

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2009

Present: Cllrs M.J. Bayley (Chairman), B Lock, C.Pointon-Taylor,
Clerk M.S.Green

Apologies: Cllrs D.Baker, A. Hardie, M.A. Morley

Visitors: Bucks Highways Local area Technician - Colin Jenkins (CJ)

1. Footpaths, Bridleways & tracks

Penn Street Walk-to-school path – The Awards for All bid for £3,000 has been rejected because the applicants (School PTA) do not own the land. A reduced quote has been obtained from Clive Winslow for £5,500. Funds obtained so far: Chiltern Cons.Board, £1,000; PTA, £2,000. It is not on our project list for LAF for 2010/11 because they want to complete the project in the next few months. The Don Millar fund and County/District Cllrs funds are worth trying. Otherwise, an extra £500 from the PTA and **£2,000 from the Parish Council** would reach the target. **To be recommended at F&GP on 29 Oct 09.** There will be some additional expense to clear rubble left by Travellers some years ago. Payment must go through the Parish Council in order to claim VAT.

Forty Green walkway - Highways have decided the verge is not their land, and nor does it belong to the properties above. It is therefore no-man's land. We still await a Highways technical assessment, meanwhile and **have made a bid (15 Sep) to LAF, prepared by Dan Dixon, for £3,000 for a detailed design** study. We have put the project itself as one of our LAF delegated budget bids for 2010-11.

Penn Bottom - There are queries. on FP 66 to Common Wood and on the two new FP lengths offered by the Penn Estate, but Alison Perry has just moved to Hants County Council, and her successor is Corrine Waldron.

Footpath signs – Missing footpath signs should be reported to the Clerk.

County Rights of Way improvement Plan The plan for 2007-2011 is now held by the Clerk.

Parish Paths Partnership – Some questions were raised about whether a Parish map would duplicate existing OS and Chiltern Society maps. **Investigate advantages and production of a parish FP map with Paul Battye.** Cllr Lock volunteered his help.

2. Highway repairs and traffic matters

Highway repairs - Ringway Jacobs have taken over, but procedures are not yet established in a number of areas. Most of the previous schemes are to be continued as before:-

Penn Bottom - CJ has put in for many patching repairs needed between Common Wood Lane and New Road (Penn St).

Plane & Patch Gang, scraping off the surface of lengths of specified roads as decided by the local County Councillors. The roads specified have mostly been considerably improved but those still awaiting significant repair are:

Horsemoor Lane - 300m of full width have been resurfaced and residents are happy.

Gatemoor Hill - Road closure being organised for full resurfacing.

Community gang – operating for a week at a time at monthly intervals in each Local Community Area; deals with a specified list of defects which excludes potholes. A Report Sheet listing the tasks has to be sent seven days before their visit.

See Future Gang and Meeting dates at para 11 below. The next Gang is due in week starting 19 October. **A revised Report Sheet will be sent to CJ.**

There is no feedback on what the Gang has actually done and this is to be raised with LAF.

Highway inspection - Highways inspect A & B class roads every month; C class every 3 months and unclassified every 6 months. Defects are reported and repairs programmed.

Category 1 & 2 potholes – Cat.1 (300x300x40mm deep) should be patched within 24 hrs & permanently repaired within 28 days. Cat.2 potholes should be patched within 28 days. Report these to Highways on Call through the Clerk as problems arise. Attached photos are useful.

Holtspur Lane – Repairs have been done in the road (but not passing places which are not surfaced).

FG Road up to Royal Standard and parts of Bayley's Bottom– An initial order has been placed for potholes.

Penn Surgery, Elm Road - A white line 'hammerhead' only applies to the entrance and so not appropriate here.

School Lane, Penn Street - CJ agreed there had been considerable damage to verges and banks, and they are getting worse, but kerbing is the only lasting answer and there are no funds.

Church Road, Tylers Green - has been closed for about 3 months from 1 July for rebuilding the garage to Victoria House and local residents will be writing to propose permanent closure for vehicles at the Elm Road end. Chris Schwier has said Highways would consider this provided both Parish Councils and local residents were in favour and after consultation with statutory bodies. **Await letter from residents and then consult CWPC**

Salt bins - A salt heap used to be placed in Fagnall Lane, but this is no longer Highway's policy. CJ confirmed bins are still available, but at a cost. of £450. **Clr Bayley will consult residents.**

FG Road outside allotment gate – Gully is blocked and CJ **says it is broken and will be repaired with several others.**

Weeds on kerb edge - The spraying schedule is late but all roads have been sprayed. Considerable scepticism was expressed. There will be two sprays next year.

3. Local Area Forum

Local Area Forum - Our Forum consists of Amersham, Penn, Coleshill, Chesham Bois and Chenies. For 2010/11 there will be £26,459 in the delegated highways budget for each LAF.

Parish Highway projects for 2008/09 - Two projects remains to be completed:-

Whielden Lane traffic calming and footway – road markings now complete but **impressed surface for footway still unfinished.**

Island at Saucy Corner – Nicholas King will repair the island within its existing bounds and with a raised mound. Gas Board work did hold them up, but no further excuses. **Question raised for next LAF meeting.**

Parish Highway projects for 2009/10 - Only one project has been approved:

Resurface footway along B474 - from Coppice Farm Rod to Curzon Avenue (£5,000 for levelling and a slurry finish). **CJ will check on timetable.**

Parish Highway projects for 2010/11 (Not in order of priority) - **The following bids were submitted by post on the new forms on 28 Sep 09.**

- a) **Resurface footway along Church Road (Penn)** - from Nicholas King's office to the Crown (£10,000 for levelling with a slurry finish estimated last year)
- b) **Forty Green Walkway** - At both ends there is a stretch of footway needed on a grass verge.
- c) **Potters Cross Pond** – dig out silt and reeds..

