



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2022

- 1. Present:** Councillors: N. Ingledew (Chairman); R. Campbell;
I. Johnston; H. Parker; S. Parker
- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs R. Davies and R. Smith
In the absence of Cllr Davies the Chair was taken by Cllr Ingledew
- 3. Absent:** Cllr A. Barton
- 4. Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.
- 5. Declaration of interests:** Nil
- 6. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th September and 18th October 2022**
The Minutes of the Meetings were taken as read and signed as a true record.
- 7. Matters Arising:**
 - a. Journey to School report:** Concerns had been raised about the condition of the existing crossing by the Post Office. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Wiltshire Council to ask for full details of the proposed upgrade under the Taking Action on School Journey report and when the upgrade would likely be carried out. A opinion was expressed that for Health and Safety reasons the refuge in the centre of the crossing should remain.
In the meantime the Clerk will ask for urgent repairs to be carried out.
 - b. Wormcliffe Lane:** The idea of a weight restriction was discussed but lorries would still be entitled to use this road for deliveries etc. The Clerk has written to David Arnup re the excess spring water on the road which turns it very icy.
 - c. Advance warning signs for the 30mph limit on the A4 coming down Box Hill:** Cllr Davies to speak to Sarah Dearden about the possibility of this and whether they would be permitted. Clerk to ask the Groundsman to clear the vegetation from the 30mph sign coming down the hill
 - d. Hedge by junction at the bottom of Henley Lane:** Wiltshire Council had contacted the owner to cut the hedge back. Whilst the owner was very willing to do this at the present time, due to personal circumstances, he is unable carry this out. Wiltshire Council has asked the Parish Steward to cut this back
 - e. A365 Devizes Road – bus stop sign.** The Clerk had written to Gemma Winslow to look at installing a proper sign instead of the paper sign for the bus stop
 - f. Tunnel Inn Crossroads** – two crossroad signs on both approaches at Boxfields Road to be replaced under Wiltshire Council maintenance
 - g. Maintenance issue opposite the garage on the A4 following the proposed resurfacing of this stretch of road:** Cllr Davies has asked for a meeting with David Arnup from Wiltshire Highways before the resurfacing is carried out. It appears that a pull in has been created but the pavement has not been repaired. This means that if a lorry is parking here to use the garage any pedestrian would have to walk out into the road. Also repairs need to be carried out to the drain that has been squashed down by the lorries which causes flooding

- h. **Update on EV Charging Points:** Cllr H. Parker confirmed that she had registered the Parish Council's interest in EV Charging Points. However, a survey would have to be carried out to establish the need for charging points and where the supply would come from and the size of the charger required. It was suggested that the Parish council could look at all the properties to identify where charging could not be carried out.

8. Update on the B3109 Bradford Road and Leafy Lane:

B3109 Bradford Road: Following the meeting held on 18th October the Clerk had written to Wiltshire Council stating that as the majority of local parishioners, the School, MoD and the Parish Council supported the 30 mph limit, the decision to install a 40 mph limit and the financial implications should be deferred and the money ring fenced to be taken forward pending further investigation.

Sarah Dearden had replied stating "I note your comments regarding the B3109 Bradford Road and that Box Parish Council has withdrawn its support for the reduction in speed limit to 40 mph. The funds that had been committed for this work have now been redistributed to other ongoing schemes. WC cannot ringfence the money for a later date so there is now a £0 budget for this scheme. The Corsham LHFIF had to make this decision so that the funds were not lost."

It was agreed that the Clerk should write back to Sarah Dearden stating that the Council had not "withdrawn" support for the 40 mph scheme. It had always supported a 30 mph limit.

Cllr Walters has had a meeting with the Cabinet member for Highways; the Director of Highways; head of Highways; Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair of the Environment Select Committee re the Bradford Road Speed Limit Assessment but was not satisfied with the outcome. There will be a further meeting with the Director in January and he was proposing taking this before the whole Scrutiny Committee.

