



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 26th JUNE 2023

1. **Present:** Councillors: R. Davies (Chairman); A. Barton; R. Bean; D. Dorey; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker; T. Walton; D. Wright;
2. **Apologies:** Nil
3. **Absent:** Nil
4. **Public Question Time:** There was one member of the public present.
Mr. Woodington read out letters he had written to and received from James Gray MP and Wiltshire Council regarding the speed of traffic of the A4 between Rudloe and Box. He has submitted a Highways Improvement Request Form asking for the speed limit to be reduced.
5. **Declaration of interests:** Nil
6. **Election of Vice Chair of the Committee:** Cllr Nigen Ingledew was elected Vice Chair of the Committee
7. **Minutes**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March 2023 were taken as read and signed as a true record.
8. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. **Brief update of items considered in the first year of the Highways Committee:**
Cllr Davies stated that little had actually be achieved because of the constraints with Wiltshire Council but some of the issues are now coming to fruition.
 - b. **B3109 Bradford Road by the School:** The reduction of the speed limit to 40 mph had been agreed with a contribution from Box PC of £1438.53 towards the costs. It was agreed to encourage Broadwood School to submit a School Travel Plan as soon as possible to request flashing 20mph signs by the school and possibly yellow zig-zag markings.
 - c. **Pedestrian crossings in the village by the Post Office and Box CofE School:**
Revised report on Taking Action on School Journeys had been received and circulated. The zebra crossing outside the Post Office is scheduled for an upgrade later in the 2023/24 financial year to bring it up to current standards. Further data had been collected at the pedestrian crossing by the school and the revised speed data and pedestrian data was shown. As a result of the additional data Wiltshire Council are now recommending the zebra crossing be altered to a Puffin crossing with flashing lights.
 - d. **Advance warning signs on A4 down Box Hill:** Cllr Davies had met with Sarah Dearden. Advance warning signs would not be agreed but it may be possible to add yellow bar markings to the SLOW signs.
 - e. **Layby opposite Selwyn Hall:** David Arnup, Highway Engineer, had stated that there is a stock of scalplings at the Chippenham depot and he was happy for some of this to be used. Clerk to contact the new Parish Steward and ask for this to be done.
Action: MC

- f. **Middlehill – Speed/metro count:** A request for a metro count had been submitted
- h. **Maintenance issues:**
- **Maintenance and signage at Kingsdown:** Photographs had been taken of the signage along the Kingsdown road which is very poor compared to the signage on the B&NES stretch of the road. It was agreed that there should be improved signage and this will be discussed at the next meeting to take it forward to the September LHFIFG meeting. Cllr Davies to meet with Sarah Dearden to look at the road and discuss where signs could be placed.
Action: RD
 - **Pavement opposite the garage A4 Ashley:** A layby had been created by the lorries parking to use Budgens. The pavement had been flattened and the drain damaged which causes flooding in wet weather. Pedestrians are unable to walk along this stretch of the pavement when lorries are parked without going into the road. Clerk to ask David Arnup for a meeting.
Action: MC

