

BURWASH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Working Party held virtually by Zoom on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 7pm.

Attended by: Cllr. Bob Franklin (Chair), Cllr. Brian Newman, Helga Castle, David Cowell, Les Moore, Hilary Stewart, Lindsay Green and Emma Neil (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr. Johns and Halina Keep.

2. Disclosures of Interest.

There were none.

3. Terms of Reference.

These were agreed.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 2nd March 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2023 had been agreed and adopted at Full Council.

5. Vicarage Road and Lane Speed Limit.

This is due to be implemented during the week beginning 12th June. Lindsay Green reported that one objection had been received, but this was withdrawn simplifying the process. The cost to the Parish Council had been £8,500 to date; an additional bill for approximately £1,500 is expected to cover the cost of the publicity as part of the TRO.

6. Implementing 20mph in Burwash Village.

There had been a meeting with Nick Skelton (Ass. Director – Communities). Following on from this, the members discussed the proposed designs which had finally been received from ESCC, and the accompanying letter from Nick Skelton (*Annexes 1-4*).

The members unanimously objected to:

- i. The existing 50mph limit at the western end of the village would be extended to Wheelwrights Cottage, replacing the 40mph limit.
- ii. The proposed footway widening from The Bear to opposite Ham Lane.

The members questioned the safety aspect of removing the 40mph limit, but were particularly concerned at reducing the width of the roadway between the Bear and Ham Lane. The road narrows at Chaunt House/Southside and it is believed that the particularly large and wide tractors currently in use would not be

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able to pass if the road width was reduced. Hilary Stewart reminded the members that the Government has recently approved the use of bigger and wider lorries, which need to pass through the village.

The members unanimously agreed that they believed that the design had been over-engineered in order to price it out of the reach of the Parish Council. The members were disappointed with the report from the discussion with Nick Skelton and his subsequent letter stating that he was unable to provide any individual costings and not prepared to accept any amendments to the design. It was noted that the original cost estimate was in the region of £70,000 about 2 years ago; the latest estimate is £170,000 - it has taken 7 years to reach this point.

It was noted that Bob, Emma and Les would be meeting Chris Cannon Lead Officer 'Operations Command Road Safety and Traffic Management' for Sussex and Surrey Police on Thursday.

The members agreed that a strong letter of complaint from the Clerk, in conjunction with Les Moore, should be sent to the Chief Executive (Becky Shaw) of East Sussex County Council.

7. Yellow Lines Review Consultation.

The Clerk was asked to pursue the provision of a single yellow line in the village between Chaplins Hairdressers and the first Merrivale Cottage. Emma advised that her previous request for a Yellow Lines Review had been refused as Burwash was not 'ranked high enough'; she will chase this.

8. Village Gates Design.

At present these will not be considered until there is resolution over the request for 20mph limit in the High Street.

9. Highways and Road Repairs.

a. Maintenance Contract and Report.

The new contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places is in place, and anecdotally repairs seem to be of better quality.

b. Shrub Lane road surface repair.

Les Moore advised the resurface had been completed and seemed satisfactory.

c. Vicarage Road and Lane drainage works.

Lindsay Green advised that raised berms had been built at the far end of Vicarage Lane which had improved the drainage; unfortunately Highways had then objected on safety grounds and insisted they were removed. Lindsay had asked for a review of this safety decision.

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d. Road surface crazing in Burwash High Street.

This is still an unresolved issue with Highways. It was noted that similar crazing exists in Vicarage Road and Lane.

e. Spring Lane verges.

Unfortunately, Highways had repaired the verges by filling with tarmac. The Clerk had raised the matter with Dale Poore who had admitted their mistake and would rectify the matter.

f. School Hill.

The Clerk has had no response to her 'School Start' enquiry about improving the safety at School Hill but would continue to pursue the matter. It was agreed that it is increasingly dangerous for children in view of the increase in traffic, particularly articulated lorries.

10. Speedwatch.

This month's report was noted (*See Appendix 5*). More volunteers are required – as always the need for volunteers will be advertised at the fetes.

11. Quiet Lanes.

Bob advised he had contacted Claire Dowling about the need for ESCC to adopt the Policy for Quiet Lanes but had not received a response. He would continue to pursue this.

12. Proposed Cycleways (Burwash Weald to Spring Lane & Stonegate; Burwash to Etchingam Station).

Still no response from Sustrans. While attending a TfSE Forum, Bob had noted delegates from both National Cycling UK and Active Travel Forum, and he would contact these.

13. HIP (Highways Improvement Plan)

Bob would look at producing this from Excel.

14. 20's Plenty Campaign.

Les Moore has circulated the latest newsletter.

15. Extending the 40mph speed limit (Burnt House Farm) on A265 Burwash Weald.

No response has been received, Bob to resubmit.

16. Car Park Update.

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Emma was congratulated on her efforts to improve the car park, which included cleaning, white lining, CCTV cameras. The relining was noted as particularly effective as it has effectively increased the spaces available. Emma advised the new sign was in hand.

The relining has cost double the amount that Rother had agreed to pay, and one light is still not working.

17. Black Cat Radar.

Bob agreed he would investigate the proposed sites for the device, and the risk assessments required. Lindsay Green asked that at some point that Black Cat radar is sited on the straight stretch of road leading down to The Wheel inn where there is a possible problem with speeding.

18. SLR Report.

It was felt that the SLR meetings are ineffective and are unlikely to continue. The Clerk now has a 6-weekly meeting with the Customer Service Manager.

19. Deer Warning Signs.

These have been installed across the Parish.

20. E. V. Charging Points.

We are part of Rother's bid; still awaiting further information.

21. East Sussex Bus Proposals.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roads-transport/public/flexibus#All%20zones%20map>.

The Flexibus scheme is now operational. All Parishioners are encouraged to use the service to ensure its success.

22. Points for Noting on a Future Agenda.

None.

23. Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 4th July 2023 - 7pm - Virtual meeting.

Meeting closed 8.30pm.

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..... Signature of Chair