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# WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE held at the Council Rooms, Grants Lane, Wedmore on Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7:30pm

**Present**: Cllr Alistair Smith \*, Cllr Jacky Farley, Cllr Isobel Beacom.

**In Attendance:** Lindsey Baker (Clerk), 1x Member of the Public

1. apologies for absence

None to record.

1. minutes of meeting held on 12th october 2022

Councillor Smith addressed the committee and confirmed everyone had read the minutes from the previous meeting.

It was accepted as an accurate record and the minutes signed.

1. members of the public – *an opportunity to raise issues by local residents.*

As only one Member of the Public was present Councillor Smith invited them to speak freely throughout.

The Member of the Public agreed they would.

1. county highways progress: - *update on progress*
- SID posts now all in place
- Repainting of white and yellow lines at Hugh Sexey Middle School to improve safety awaiting schedule of works
- First School Pedestrian Crossing markings to be repainted – reported but no timescale indicated
2. speed indicator devices– progress report

Councillor Smith tabled the most recent data recorded from the SIDs. He highlighted some of the points recorded for interest purposes.

66% of traffic on the Cheddar Road and 55% on Combe Batch are exceeding the speed limit.

There has been money earmarked towards the purchase of another device, allowing a better rotation of devices.

**ACTION: Councillor Smith to make a proposal to the Parish Council for the purchase of the third SID.**

1. pilcorn street ‘long’ pavement gap: - *update on progress*

Councillor Smith confirmed that the funds remain earmarked for this project. For the benefit of the Member of the Public present he explained that the reason for delay lies with the Somerset Council. He also explained that Councillor Munt is working hard to ensure they recognise the project as urgent.

1. wedmore car park

***SIGNAGE:*** Councillor Smith advised that further review of signage is outstanding from the previous meetings actions. The main reasons for asking for the review is following questions raised such as; Is it easy to find? Is there more we can do to highlight it? Are the current signs visible enough?

Councillors Farley and Beacom agree that more could be done to highlight the carpark position and encourage further usage.

**ACTION: Walk around group to identify the best possible locations for new signage.**

***CCTV:*** The Clerk, Councillor Smith and Councillor Farley had met with Sirus Security to establish what investment may be required to improve the carpark security, following reports of a rise in antisocial behaviour, and wanting to encourage further usage by both villagers and visitors alike.

Sirus had advised that the system currently installed is vastly out of date, and most likely will not be conducive to repair given its age and the advancement of such systems over the last 15 years. They are currently exploring the options available given the patchy connection in the area.

The Clerk advised she had also been able to track down the company who originally fitted the CCTV system (T/A TAMAR) and has a scheduled meeting with them on 9th May 2023. It is hoped they will be better equipped to advise on the site specifically, as they are familiar with the trunking plan for cables and the original system.

**ACTION: All Councillors available to attend the TAMAR meeting on the 9th May are invited**

***CARPARK LIGHTING:*** Following the reports of increased antisocial behaviour and numerous reports from the community there was some discussion into the upgrade of the lighting of the carpark. Currently especially on darker evenings some users feel vulnerable due to the lack of lighting in this area. The Councillors agree that some investment would be beneficial here by way of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) spend to improve the safety of its users. It would also offer the opportunity to upgrade to a greener solution given some further investigation into options such as, movement sensors, PIR lighting and the exploration of other green initiatives.

**ACTION: Explore the retrieval of a quotation for replacing the current lighting,**

**ACTION: Confirm that this project falls within the scope of a CIL project.**

1. brook

***RIPARIAN OWNERS:*** Following some success last year with regards to sending letters to riparian owners along the brook, it was discussed that this could be done again this year.

There was also discussion around trying to reinstate a ‘walking group’ that regularly walk the brook route and the various footpaths and report to the clerk any issues so we can report them in a timely and efficient way, in the hope that we will be able to monitor it more accurately.

**ACTION: Letters to riparian owners along the brook, asking them to ensure they keep vegetation clear from the watercourse in order to help with the water flow and avoid the risk of flooding.**

**ACTION: Explore the amount of interest in Members of the Public establishing this group.**

***ELMSETT HALL:*** There has been ongoing concern for the maintenance that has not been being carried out on the strip of land to the right of the entrance to Elmsett Hall, this continues to be of concern to the residents in the immediate vicinity. During some investigative work last summer, it appears the land is owned by someone who is not living locally and so may not appreciate the risk the current lack of maintenance is causing.

**ACTION: Councillor Farley will check Land Registry to try and establish the owner of the land so the Parish Council can try and establish some form of communication with them.**

1. ‘green initiatives’ – ev points, walking/cycling rather than short car trips etc.

***EV POINTS:*** Some discussion ensued around the installation of at least one EV point, the standout location is the Carpark. It would encourage visitors to spend time here and spend money here.

**ACTION: Explore if this project would fall within the scope of a CIL project.**

**ACTION: Quantify the spend vs usage and investigate similar size villages that have installed the infrastructure.**

***ENCOURAGING WALKING / CYCLING:*** The Councillors discussed that Pilcorn Street in its current state is a big deterrent. They also recognise that the carpark – village route remains under-utilised due to the lack of signage for the footpath at both ends. The design doesn’t allow it to look accessible for all. This has been addressed and both the Developer and Parish Council are hoping to improve signage to encourage safe walking of this route.

**ACTION: Follow up Men Shed ref temporary signage.**

1. outstanding items from the neighbourhood plan transport recommendations

***20’s PLENTY INITATIVE:*** Councillor Smith stated that the issue with this proposal, is it isn’t universally popular. There is a significant outlay needed to get Somerset Highways to even consider a proposal of this nature. He also suggested that the policing of the whole project is unachievable and unsustainable. Councillor Smith says that a lot of the difficulty is the signage placement. The members agree that at this stage it would be better to support projects locally that encourage people to walk or cycle more.

***BLACKFORD CROSSING AT HUGH SEXEY MIDDLE SCHOOL*** – Councillor Smith confirmed that this project has been reviewed and will not be taken forward in the previously suggested site, as suggested after seeking advice from both solicitors and Somerset Highways.

 ***CYCLEPATH*** – At the moment unfortunately there remains no feasible route between Wedmore and Blackford. A single landowner is reluctant to give consent, and the statutory footpath to cycle path is a very lengthy process taking around 30years to complete.

1. any other business

The Bus Partnership – Councillor Smith advised that he had the details of the bus partnership. The Clerk advised that she had also tried to contact them previously with regards to the previous funding arrangements, they had not been able to help at that time.

**ACTION: Councillor Smith will forward the details about the bus partnership to the Clerk.**

**ACTION: The Clerk will make contact with ex-Councillor Sue Worrell as she was involved with the original partnering and payment.**

Increased regularity of people parking for extended periods on the double yellow lines. This causes issues for the free flow of traffic.

**ACTION: The Clerk should investigate if the traffic warden can visit more regularly.**

Increased regularity of non-badge holders parking in the marked disabled bay. Also, some badge holders are parking for extended periods of time (whole days in some instances) this then increases the number of people parking with displayed disabled badges on the double yellow lines.

**ACTION: Clerk to ascertain if there is a restriction on the length of time that users can be parked in a designated space without penalty, and to what extent this can be enforced.**

**Date of next meeting** **– September / October 2023 7:30pm**

**There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 20:50 pm**