



Box Parish Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE AT 7PM ON 16th FEBRUARY 2026, AT BOX PAVILION

1. Councillors Present:

Cllr R Leach (Chair)
Cllr N Ingledew (VC)
Cllr R Duncan
Cllr R Davies
Cllr H Parker
Cllr I Johnston
Cllr T Walton

Cllr P Chamberlain (Wiltshire Council)

Clerk – S Vickery

2. Apologies: The Committee was quorate.

3. Absence: Nil.

4. Public Question Time. There were 12 members of the Public were present. There were two topics that the public wished to raise:

a. Hazlebury Hill No Waiting Restrictions:

- i. The 1st member commented that the scheme will remove 10 to 12 car parking spaces. This will cause safety, obstruction and massive issues for the limited parking in Box. It will impact on the other areas of the Parish.
- ii. 2nd member encouraged Box PC to respond. They were troubled by the quickness of the turnaround by Wiltshire Highways. There were questions over the timeframe and the 6 month comment. Two working days to produce the report was also queried.
- iii. 3rd member wished to echo the issues raised by the 2nd member. Questioned the evidence base and the lack of LHFIF involvement. The authenticity of the Fire Engine pictures were questioned. Speeds were a concern and a new safety hazard if speed calming measures are not considered.
- iv. Cllr Chamberlain responded by noting the strong level of objection. The Parish Council did not support the Issue so Wiltshire Council (WC) would be funding the scheme based on the Highways report. The Cabinet member would be making a decision based on Officer's report. He was minded to accept the recommendation. Cllr Chamberlain commented on the unintended 2nd order matters that do need to be raised again. He also clarified the 'call in' comment. 'Call in' concerned the due process and 10 x Wilts Councillors are required to support this procedure. Nonetheless, he noted comments from members of the Public. Accept/Reject or Amend were the current options. He was unsure whether WC had the full amount of knowledge.

b. Traffic Speed Issues

- i. 1st member from Box Hill requested that the PC to review speeds across the Parish. Quarry Hill etc. A Strategic review was required as there are incoherent speed limits across the Parish. Beech Road is a pinch point near the bus stops. Hedgesparrow Lane is also an issue. Quoted from his letter to the Council.
- ii. 2nd member raised speed limit through Middlehill at 60mph and is far too quick. There are no kerb stones. The Gardens back on to road. There is a spring Toad crossing issue, plus a farm which hosts children.
- iii. 3rd member - previous metro survey was done in a quiet period. Narrow little roads. Middlehill Lane should have a reduced speed.
- iv. 4th member. Spoke about a TRA with an ambulance at Beech Road / A4 exit with the lack of a solid white lane. Question to consider about the bus stop at Hedgesparrow Lane regarding the 50 mph limit. Motor homes in car parks were raised.
- v. 5th member spoke about a new entrance on the A4. Planning application has already passed, but concerned about the process by Wiltshire Highways.
- vi. The Chair emphasised the Council's campaign to see speed reduction across the Parish and the residents comments above were fully appreciated. The process to get a change was challenging. The former chair also reiterated how difficult it was to obtain a change. Cllr Chamberlain spoke about a County wide initiative to review speed limits with the new Lib Dem council. Please raise and contact the Clerk with concerns.

5. **Declarations** of interest relating to items on the Agenda. There were no conflicts.

6. **Previous Minutes.** The Minutes of the previous **Highways Committee on 17th November 2025** were taken as read and signed as a true record.

7. **Items of Correspondence** (Extraordinary Item). Hazlebury Hill.

- a. The Council wished to respond to WC by opposing the proposal. It introduced less safety measures by creating unintended 2nd order hazards, causing significant safety issues. There was a lack of objective and material evidence from the Fire and Ambulance services. The rejection of the compromise view was a disappointment. LHFIFG were aware that Box PC had objected to the scheme. Why has the issue waited this long if this is so significant. Residents have been proactive in managing the space. A 2nd look would be greatly appreciated. The proposal is within a Conservation area. Copy the response to the MP.

Action: Clerk to draft a response for Wed 18th February.

