

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2009

Those present: Cllrs M.J. Bayley (Chairman), M.A. Morley, B Lock, C.Pointon-Taylor
Clerk M.S.Green

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

Chairman: Cllr Bayley was unanimously re-elected as Chairman.

1. Footpaths, Bridleways & tracks

Penn Street Walk-to-school path – The grass path has been cut and is much used. The school is chasing funding and we will put a bid in for delegated LAF funds in 2010/11. A rough estimate for a compacted hoggin surface is £9,000, but a more precise figure is needed. Highways will advise on the best surface, get a quote if requested from their contractor, and help with any verge works. There is a pile of tarmac left by the gypsies to be removed from the field. Our £10m public liability will cover use of the path. **Cllr Lock to follow up and ask Clive Winslow if he could help with a tractor and hoggin & also obtain budget costs.**

Forty Green walkway - A site meeting was held with Chris Schwier and Colin Jenkins and their **advice on the technical feasibility of the scheme and land ownership is awaited. A bid for the delegated budget may be possible for the accesses on the verge at either end of the path.**

Penn Bottom - The outcome of the Penn Estate's proposal for a field route to take a part of the Chiltern Way off Penn Bottom road at Church Knoll and for another path further along Penn Bottom is awaited. **Check with Alison Perry & Mike Newth-West.**

Common Wood, FP66 - This is an important path into Common Wood badly affected by flooding. It should be accessible for wheelchairs if possible. **Check on progress with Alison Perry**

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: is to be closed for 2 or 3 weeks between 22 Jun & 22 Sep. for patching and 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 ate to be resurfaced in August.

Gatemoor Hill - Included in capital programme for full resurfacing, but uncertain.

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 to investigate failure of reporting system.**

See Future Gang and Meeting dates at para 11 below. The next gang is due in week starting 29 June. **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.

Penn Surgery, Elm Road - Highways agreed that there may be a case for steel bollards outside the surgery to prevent dangerous parking, but a white line ‘hammerhead’ may be effective. **Consult Ken Moloughney.**

School Lane, Penn Street - CJ agreed there had been considerable damage to verges and banks, but no action so far. **Monitor.**

Church Road, Tylers Green - is to be 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. We have received request for a salt bin to be provided at a cost of £450. **Colin Jenkins to check if salt bins still available.**

3. Local Area Forum

Local Area Forum - Our Forum consists of Amersham, Penn, Coleshill, Chesham Bois and Chenies. The next meeting is 22nd July For 2010/11 there will be £31,250 in the delegated budget for each LAF. **Bids to be submitted 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
Island at Saucy Corner – CJ has spoken recently to Nicholas King and they will repair the island within its existing bounds, but built up to prevent driving across it.

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. Attendance is very poor. A NAG meeting was held on 16 June, and a **public meeting for Penn St, W/Hill & Coleshill is to be held on 25 June at 7:00pm at Coleshill Village Hall.** A similar meeting is planned at an unspecified date for Penn. Anti-social behaviour is now one of the main priorities being addressed.

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..

Speed enforcement days - One was held on 10 June including Church Road (Penn). Overall 2 people will be taken to court for excessive speed; 10 were given FPNs for speeding; many stopped and advised; 19 had no seat belts; 2 were using mobile phones, 1 illegal tyre, 1 number plate and 1 vehicle taken off the road.

'**Count on us**' Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) equipment was employed in October at three sites in the parish- Church Road, Penn Bottom and Forty Green Road. The results have been circulated.

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. One was placed in Church Road (near the Manor House) for traffic travelling west, and another in Forty Green Road. **Bid for two in October for School Lane, Penn Street and Church Road (Penn).**

Laser gun - A m/c is travelling at an insane speed in a circuit along the A404/W/Hill/Penn St/Holmer Green. **CLr 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

Bus stop, Whielden Lane - Repainting overall was needed to conceal graffiti. Police are keeping an eye on it.

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

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 and schedule an annual clearance of all three parts from June 2010 onwards.**

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. **Quotes needed for clearing pond and taking silt away (sucking it up perhaps?).**

W/Hill gateway signs - Stolen again and will be replaced by composite ones with little scrap value. **Action with Ken Moloughney.**

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 get no cuts at all 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 **CJ will chase this.**
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**. Lights in Long Meadow Close are still being paid for by others.

9. Street and Road naming and signs.

Holtspur lane - Some of the new name plates have been temporarily removed by CDC & SBDC following their realisation that they had not followed the required procedure by displaying a public notice. The local member and the Clerk held a meeting with three objectors. We have rejected a suggestion of Tomahawk or Warrior Lane and proposed Hogback Wood Lane as an alternative.

Unnamed Lanes - Some other new name plates are not yet up, but CDC have assured us they are in hand..

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.to the name and

(Chase David Stowe for all these)

10. Bus services

A consultation is about to take place for a Mon-Fri only service passing through Penn Street and W/Hill. It will go to Amersham and Chesham 4 times per day and return 3 times per day.

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

PPC Highway Committee	Gang dates week starting
17 Jun	29 Jun & 27 Jul
12 Aug	24 Aug & 21 Sep
7 Oct	19 Oct & 16 Nov
2 Dec	14 Dec & 11 Jan
27 Jan	8 Feb & 8 Mar