

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT FAGNALL COTTAGE 16 OCT 06

Present: Cllrs M.J.Bayley (Chairman)
M.A.Morley
C.J.White
Clerk M.S.Green

Apologies: D.A.Swinhoe-Standen,

1. Footpaths, Bridleways & tracks

Potters Cross Pumping Station – The additional gullies have been put in and at a site meeting last week with Chris Schwier and Bob Ayres, our new Local Area Technician (see para 2 below), it was agreed that the flow of water did not require a kerb and hump across the vehicular entrance.

Bob Ayres will take levels to see how best to arrange the slope to deal with the water and mud coming down from CWPC's track. The footpath will be realigned and posts put in to prevent vehicles using the footway. *We must agree the final proposals and encourage CWPC to deal with their track.*

County Rights of Way improvement Plan - We sent our proposals on 21 July 04, and Peter Hale commented on them for the Penn Estate. Mike Walker has recently confirmed that the draft 10 year strategic plan is still very much in play and consultation will take place fairly soon, with annual detailed action plans thereafter.

Potters Cross Pond FP – Cllr White remains optimistic that Mr Clancy will eventually move his wire fence back to allow a verge footpath to the Common Wood entrance. *Cllr C.White to continue chasing.*

FPs 66 & 22 - The motorbike problem has diminished and Highways remain reluctant to authorise any gates that would limit access for disabled. FP 66 is badly overgrown at the Curzon Avenue end and this has been reported.

Two new disabled accessible routes in Forty Green - The shorter circular walk, initiated by Cllr Smiley, from the Royal Standard to the end of Brindle Lane, has been completed and a leaflet produced. The longer walk is now being organised and we have granted £250 for a gate and another £250 to be reclaimed from the Chilterns Conservation Board.

Footpath signs – Report any action needed through the Clerk.

2. Highway safety and traffic matters

B474 speeding - The scheme agreed at the meeting held with Mr Moloughney on 16 Oct 03, still has some loose ends: no copy of the final plan or junction signs for Beacon Hill; no results of the Archer strip test already completed or when the follow up test is to be done to test the effect of the new signage. PCSO Webb did SID tests around the parish in July and promised us the results. He said that he plans speed enforcement days soon for the B474 opposite Penn Church and elsewhere, with fixed penalty fines of £60 and three points on the licence. We should encourage this, also suggesting checks in both directions. [PC Gavin McVeigh has since confirmed all the above].

Highway complaints

Our concerns about the lack of effective response were expressed in writing to the Local Area Committee which has now responded with the welcome news that each area is to have its own 'Local Area Technician' who will deal with all queries on highway matters. Ours is Bob Ayres. When we make a complaint, we need to make it clear that we want a reply. *We should invite Mr Ayres to our November Council meeting.*

Church Road, Tylers Green - Ken Moloughney will be writing to us to say that he has decided that he has no further suggestions to make on the problems of the narrow one-way

section. He has put in a 'slow' road marking and white side lines to narrow the road. Archer strip results, taken over a week in July 2005, record an average 24 hour flow of 1,600 vehicles, at an average speed of 22 mph, with only about 3 per day exceeding 36 mph. *To be discussed with CWPC at the Joint meeting on 9 Nov.*

Penn Surgery - Car parking on the pavement outside is increasing and causes a dangerous obstruction for pedestrians. *A letter to the surgery to be sent, enquiring whether staff are parking on site and so using up too many parking spaces.*

Pond Close, W/Hill - Paradigm Housing's plans for a grasscrete parking area have been agreed and work will start soon.

Horsemoor Lane repair - Patching is being done on request and Chris Schwier advised that we should keep reporting defects in order to encourage a full resurfacing.

Whielden Lane Footway - The County has agreed a traffic calming plan at a cost of £36,000 and have asked RHT to pay. If they are short of funds, *then we should put in a bid by the end of November to the Local Area Committee for top up funds from the delegated budget.*

Bus service to W/Hill & Penn St - The Chairman spoke to the Manager of Carousel. They have sorted out the non-appearance of scheduled buses and are now reviewing their service to Penn St and W/Hill in the light of complaints.

W/Hill common access - the turning off Whielden Lane onto the common when driving from Penn Street is dangerous because of the hedge on the LHS. *A note to the Penn Estate about the need to keep the hedge low.*

Child road barrier at Knotty Green Rec Ground - Wicksteed's inspector has been sent a copy of the Highway Authority's view that such a barrier is not necessary and has agreed to remove any further reference to it from his reports. He does not want a site meeting to discuss it.