8. **LHFIFG Outputs.** The ongoing outputs from LHFIFG were noted:

- a. Topo survey of the A4 Layby opposite Bugdens. This would not be actioned until late Spring.
- b. Five x SID locations acrossed the Parish (LHFIFG funded). The metro counts are still awaited, however the 2023 Practice Note confirms that these are not a pre-requisite for erection.

Action: Clerk to chase metro count data and confirm SID contractor dates for socket and pole erection.

- c. Valens Terrace, Chapel Lane and A365 Bus Stop markings are delayed until late summer.
- d. Middlehill, A4 entrance. Dropped kerbs have been requested but may be costly due to expected bridge changes. This may cost Box PC up to £2.5k.
- e. Deer, Horse and other speed warning signage at various Parish sites (Ditteridge, Kingsdown, Old Jockey and White Ennox) will be combined in to one request and then prioritised.
- f. Metal Barrier at Rudloe. The Highways Engineer warned on the unintended consequences and will contact the Council to arrange a visit.
- g. Rudloe Estate Speeds. It is anticipated that there might be a new County-wide policy but currently older estates appear to be being disadvantaged.

9. Car Parks.

- a. Abandoned Cars and 24 parking limit. The Chair wished to highlight his concern about the potential misuse of the car parks. The 24 hr over night parking should be excluded from the new sign. Ideally motor homes should be excluded from the car park and untaxed vehicles also removed.

Action: Clerk to investigate new sign.

- b. Potential Height barrier to car park at Recreation Ground and Box Hill. It was agreed that that a height barrier might have benefits; it was worth asking Hills whether they have experience of barriers. The new Highways Working Group (HWG) would be asked to assist.

Action: Clerk to check on the status of new signs and investigate a height barrier cost.

- c. Disabled Spaces and Potholes. The pothole work at Valens Terrace has now been completed. Disabled bay marking will be completed at all car parks shortly.
- d. EV charging. Cllr Ingledew will attend an online EV seminar shortly.
- e. Parking on pavements. This remains a police matter and is not illegal, however this may change in the future.

10. Speed reduction campaign.

- a. Further requests for speed reduction have been received from residents at Quarry Hill Middlehill and Box Hill. The Committee wished to see speeds reduced, particularly at Middlehill and Box Hill. BANES and Somerset Council policies were quoted which are very different to Wiltshire. **Recommendation.** Issue sheets are to be submitted for a speed reduction and solid white lines from Box Hill (Motors to Village) and Middlehill (A4 to hamlet).

- b. HGVs not using the B3109 as per Wiltshire Council guidance. The Chair outlined the context stating that many companies do not comply to the guidance avoiding the B3109. The Chair will write on this topic to Wiltshire Highways and the main HGV company.

Action: Chair to write to WC.

- c. Improved speed warning signage on A4 and A365. It was suggested that warning signs akin to other areas (either count down signs or speed warning signs) are considered for these busy roads, especially as Police evidence at CABs help the justification.

Action: new HWG to take forward.

- d. The formation of a Road Safety Highways Working Group. **Recommendation:** To be termed the Highways Working Group and parishioners can be invited. Hot topics would be the overall campaign / strategy for speed reduction, other road priorities (A365 crossing) and car parking. Cllr Walton will also seek to clarify the whether there will be a County-wide review of traffic speed limits as so often quoted at LHFIGs. The Chair will find a date and venue in April 2026 and also craft TORs.

11. Correspondence. To receive any urgent correspondence.

- a. Box Hill resident written letter of speed concerns. See item 10a.
- b. Cllr Chamberlain briefed on his aspiration for a pedestrian crossing for the A365. In 2023 this was first proposed but the high threshold of 50 would-be crossers per hour could not be evidenced; this was deemed a poor threshold and should be challenged. Connect to item 10d. He also mentioned concerns with Bargates traffic and potholes.

12. Forward Plan. The latest Forward Plan, including the Policy matrix and Risk Assessments was presented. The HWG will help to populate the Plan.

13. Future Agenda and Items to report. Items of report and future Agenda items.

- a. Stolen Farm warning sign. Cllr Davies would advise Cllr Chamberlin of the sign issue.

14. Date of next meeting – 7pm on Monday 15th June 2026.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Dated.....

Chair.....