Leafy Lane: The result from the pedestrian crossing survey had been received. The results shows a small number of pedestrians crossing at the location requested (most of them aged 18-65). The evidence shows the small numbers mean that it does not meet any criteria for a formal crossing. It was suggested that WC could look at an enhanced crossing point, similar to that designed by Kate Davey some time ago which was turned down by the Parish Council. Sarah Dearden had offered to prepare detailed designs and costings for this.

Cllr Davies had replied to this stating that dropped kerbs could be considered but that any decisions should wait until the result of the speed survey is known. In light of the development of 168 houses on Westweels Road in the near year, the footfall would increase.

The Committee agreed to wait for the result of the speed assessment before asked WC to draw up any detailed designs and costings.

9. Items for discussion

Extending the 40mph speed limit on the A4 out of Bath to include the houses on the end of the road following the proposed resurfacing of the A4: Cllr Mathew had suggested that the speed limit sign could be moved following the resurfacing. However, it is not that simple and it would require a Traffic Regulation Order to alter the positioning of the speed limit.

It was **recommended** that a Highways Improvement Request be submitted asking that the 40mph is extended beyond Rosedale.

Complaint received relating to pedestrian safety and a maintenance issue at Middlehill

A Highways Improvement Request Form had been received from a resident at Middlehill stating that the speed at which vehicles are driven past her house and on other local and very narrow, twisty roads is dangerous and asking for a speed limit of 20 mph.

It was **recommended** that the Highways Improvement Request Form be forwarded to Wiltshire Council to ask if anything could be done to reduce the speed.

Complaint received relating to pedestrian and horse safety on a section of the Kingsdown Road down to the county boundary

This stretch of road is known as Kingsdown High Street. It was stated that drivers do not take notice of the horses or pedestrians using this stretch of road.

It was **recommended** that a Highways Improvement Request Form be submitted asking for a warning sign for pedestrian and horse riders to be put up

Flooding on the B3109

There is an issue with the drain on the B3109 by Glenavon near the junction with White Ennox Lane. This is constantly flooding and has caused cars to swerve to avoid it. It does not appear to be a blockage issue as this has flooded again since the drains were cleared. Clerk to write to David Arnup to ask him to investigate.

Health and Safety issue of the layby opposite the Selwyn Hall and the lighting on the footpath

Stand alone solar lights have been purchased and will be put on posts down Valens Terrace.

The issue of the layby by the Selwyn Hall was discussed. This was put in originally for the members of the Bowls Club to drop off equipment before going to the car park.

In light of the extensive work being carried out by Wessex Water on the sewerage works in 2025 which will mean lorries going up and down Valens Terrace to access the Recreation Ground, it was agreed to leave this until after the work had been completed. There may be funding through Wessex Water to rectify any damage caused.

To address any Health and Safety issues, whilst acknowledging that this is a drop off point and not a passing space, it was suggested that scalplings could be obtained when the A4 is being resurfaced. Clerk to write to David Arnup and ask if some of these could be put on the pull in.

10. Update on other Maintenance issues:

The following issues have been raised with the Highways Engineer who has agreed to look into them:

- Safety of the retaining wall by the War Memorial (junction at the traffic lights)
- Safety of the retaining wall at the top of The Parde by the Fountain

11. items of report and future agenda items

- Road Closure notices - The Clerk had circulated these to Councillors
- War Memorial – old milestone - It was agreed to ask Wiltshire Council if the milestone could be renovated
- Clerk to ask Wiltshire Council for a copy of the metro count being carried out by the Cemetery on the A4
- Clerk to report a broken cover in the A4 by the Old Dairy
- Grit bins – Some of the grit bins in Box had not been refilled by Wiltshire Council. Clerk to ask for these to be done. Clerk to ask the Groundsman to put some grit in the bin on Box Hill

- Overgrown vegetation on Quarry Hill which is blocking the pavement – near South View. Clerk to ask the Parish Steward to cut this back

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chairman

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