



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 22nd JANUARY 2024

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Davies (Chairman); R. Bean; D. Dorey; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker; T. Walton; D. Wright
- 2. Apologies:** Councillors: A. Barton
- 3. Absent:** Nil
- 4. Public Question Time:** There were seven members of the public present to speak about the ongoing issue of parking at the bottom of Hazelbury Hill.

Mr Owen Pine stated that the access at the bottom of Hazelbury Hill is only 14 ft wide and he was concerned about access by emergency vehicles and felt that double yellow lines should be considered.

Mr Ben Smith spoke on behalf of the other residents. Several more had given apologies ie Mr and Mrs Culley; Mike Redman and Tom Gray. He outlined the dates where there had been issues with access by the refuse collection lorries and ambulances. He had submitted a Highways Improvement Request Form after the October meeting and felt that this was now a Health and Safety issue for residents. He had spoken to Martin Litherland re the waste collection and to the Nuffield Trust re ambulance response times. He stated that he considered the situation to be contrary to the Highway Code.

He pointed out an error in the Minutes of 23rd October

- 5. Declaration of interests:** Nil

- 6. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd October and 20th November were taken as read and signed as a true record with one amendment made and agreed with Mr Redman's name being removed from one statement.

- 7. Issues for Discussion:** It was agreed to move this item further up the Agenda so that members of the public could hear the discussion.

Parking of cars on Hazelbury Hill:

The Chair stated that he had send a series of emails to the Ambulance Service but they had not replied giving a detailed report of the incident.

Cllr Bean stated that he lives on Hazelbury Hill and had a differing version of events but agreed that a report from the Ambulance Service was needed.

Cllr Walton felt that the Committee need to look at the Issue Sheet as a Health and Safety issue would be Wiltshire Council's responsibility.

It was **recommended** that the Issue Sheet submitted by Mr Smith be forwarded to Wsiltshire Council for consideration.

8. Matters Arising:

- a. **B3109 Bradford Road by the School:** A decision had been made by Wiltshire Council to implement the 40 mph traffic order stating “*The concerns raised in the consultation are understood; however, there are additional actions that can be undertaken at a local level to ensure that suitable awareness of the presence of pedestrians, in particular school children, to motorists is provided. It is strongly encouraged that the school seeks to engage with the Council’s Taking Action on School Journeys initiative to provide advisory 20 mph restrictions during the time that the school children are prominent in the area. The Parish Council and local residents are also encouraged to consider the use of Community Speedwatch and Speed Indicator Devices to reinforce the change of limit and help embed the change with the motoring public*”

A Travel Plan had been submitted by the School to get flashing 20 mph signs. Clerk to ascertain the present position on this from Ruth Durrant. **Action: MC**

Report on Area Board meeting – 11th January: Committee members felt that the wording of the traffic order did not match what was said at the meeting.

With regards to highway safety on the B3109 near the entrance to Wadswick Farm shop Sarah Dearden had stated that she had spoken with roads policing unit in details and there has been one road traffic collision at this site due to driver error, the other accident was not at the entrance and along the road. Both the police and she did not believe there to be a problem at this location, visibility is good, sightlines are good coming out of Wadswick, fences and signs set back to allow good vision. If the Parish Council wanted some warning signs and/or slow markings on the approaches to the turning this could be requested via LHFIFG in the normal way.

- b. **Middlehill – Speed/metro count:** The results of the metro count show that the 85 percentile speed was 27.9 mph. No further action

c. **Maintenance issues:**

- **Maintenance and signage at Kingsdown/Box A4 boundary signs:** Sarah Dearden will visit the site to look at additional highway safety and possible signage.
- **Pavement opposite the garage A4 Ashley:** It was stated that Wiltshire Council will send a Vaktor machine to clear the drains. However, the flooding is caused because the drains have been completely crushed by the lorries

It is **recommended** that an Issue Sheet be submitted raising the issue of the flooding and the safety of pedestrians having to walk in the road to get past parked lorries.

c. **Bath to Box Cycleway and creation of Quiet Lane at Wormcliffe Lane**

There is no further update. It was reported that the problem with the drainage on Wormcliffe Lane had been resolved

- d. **Funding for dropped kerbs:** An Issue Sheet had been submitted requesting dropped kerbs at Leafy Lane by the Dandelion Café; A4 entrance to Middlehill and Lower end of Bulls Lane.

9. Update on items discussed previously:

- a. **Extension of the double yellow lines at junction of Chapel Lane and Devizes Road:** Cllr Johnston stated that he felt the current double yellow lines do not meet the Highway Code regulations.

After discussion it was **recommended** that an Issue Sheet be submitted requesting that the double yellow lines on the right hand side of the junction at the top of Chapel Lane be extended

- b. **Car Parks:**

Survey: It was reported that a survey had been created and software for email addresses had been created

Light in the Recreation Ground Car Park: There had been an incident where an elderly lady had fallen in the dark at the entrance to the Car Park after leaving the Selwyn Hall. Solar lights had been put on posts but it was felt that additional lighting was still needed.

