

BURWASH PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Working Party held virtually by Zoom on Thursday 12th May 2022 at 7pm.

Attended by: Cllr. Bob Franklin (Chair), Helga Castle, David Cowell, Stephen Dixon, Lindsay Green, Halina Keep and Les Moore.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Steve Moore and Ken McLeod.

2. Disclosures of Interest.

There were none.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 14th April 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2022 had been agreed at Full Council on 10th May 2022.

4. Burwash Common and Weald Speed Limit.

An invoice had been received from Highways for the 20mph speed limit at Vicarage Road and had been paid. It was estimated that the plan received from Peter Heasman was running about a month behind and would now start about 12th May. However, the members were concerned at the lack of information on the invoice (Burwash Common (Vicarage Road, Westdown Lane and Vicarage Lane) – permanent reduced speed limit - £6,551.78 + VAT) and it was agreed that Highways should be pressed for more detail, in case more charges were forthcoming.

ACTION: Chair confirmed Highways contacted for full itemised invoice.

5. Implementing 20mph in Burwash Village.

A detailed plan had still not been received from Highways. However, it was noted that a Highways Black Cat device was in use in School Hill, which indicated Highways was in the process of data gathering. It was agreed that when the plan was finally received, a separate face-to-face meeting would be needed to assess it.

6. Highways Maintenance Contract and Report.

It was agreed that Lindsay Green would liaise with Jeremy Richardson regarding the question of the quality of Highway repairs on the 47 faults raised in 2019. It was agreed that although Cllr. Eleanor Kirby-Green was very supportive, the officers at Highways and Cllr. Claire Dowling showed very little concern.

The new Highways Maintenance Contract had been agreed, but it was feared that this was still a basic standard contract and did not deal with the issues of the bad quality of road repairs. Greater pressure could be put on Highways if all Parishes worked together, and it was agreed that the Chair should persevere at RALC meetings to gather this support.

BURWASH PARISH COUNCIL

7. Village Gates Design.

Correspondence had been received from Highways, indicating that the preferred design of the Village Gates was not acceptable, for many reasons. The costs of installation, licenses etc. were given, as these costs were considerably higher than anticipated, it was agreed that the original plan of 16 gates should be reduced initially to two – one at each end of the village on the A265.

ACTION: Les Moore agreed to review the design and to submit an application form for these two gates.

8. Shrub Lane Repairs.

Grave concerns were expressed at the 'repairs' made to the carriageway at Shrub Lane. The large area of broken road surface/potholes had been partially repaired at each end, such that drivers needed to drive on the wrong side of the road to negotiate the holes safely. This was now felt to be a serious safety issue, although the members were aware that Highways planned to resurface the whole road at some point in the current financial year.

ACTION: Chair to raise this safety issue with Karl Taylor. The Chair would also circulate to the members the parameters for the repairs to potholes.

9. Speedwatch.

The group noted the latest Speedwatch figures. It was noted that there was now a dedicated Police Officer for Speedwatch, and that trials were ongoing for a bodycam, which could be accepted as evidence.

10. Quiet Lanes.

No further progress but still persevering.

11. Bridleways and Footpaths Update.

No further progress, but still investigating funding. Concern was expressed that walkers needed to walk on the stretch of road between the end of the pavement and the beginning of the bridleway at Lower Bough Farm in Burwash Weald, where the speed limit was 40 – 50mph, and this was a safety issue.

It was agreed that a feasibility study should be deferred until the successful completion of the two current speed limit projects.

12. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan)

Work to refine this plan is still ongoing. It was suggested that the Clerk could include a request in the e-Bulletin for a volunteer who has working knowledge of Microsoft 365 and it's included Planner app.

13. Verge Protection, Ownership and Licences.

Highways had agreed that the posts on Willingford Lane could be retained, but the logs should be removed.

BURWASH PARISH COUNCIL

14. 20's Plenty Campaign.

Les Moore explained that they had given a detailed briefing to Cllr. Kirby-Green. It was felt that ESCC were behind the curve and Eleanor would approach Cllr. Dowling and Nick Skelton to attempt to improve the situation.

15. Car Park Update.

There were still outstanding problems with the lease, but most of the jobs requested had been carried out. The question of the ownership of the car park at the eastern end of the village was still unresolved.

16. Spring Lane.

It was noted that a meeting on the repairs to the verges there, was arranged between Network Rail and Highways and Cllr. Kirby-Green would attend that meeting.

17. Black Cat Radar.

No decision was reached, further information still awaited.

18. Information for Noting or Including on a future Agenda.

There was none.

19. Date of Next Meeting.

To be decided.

..... Signature of Chair.