3. Local Area Committee

Parish Highway projects 2006/07

- 1) ***Pavements on Seeleys Estate*** - Total cost estimate is £12,000 and Highways have allocated £5,000 for this year with further money made available in subsequent years. *The project is underway, but we need to ask for a note of what has been done.*
- 2) ***Potters Cross drainage works*** - £4,000 allocated for this year.

Parish Highway projects 2007/08 (Bids to be in by 1 Dec 06)

Our proposals are:

- 1) ***Penn Road pavement*** - between Drews Park and Knotty Green Garage. Total cost £12,000
- 2) ***Saucy Corner road lay out***
- 3) ***Whielden Lane traffic calming*** - top up funds

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

Cleaning and clearing road signs - There is no programme as yet and so requests are needed to Highways. Notify the Clerk of any problems.

Signposts/Fingerposts - New MOT policy is to conserve old signs and there may be grants obtainable.

Outside former Penn Surgery - Chris Schwier has said that Highways would not pay for repairing the long-broken sign, but we should *ask him for suggestions of a sign maker.*

Penn Street triangle - Ken Moloughney is pricing a modern and traditional replacement. We would have to pay extra for the traditional kind.

Oil traps & gullies - There is a programme for known trouble spots, but it is mainly a reactive response so we need to complain.. ***Penn Street pond gullies*** should have been cleared – *check with Bob Ayres.*

W/Hill wooden bus shelter - has been mildly vandalised again and needs a new panel and some new roofing felt at the front. *Task Peter Freeman.*

W/Hill brick bus shelter - Peter Freeman has repainted. Some rubbish should be removed. *Task Peter Freeman.*

5. Highway hedges and verges

Penn Street hedge

A twice-yearly cut of the top and outside of the hedge, has been included in the grass-cutting contract (£120 per cut)). The County has agreed that they are responsible under the terms of the lease for cutting the inside of the hedge but we have agreed with the school that we cut the inside and charge the school. Chris Schwier has agreed to add a twice-yearly cut of the verge to his programme, but three times a year is the norm for rural verges. *We need to check the verge is now on a regular schedule.*

Penn St sycamores

Quotes have been received for £4,020 for:

Felling & grinding stumps 2,780 (Jamie Dyer)

Planting mixed hedge & fencing 1,240 (Philip Hallam)

The F&GP committee is considering finances. There is some possibility of a grant from the Chilterns Conservation Board.

Laying Knotty Green allotment hedge - the road side section is completed and the section along the track is to be done this winter at a cost of £1,250. We have a grant from the County Council via Cllr Francis Robinson of £500 and a possibility of another £250 from the Don Millar fund.

Stumpwell Lane verge - The recommendations made in the report of a site meeting with the owner of Thatchers field on 9 October 05 were agreed. Native wild flowers will be planted along one stretch and cut twice a year. Bluebells and other woodland plants will be planted along another stretch and we will contribute to the cost. *Check on progress.*

6. Highway litter, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles

Fagnall Lane common land - There have been renewed complaints about dumping garden rubbish on this Penn Estate-owned common verge and Cllr Bayley has spoken several times to Mike Newth-West, but to no avail. *A letter to be sent to the Penn Estate recommending clearance and a notice forbidding dumping.*

Fly tipping and litter - Gary Brown and his successor have left. Tony Hodgson is there until the end of October. Meanwhile we should deal directly with Peter Woodburn. CDC are very aware that Verdant are not clearing the road side litter effectively.

Common Wood main entrance – The CCTV sign put up at the Common Wood entrance by CDC to prevent dumping has been vandalised. It has been effective and so *we should ask for the sign to be replaced.*

7. Street & Footway lighting

Affordable Housing Winchmore Hill – The Rural Housing Trust have asked PPC to adopt 3 street lights and we have proposed 11 watt SL, the same as in Chacombe Place. These lights are now in place and one will light one end of the traffic calming. A fourth light will be needed at the other end near the bus stop. We will have to adopt them after the year's maintenance period has expired.

8. Street and Road naming and signs

Whielden Lane - The addresses finally agreed for Whielden Lane development were 1-7 Horsletts Cottages, Whielden Lane and 1-13 Long Meadow Close. *We need to ask David Stowe for road name signs.*

Penn Street - CDC's new computer planning system has to have a road name for Penn Street houses and so 'Village Road' is now appearing in applicants addresses. *Cllr D.White is considering more suitable alternatives.*

New Road, Penn Street - *Ask Cllr D.White if that is the name to be agreed and if a road name sign is needed.*

9. Future meetings

Highways Committee - It was agreed to meet a week before the Local Area committee. Our Committee meetings will therefore be at 10.30 on Wednesday, 12 Jul & 11 Oct 2006; and 17 Jan, 11 Apr, 11 Jul & 17 Oct 2007.