It was reported that historically the street light at the entrance to the car park had been controlled by a switch in the Selwyn Hall which users had activated when leaving the Hall. This had been set on a timer to allow people to access the car park. It had been disconnected several years ago.

It was agreed to pursue the reinstatement of this light with the Selwyn Hall Management Committee. Cllrs Davies and Ingledew to meet with them.

Action: RD/NI

- c. **Pedestrian safety in Mill Lane:** Complaints had been received from residents re parked cars blocking the pavement. It was agreed to put an article in the Parish Magazine requesting drivers not to park on pavements.
- d. **SID:** The latest data from the SIDs had been circulated
Quotation received from ElanCity in the sum of £848.46 + vat for two solar panel units and mounting kit to fit the SIDs.

It was **recommended** that two solar panel units and mounting kit are purchased at a sum of **£848.46 + vat**

It was agreed to look at the purchase of an additional SID when the new speed limit had been implemented on the B3109.

- e. **Discussion on the pavement between Box and Bathford – viability of a shared path and setting up of a working party:** It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting

10. Further items for discussion:

- a. **Access and safety suggestions at the entrance to private road owned by the Parish Council leading to Valens Terrace:** Cllr Walton had drawn up suggestions showing an area at the top of the road which could be hatched and marked with No Parking together with two new signs for either side of the road to replace the existing sign. Clerk to ask Gemma Winslow Wiltshire Highways to ascertain the definitive boundary of where Wiltshire Council land ends and Parish Council land begins.

In the meantime it was suggested that a planter could be positioned to deter parking. Quotations for the signs to be obtained. **Action: MC**

- b. **Parking restriction enforcement within Box Village:** It was stated that there is very little enforcement of drivers parking on double yellow lines. It was agreed to write to Ruth Hopkins of Wiltshire Council about this.

- c. **Flooding update:** Thanks were given to Cllr Bolton for all his hard work in dealing with the flooding issues and for all his reports and updates.

11. LHFIG – update on issues raised

- a. **A365 Devizes Road, Box/Tunnel Inn Crossroad/Mill Lane/Lycells Orchard:**
The warning signs and signage improvements will be actioned shortly
- b. “Bus Stop” to be painted on the road on both A365 Devizes road bus stops and on the A4 by the bus stop outside the Pharmacy

12. Correspondence:

- a. **Substantive |Highways Scheme Fund Bid process:** Details received from Wiltshire Council and circulated to Committee
- b. **Letter re road speed past The Bassetts:** Letter received from a resident of The Bassetts regarding the recent article in the Parish Magazine reporting on the results of the SID on this part of the road where it had been found that 22% of all vehicles were travelling about the 30 mph speed limit and that some were recorded as between 65 and 85 mph and asking what action could be possible on the basis of this evidence.

It was stated that the Police do not have the resources to deal with the data from all the SIDs. However, a letter had been received regarding Wiltshire SID Data Sharing Roll-out and it was agreed to support the scheme for sharing of data. Copy of the letter to be sent to Derek Walters and Perry Paye of Wiltshire Police.

- c. **Speed of traffic on Leafy Lane:** Letter received from a residents regarding the volume and speed of traffic on Leafy Lane. It was agreed to reply stating that the Parish Council had requested dropped kerbs by the Dandelion Café. The recent metro count carried out showed the speed of traffic to be below 30 mph and the information from the SID is also well under 40 mph.

It was asked if the positioning of the SIDs could be reconsidered.

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

- a. Work had been carried out as follows:
- Replaced damaged (rusted) metal post with a black plastic post and footpath sign on FP 13 at Jamies Farm
 - Clearing 200 sq m of brambles on Box Hill Common
 - Created new “living hedge” in area adjacent to FP 35
 - Replaced damaged stile with metal kissing gate on FP 20 at Folly Farm
 - Replaced damaged stile with metal kissing gate on FP 85
- Thanks were given to the Cotswold Wardens for all their hard work.
- b. **Maintenance of FP 34 Stairway to Heaven:** It was **recommended** that £200 be set aside for the purchase of materials including half round rails, fence posts, step posts nails etc.
- c. **Tree remover:** It was **recommended** that not to exceed £100 be set aside for the purchase of a tree removed for very small trees

14. items of report and future agenda items

- a. **Church Lane:** It was reported that Church Lane needs resurfacing. It was agreed to ask Brian Mathew when this will be carried out
- b. It was reported the id Verde are donating plants and seeds to go on highway verges. Cllr Wright had requested some of these
- c. **After Minute Note:** Parish Steward visits scheduled for 7th 8th February; 7th 11th March; 8th 9th April; 6th 10th June;

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Chairman