9. Items for discussion

- a. **Bath to Box Cycleway and creation of Quiet Lane at Wormcliffe Lane**
 Details of the proposed cycleway had been circulated to Councillors. A letter had been received from Sarah Dearden (WC) regarding Quiet Lanes stating “Wiltshire Council implemented a pilot Quiet Lanes network in the Pewsey Vale in the early 2000s. Unfortunately it was not a great success largely because the measures associated with such schemes are limited to signing, along with some surface treatments and overall these measures did not significantly affect the behaviour of drivers on the designated Quiet Lanes. In addition to the lack of success in instigating behaviour change, public support was lacking. Consequently Quiet Lanes did not develop into a roll out across the county or event to the rest of the Pewsey Vale as originally planned. Wiltshire Council is currently preparing a Wiltshire Wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which will address rural cycling and walking routes and how they are dealt with at a strategic level”
- After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council has more important issues to consider and therefore proposed that, whilst the Council would support the Cycleway it would not support the Quiet Lane.
- b. **Request for dropped kerbs on Leafy Lane:** It was agreed to obtain costings of the dropped kerbs from Sarah Dearden before an application is made for them to be installed near the Dandelion Café. **Action: RD**
- c. **Request to consider supporting the reduction of the speed limit on the Rudloe Estate to 20 mph:** It was stated that if the Council supported the reduction of the speed limit on this estate it would need to consider the speed on all the other estates in the Parish. However, it was agreed to submit a request for a metro count. Cllr Davies to look at suitable locations for this. **Action: RD**
- d. **Pedestrian safety on the B3109 ear the junction with Westwells Road:**
 After discussion it was felt that this is not a major problem at the moment but this could change when the Rudloe No 2 site is developed. It was suggested that SLOW markings with yellow bar markings could be put down.
- e. **Consideration relating to dropped kerb at the junction of the A4 and Middlehill regarding use of mobility scooters;** This had been raised by a parishioner from Middlehill. After discussion it was felt that this was something the Parish Council could consider but it would need to be discussed with the budget setting. It was suggested that the parishioner may be able to pursue this directly with Wiltshire Council
- f. **Extension of the double yellow lines at junction of Chapel Lane and Devizes Road:** This issue had been discussed by the Council previously. It was **resolved** that the Committee would continue to investigate and find out the costings for an extension of the double yellow lines by 10m **Action: RD.**
- g. **Obstruction by parked vehicles at Hazelbury Hill:** Cllr Bean reported that he

had lived at Hazelbury for 13 years and that this issue related to parked cars outside of a few houses at the bottom of the hill. An incident had occurred earlier this year when Wiltshire Council sent a larger than usual lorry which could not drive past the cars and recycling was not collected from residents. However he did not recall any other issue affecting him directly and while aware of a handful of issues for some residents with some deliveries, he believed these to be relatively rare occurrences. It was felt that if any deliveries are expected, the households could continue to be approached or neighbours could continue putting notices up, asking for the road to be kept clear.

h. Provision of grit bins – Tunnel Inn and Dickens Gate:

It was **recommended** that two grit bins be purchased. £500 had been put into the budget

Post Minute note: Cost of the grit bin is £120 + vat

i. Planters in the village: Cllr H. Parker will continue to liaise with the Gardening Club on planting these. Clerk to remind the Groundsman to water them.

10. LHGIG – update on issues raised:

- a. **Chapel Plaister/Market Place:** Revised costs received from Wiltshire Council. There is a reduction and the new costs are: Market Place - contribution of £625; Chapel Plaister – contribution of £750
- b. **A365:** Sarah Dearden had visited the site and would not agree to advance warning signs. “Bus Stop” could be painted onto the road. The criteria would not be met for a pedestrian crossing. Clerk to ask the Parish Steward to clear the vegetation from the 30 mph signs coming into the village
- Lycetts Orchard:** Costings for the signage will be given at the LHFIG meeting on 19th July
- Tunnel Inn:** Costings for the signage will be given at the LHFIG meeting on 19th July

11. Car Parks:

- a. **Recreation Ground:** There is lack of lighting in the car park. Quotes for solar lights had been obtained in the region of £2-10K. This would need to be discussed with the budget
- b. **Market Place:** The Lease will expire on 1st April 2025. Working party to be set up to look at issues relating to all of the car parks (including Box Hill Common). This will comprise Cllrs: Bean; Dorey; Johnston and Wright – to report back to the next Highways Committee

12. Rights of Way – update on work carried out by Cotswold Wardens and any issues:

Work had been carried out as follows:

- Footpath 80 – drainage
- Footpath 66 – repairs to the handrail to be carried out
- 12 kissing gates purchased to replace the stiles
- Clearance work to F83; F43; F107c; F55
- F2 – bridge handrail repair

13. Correspondence:

- a. **Highways Improvement Request Form** received re the speed of traffic on the A4 from Rudloe to Box and requesting a reduction in the speed limit. To be discussed at the next meeting.

14. Monitoring of Budget: This is on line. Further costings for work being obtained from Wiltshire Council.

15. items of report and future agenda items

- a. **Footpath 16 – Fairmead View:** request as to whether this could be opened up for mobility scooter access

- b. Footpath 43 – Hazelbury Hill: report of a loose handrail
- c. Bulls Lane – report of an abandoned vehicle

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chairman