free dedication of land with no costs for the school.”

“There is scope to widen the footways around the area of the school gate, up to the signal controlled crossing. In the first instance it is recommended that Box Parish Council ask the Parish Steward to side out the footway as close to the existing fence as possible. Over time the verge from behind the fence has encroached into the footway and clearing it could provide more width to the existing footway.”

After a lengthy discussion it was **recommended**:

That the Parish Council accepts the proposal for the 40 mph speed limit with the condition that:

- The School submits a Journey to School Plan requesting flashing 20 mph signs outside the school at opening and closing times
- That signage for the school is updated
- That there are proper road markings outside the school
- That improvements are made to the pavements

- b. **Leafy Lane Speed Assessment**: The report recommends that the speed limit should remain at 40 mph. The 40 mph limit is lower than the speed limit at either end of Leafy Lane. The existing speed limit works well and is the speed limit to be expected by most drivers.
- c. **Journey to School**: A meeting had been held between Wiltshire council, the Parish Council and representatives from the Box C of E School. It had been recommended that there should be no light controlled crossing. However, it had been recommended that the existing crossing outside the school should remain with the road markings and surfacing to be renewed. It was also recommended that there be a full upgrade to the existing zebra crossing outside the post office to bring it up to current Wiltshire Council standards.
- At the meeting there had been discussion re the removal of the refuge and Wiltshire Council stated that this would only be removed if they can improve the visibility at the crossing. It had been asked that the repairs be carried out as soon as possible.
- d. **Advance warning signs on A4 down Box Hill**: Cllr Davies is meeting with Sarah Dearden on 20th March and he will ask her about advance warning signs.
- e. **Layby opposite Selwyn Hall**: David Arnup, Highway Engineer, had stated that there is a stock of scalping at the Chippenham depot and he was happy for some of this to be used. Clerk to contact the Parish Steward and ask for this to be done.
Action: MC
- f. **Wormcliffe Lane – weight restriction**: David Arnup had written stating that he was very surprised that HGVs would attempt to use this road. A weight restriction could be requested through the LHFIF process but access would be potentially be permitted.
- g. **Henley Lane junction with Devizes Road (A365)**: The hedge on the junction had been removed which had greatly improved visibility
- h. **Flooding on B3109**: Wiltshire Council reported that a survey had identified some necessary repairs to the drainage system. Repairs were carried out to the eastern

side of the carriageway leaving some repairs for the western side to be programmed. This has been passed over to the Drainage Team as one of the top priority sites. In the interim highways will monitor the location and work to keep the gullies open.

8. Items for discussion

- a. **Speed limit Kingsdown High Street and safety of horses**: Pursue a request for a warning sign for pedestrian and horse riders be put up.
- b. **Provision of street lighting at Ditteridge**: A request had been received. Cllr Davies will look at this. **Action: RD**
- c. **Middlehill Hill – discussion on speed/metro count**: Cllrs Davies and Ingledew had visited the site and did not see any evidence of speeding vehicles. It was agreed to request a metro count. Cllr Davies to look at the location for this. **Action: RD**
- d. **Junction at top of Chapel Lane/Devizes Road**: Cllr Davies will speak to Sarah Dearden when they meet on 20th March **Action: RD**
- e. **Ashley Lane/Northey Hill**: David Arnup has reported that corrective works have been passed over to the drainage team to facilitate. The works will entail channelling the water from Bigpool into a carrier system to take it under the carriageway and discharge onto adjacent land. The drainage team had hoped to carry out the works prior to this winter, but there have been delays with other work which has inevitably pushed everything back. The work may be carried out in the Spring. Alongside the works at the bottom of Bigpool they are looking at the feasibility of installing some additional gullies near to the junction of Wormcliffe/Doctors Hill. There is a ditch that runs adjacent to the carriageway that can be tapped into.

9. LHGIG – update on issues raised:

- a. **Chapel Plaister/Market Place**: Waiting for revised costs for the work
- b. **Lycetts Orchard/Tunnel Inn/A365**: Sarah Dearden to visit on 20th March. Road signs reinstated on Boxfields Road. The sign at White Ennox Lane has been twisted round and is obscured. Sarah Dearden to look at this at the farm vehicle sign and advance warning for the crossroads.

10. Update on Maintenance issues:

- a. **Road opposite Budgens**: The problem has not been solved. A layby has been created which has obliterated the pavement for pedestrians. There is still the problem with the flooding. Cllr Davies to ask for a site meeting with David Arnup **Action: RD**
- b. **Safety of the retaining wall by the War Memorial (junction at the traffic lights) retaining wall at the top of The Parade by the Fountain** These have been checked and there are no causes for concern.
- c. **Repainting of lines at Middlehill C152**: A MyWilts request has been submitted
- d. **Grit bin for Tunnel Inn**: Clerk to speak to the Groundsman about this

11. Correspondence:

- a. **Metro count by the Cemetery**: Results received. The speeds were below 40mph
- b. **Market Place Car Park**: Letter received stating that some cars are not taxed or MoT. Cllr Davies to check **Action: RD**
- c. **A4 road**: Letter received from a resident regarding the recent accident and the safety of the road by the bridge. A request had been submitted for the white lines on the bridge to be repainted.

12. items of report and future agenda items

- War Memorial – old milestone - It was agreed to ask Wiltshire Council if the milestone could be renovated
- Overgrown vegetation on Quarry Hill which is blocking the pavement – near South View. Clerk to ask the Parish Steward to cut this back
- Grit bin on Lower Kingsdown road needs refilling.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chairman

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