

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2009

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

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

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

Cllr D.Baker was welcomed as a new member of the Committee

1. Footpaths, Bridleways & tracks

Penn Street Walk-to-school path – Highways have suggested a specification, two quotes have been received and a third is awaited from Clive Winslow. Likely cost of £3-4,000, of which school has raised £1,500. It is already on the our project list for LAF for 2010/11 and was noted as another candidate for LAF's extra £8,000 community fund.

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 **we will make a bid to LAF for £2,000 for a detailed design study** and Dan Dixon is preparing a summary case for Alison Derrick. He also intends to make a bid for funds from a new Home Office pilot scheme, Community Cashback Funding Scheme, which uses money recovered from convicted criminals

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.

FP49,Hogback Wood Road to Woodside Avenue - needs strimming – **Community Gang.**

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:-

Common Wood Lane: has been patched with an overall surface dressing.

Penn Bottom - CJ has noted the repairs needed between Common Wood Lane and New Road (Penn St), but funds only allow patching.

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 are to be resurfaced on Sep 11th.

Gatemoor Hill - for full resurfacing in Autumn.

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. Chris Schwier has promised that Janet Patch will send a report on the work actually done after each visit, but this is not yet happening. **Ask Cllr Schofield/Chris Schwier/LAF to investigate failure of reporting system.**

See Future Gang and Meeting dates at para 11 below. The next gang is due in week starting 24 August. **Send tasks to the Clerk for inclusion in the Report Sheet.**

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 – needs urgent repair (but not passing places which are not surfaced) **CJ will check.**
FG Road up to Royal Standard and parts of Bayley's Bottom – An initial order has been placed for potholes.

Eghams Wood Road – Because it has a concrete base with a thin layer of tarmac it seldom develops a deep pothole.

Penn Surgery, Elm Road - A white line 'hammerhead' may be effective. **Ken Moloughney.**

School Lane, Penn Street - CJ agreed there had been considerable damage to verges and banks, and they are getting worse. **CJ will inspect.**

Penn Street/New Road - Traffic is coming at speed around the right angled corner and endangering slow-moving elderly. **Consider how to slow traffic.**

Horsemoor Lane/Marrods Bottom crossroads - Gravel is making a dangerously slippery approach to the crossroads - **CJ to have it swept urgently**

Church Road, Tylers Green - has been closed for about 3 months from 1 July for rebuilding the garage to Victoria House.

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

FG Road outside allotment gate – Gully is blocked – **CJ will check.**

Weeds on kerb edge - The spraying schedule is late but now underway.

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 budget for each LAF. The next meeting is 6.30pm on 21 Oct 09 in Penn St Hall. **Bids already sent (13/7 to Chris Scwier) but to be re-submitted on a new form before next meeting – see below.**

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

Whielden Lane traffic calming and footway – Completion of road markings and impressed surface for footway promised soon **C.J. will chase Ken Moloughney.**

Island at Saucy Corner – Nicholas King will repair the island within its existing bounds and with a raised mound, but the Gas Board work has held them up..

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).

Parish Highway projects for 2010/11 (Not in order of priority) -

a) **Penn Street School FP** - Hoggin surface.

b) **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)

c) **Forty Green Walkway** - At both ends there is a stretch of footway needed on a grass verge.

d) **Potters Cross Pond** – dig out silt and reeds..

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. Attendance is very poor.

Attendance at a Council meeting by a local PC is much more useful..

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 has been made for two in October, during term time, for School Lane, Penn Street and Church Road (Penn), but the device has been damaged and needs repair.**

Laser gun - A m/c is travelling at an insane speed in a circuit along the A404/W/Hill/Penn St/Holmer Green. **Cllr Lock will speak to police about use of a laser gun to catch him.**

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 were due to start a new contract in April and we commented on the list of street names, but no work has yet started.

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 will chase, but said no schedule for an annual clearance of all three parts was possible.**

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**

W/Hill gateway signs - Stolen again and will be replaced by composite ones with little scrap value. **Ken Moloughney has promised for end August from new sign contractor.**

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

Yellow stripes on Elm Road & Church Road, Penn –The July Council requested that this issue be debated again. He urged that 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 agreed 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 cut.
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 with **PPC expected to pay running costs**. Eventual adoption of Long Meadow Close by Highways (not yet done) should trigger PPC take over of 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

(Chase David Stowe for all these)

10. Bus services

A consultation has taken place and decisions will be made in September.

11. Future Meeting and Gang dates - Meetings are arranged to co-ordinate with Community Gang dates.

PPC Highway Committee	Gang dates week starting
12 Aug	24 Aug & 21 Sep
7 Oct	19 Oct & 16 Nov
2 Dec	14 Dec & 11 Jan
27 Jan	8 Feb & 8 Mar