Local Area Plan - Our views were submitted to Alison Derrick by e-mail on 7 Oct 09.

4. Neighbourhood Action Group

The Hundreds NAG covers C.St G., Seer Green, Coleshill and Penn. So far, it has covered speeding, litter & flytipping, and road conditions. The main actions have been on speeding. Anti-social behaviour is now one of the main priorities being addressed. The meeting held on 25 Aug 09 was poorly attended and lack of public support has led to the suggestion by the police of a 'virtual' NAG. We have written in response to say we prefer a regular presence by police at our Council or Highway meetings, and have sent a note of meeting dates.

Speed enforcement - is being targeted in a number of ways including Speed enforcement days; Police laser guns; Speed indication device SID ; Community Speed Watch, CSW camera..

Temporary Speed Indicator Devices (TSID) are post-mounted devices that display the speed limit if it is being exceeded so they can only be used where there is a 30 or 40mph limit and not generally where speed limit enforcement already takes place regularly. Parishes can hire them in for 2 weeks at a cost of £100 from BCC.

An order was made for two TSIDs, for October during term time, for School Lane, Penn Street and Church Road (Penn), but damage to the device, now repaired, has delayed the timetable. **CJ will arrange for the first one to be put in School Road, Penn Street, preferably showing actual speed, and Cllr Lock will arrange a camera to record the number of offences.**

5. Traffic signs, road markings, gullies, highway furniture, finger posts and bus shelters

Missing warning sign adjacent to 10 Whielden Lane - reported via CJ to Ken Moloughney, but still missing. CJ will chase

Roadside gullies - BCC have started work on a new contract (which includes side gullies in FG Road)..

Oil & Silt trap at Potters Cross – There are three separate components – silt trap, oil trap and ditch. The silt trap and oil trap were completely cleared by a tanker on site all day on 24 Feb 09. There was considerable damage to soft ground, so it was agreed to postpone Fitzpatrick tractor due to clear overflow ditch until the ground is harder. **CJ has raised an order but no date as yet.**

The pond is now full of black silt, but Highways are not willing to clear it – they may be willing to contribute to the cost and a bid has been included under the delegated budget. **Listed under our bid for Highway projects for next year. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be made the Parish Council will consider withdrawing the pond from use for Highways run-off.**

Finger post Fagnall Lane –The sign by Little Hertfordshire House needs repair. **Community Gang?**

Yellow stripes on Elm Road & Church Road, Penn –The July Council requested a debate on whether the heavy painted heavy yellow stripes near the Red Lion and the Crown were inappropriate for a Conservation Area and should be removed immediately rather than allowed to wear away. **CJ has asked Ken Moloughney to investigate cost of painting stripes black rather than burning them off.**

6. Highway hedges and verges and pavements

Devolved powers from County Council - It was agreed that the improved Community Gang service may well offer a more attractive alternative to devolution and we should wait to see how it goes.

Rural grass-cutting - Highways commitment is to cut all our rural verges twice a year, but in practice, we seldom get cuts unless we press for them, for:

1. **Curzon School field verge Penn Street** - 310 m from the A404 along 'Penn Street' to where Penn Parish Council field joins the Penn Street Church's field. Twice a year timed to allow wild flower growth. Has been roughly cut this year by Highways and cleaned up by Tom Barron.

2. *Knotty Green allotment verge on Forty Green Road* - 160m. Twice a year timed to allow wild flower growth
3. *Pauls Hill verge* - at top end outside Holy Trinity church wall - 80m. Twice a year timed to allow wild flower growth
4. *Burrows Close downhill verge on the B474* – 30m

Laying Penn Estate hedge on Church Road (Penn) - There are two sectors – one near the Methodist Chapel and the other below the Crown. This was raised with the Penn Estate Agent at the November Council meeting and in March. There may be some difficulty with the height in that five feet is the highest that will allow a desired view over the top. **MJB to talk to Penn Estate.**

7. **Highway litter, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles**

We should report all these matters to wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk

8. **Street & Footway lighting**

Trial switching-off street lights – The current trial includes the A404 Inkerman Hill to Beamond End from 40mph at Hazlemere to end of lit length near Penn Street.

New street light at Traffic calming in Whielden Lane – A new light has been supplied by BCC. Adoption of Long Meadow Close by Highways is close and should **trigger PPC take-over of all four street lights.**

9. **Street and Road naming and signs.**

Holtspur lane - may well stay so-called because CDC's legal advisers are not keen about changing the name immediately after such a recent decision had been made by the District Council.

Unnamed Lanes - David Stowe has promised to get all our new and missing name plates put up.

Elm Road sign at Potters Cross - Missing sign has been reported and found, but not yet replaced.

Stumpwell Lane - Consult the two households about putting up a road name plate.

Dell Orchard name plate off Horsemoor Lane - Ordered but not yet in place.

Coleshill Lane nameplate - Damaged and awaiting replacement from CDC

Marrods Bottom – **The name plate at the bottom of Fagnall Lane has been removed**

David Stowe is without assistance and so much delayed, but assures us that Holtspur Lane and other nameplates will be dealt with soon.

10. **Bus services**

Following consultation and negotiation, Winchmore Hill and Penn Street now have an improved bus service..

11. Future Meeting and Gang dates - Meetings are arranged to co-ordinate with Community Gang dates. Since not all members can make the same day, it was agreed to alternate Tuesday and Wednesday.

PPC Highway Committee	Gang dates week starting
Wed 7 Oct	19 Oct & 16 Nov
Tues 1 Dec	14 Dec & 11 Jan
Wed 27 Jan	8 Feb & 8 Mar