

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways Sub Committee held at the Church Hall, Flitton on Wednesday 5 July 2017

Present: Cllrs G Ellis (Chair) N Thompson, J Fisher, P Woodland and Paul Masters
D Lawson (Clerk)

Sue Bosket (local resident)

1. APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs M Gates and R Stokes sent apologies.

2. MINUTES

The previous minutes had been presented to the last Council meeting

3 PULLOXHILL ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS MATCH FUNDING 2016-17

A local resident had informally consulted and reported back to the Sub Committee - comments about the work done so far at Pulloxhill Road to improve safety outside the school

- Not enough spaces on the highway especially as the staff car park gets full so staff park on the road outside. Cllr Ellis commented that there has always been a shortage of spaces and the work was not designed specifically to deal with this, but to improve safety in the area
- The need for a disabled space which would have to be within the school car park where it is already quite difficult to manoeuvre. It was agreed that the school would have to allocate this
- Acceptance that the school entrance may now be too tight to allow larger vehicular access, this has already been pointed out to the Highway Authority which carried out the work. Officers will be checking the width and if it is insufficient, the Highway Authority will have to amend at their own cost
- Suggestions for a car park opposite the school or a better walking ethos using the MUGA car park. Cllr Ellis commented that as the school is popular and growing it would become increasingly hard to cover the full parking requirement, and whilst the field opposite had been discussed in the past, there were a number of legal issues which meant it was not available: in addition to which the high cost of any work, would be well beyond the Parish Councils means and responsibility. Plus access and egress to Pulloxhill Road at school times may only make the situation worse. Councillors had however always been happy to encourage people to walk to the school and use the free MUGA car park
- Possibility of any other land being used for car parking. The current difficulty of the large Lorries at the Industrial estate already means it is difficult to consider this as an option. Planning consent to change any vacant land into a car park elsewhere in the village may also prove to be difficult as well as costly.
- Possibility of railings or bollards on the footpath outside the school. Cllr Ellis said that the Highway Authority would not add safety railings to the footpath as it was not wide enough under their regulations to be 'railed'. He noted that there may be a couple of bollards placed here and certainly bollards were due to be placed on the grass verge opposite. There had also been some discussion about removable bollards at the school entrance, but this needs to be considered when officers look at the width of the entrance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The difficulty of Lorries using the road at school times and drivers becoming annoyed with parents. Cllr Ellis will approach tenants at the industrial estate about this • Possible use of drop off points, which had been considered in the past. But this would need to be managed by the school and had not been progressed. • Cllr Ellis commented that the work still to be done included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Single yellow line signage ○ Bollards as above ○ H bar at one property <p>He would also request additional school signs to help put the 20mph zone into context</p>	
4. SILSOE ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS MATCH FUNDING 2017-18	
<p>A local resident expressed ongoing concern (also on behalf of other residents) about the speeding traffic and danger of there being no footpath along Silsoe Road.</p> <p>Cllr Ellis clarified that he has been speaking to his contact at the Highway Authority, who now has the data he needs to pass the scheme over to the design team for a first plan. This may take a couple of months and then there will be consultation which will certainly involve the residents.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been an accident at the weekend in Wardhedges Road and also in Silsoe Road, both of which would be brought to the attention of the Highway Authority. It was also agreed that a Parish Council letter would be sent to the landlord of the Jolly Coopers to see if he could discourage parking on the road outside.</p> <p>A possible footpath to link up with the tracks to Silsoe was also discussed, but there is insufficient verge for this to happen without land acquisition, but all opportunities would be explored.</p> <p>It was also noted that any incidents of road rage in the area should really be reported to the Police with as many details as possible, but Cllrs understood there may be some reluctance to do this</p>	DL
5. CHICANE	
<p>There had generally been a positive response to the chicane removal, although it was felt that nowadays chicanes do not necessarily slow traffic down in the same way as speed cushions. This would be born in mind for the future.</p>	
6. SPEEDWATCH	
<p>Not so much activity recently, so nothing to report, except that the Police risk assessment has cleared the way for the Watch scheme on Greenfield Road (Flitwick) and that contact is being maintained over the possibility of being allocated a new police speed gun</p>	JF
7. FUTURE TRAFFIC CALMING	
<p>There had been complaints from residents about speeding traffic in Sand Road and this has led to the installation (by the Police) of a black box. Speed-watch has been carried out here but is not very effective at producing useful data as the visibility of the volunteers is so good that traffic generally reduces speed, so the black box data will be useful.</p> <p>The other concern which was mentioned was that a school bus stops near to the Pulloxhill Road turning where parents park to drop off children and this causes mayhem at busy times near the chicane and the school road, especially when cars are partly over the pavement. This situation is then repeated opposite the MUGA where there is another pick up point. It was agreed to monitor the problems for now with Councillors noting</p>	

local concerns, but currently concentrating on completing the 2016/17 and the 2017/18 LTP match funded schemes first	
8. CYCLE PATH BROOK LANE TO MILL LANE	
Cllr Ellis updated the Sub Committee following a conversation with Jon Balaam earlier and was pleased that some surveying work had started, although the land ownership/leasing problems had still not been resolved. If the scheme is unable to progress in the necessary timeframe, resources may have to be switched to providing the route between Mill Lane and Ruxox Farm instead, but Jon is monitoring the situation.	JB/GE
9. GRASS CUTTING	
This will be considered as the main item at the next Sub Committee in time for the tendering process in the autumn	GE/DL
10. REQUEST FOR MIRROR ON BROOK LANE/HIGH STREET JUNCTION	
The Clerk explained the position about a request for a mirror and why. Cllr Ellis had spoken to the Highway Authority and it had been confirmed that they did not allow mirrors to be placed on the highway and so would not put one up, but may take them down if placed there privately. The Parish Council could not therefore take any further action on this and residents would be informed.	DL
11. AOB.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of crash barrier in Greenfield High St – it was noted that the barrier is not going to be replaced, but that other measures would be instigated shortly. The local resident is likely to attend the next PC meeting to raise the matter. • Path Across the field between Playing Field and Fitzroy Cottages – Jen reported that Cllr Jamieson noted the RoW officer had the matter in hand • Queried whether the footpath to Silsoe can be used by horses as agreed by the landowner. No-one knew the answer to this as there are a number of other permissive paths in this area • Report of a large tree stump being dumped in the ditch opposite a property in Greenfield. If it is still there it was agreed that a letter should be issues to the householder. 	

The meeting ended at 19.30h