

Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council

Minutes of the Highways Committee meeting held at 6pm on Monday 16th May 2022

in the Windrush Room, The George Moore Community Centre

Those Present: Cllr A Roberts (Chairman & minute taker), Cllrs B Hadley, M Macklin, L Wilkins

Members of Public: None

1. Election of a Chairman. Cllr Hadley proposed Cllr Roberts; seconded by Cllr Wilkins and unanimously APPROVED.
2. Election of a Vice Chairman. Cllr Hadley proposed Cllr Randall, seconded by Cllr Macklin and unanimously APPROVED.
3. Apologies for absence: Cllr B Wragge, Cllr N Randall.
4. Declarations of Interest: None.
5. To receive and approve the minutes of the Highways Committee held on 25th April 2022. Proposed by Cllr Wilkins, seconded by Cllr Macklin and unanimously APPROVED
6. Matters Arising:
 - (a) 47 Roman Way boundary hedge and tree. The Clerk had written to the householder but had not had a response. However, a recent site visit noted that the hedge and a tree had been trimmed back but a leylandii type shrub at the path edge was still leaning across the foot path and causing an obstruction at shoulder height. The Clerk was requested to write again to the householder, thanking them for the work completed but requesting that further cutting back be done to fully clear the path.
 - (b) Wall at the rear of The Dial House boundary. The Clerk had written to the Dial House (copy by email to GCC Highways and GCC Public Rights of Way Officer). As yet, no response received from The Dial House. The state of the wall will be kept under review.
 - (c) Signs on Station Road for directions to the Cricket and Football Club. No request has been received from either club, so no further action.
 - (d) Accessibility Audit. The Parish Council approved the sending of a letter to village shops to encourage disabled access. It was agreed that Cllr Roberts would draft a letter and liaise with the TAG Business group in order to combine distribution with a proposal to ask for assistance from businesses for funding of hanging baskets and Christmas lights.
 - (e) TAG Group Report: The proposal to move disabled spaces further towards Moore Road to allow a bus pull-in bay to be created at the Church Rooms was approved by full Council. Cllr Roberts to investigate the costs of a TRO, if required, with GCC Highways.
 - (f) Grit bin on School Hill. GCC Highways have approved the location. An initial fill will come from the Parish Council's existing salt stock-pile. Cllr Roberts will arrange.
7. Police
 - (a) To report on Police and Crime Commissioner's 'New Community Speedwatch' webinar. Cllr Roberts gave a brief report on a new Speedwatch Initiative announced by Gloucestershire Police. Rather than rely on local police stations to send out warning letters to drivers, the process will be centralised so that both ANPR data and information from roadside volunteers will be collated at Gloucester. A more efficient 'automated' system for sending out a new style of warning letter has been developed. The aim is not to catch as many speeding drivers as possible, but to educate and change driver behaviour so that it is understood that speeding is socially unacceptable, stressful for other road users, pedestrians and residents. Also, that high speeds are inefficient, waste fuel and increase harmful emissions. Although offending drivers will not be directly prosecuted via the new system, persistent offenders will be targeted by the police either for a home visit or by the use of the latest speed guns which use ANPR technology to automatically issue a ticket.
 - (b) ANPR system, speed-warning letters: Currently our ANPR administrator is only targeting 4 of the worst offenders each week, but the new system will allow many more letters to be sent. Gloucestershire police have quoted 50p per letter (a small percentage of the cost of stationery, admin and postage). Most offenders are locals and it is hoped that as the word spreads and driver behaviour is modified, the need to send letters will reduce. It was decided that approximately 12+ letters a week or 50 a month would be sent out costing £25 per month (£300 per year), to be taken from the Highways speed reduction budget. Proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Hadley and unanimously APPROVED.

8. Footpaths

- (a) Tree affecting footpath outside the Waterfront Tearooms. Noted that we are awaiting a report from GCC Highways who are working on a plan to resurface the path with an acceptable gradient over the tree roots, without any need for a permanent barrier or encroachment on the cobbled area.
- (b) Bulge in dry stone wall bordering Naight Footpath (at the rear of 'Fairview' and 'Cotswold' - Lansdowne). The committee requested that the Clerk write to the owners of the two properties pointing out that the wall bordering the footpath is in a poor state and potentially dangerous to pedestrians should it collapse, and that they make suitable repairs to make it safe. (Copy to GCC Public Rights of Way Officer).

9. Traffic & Highways

- (a) GCC Highways Local Fund: The committee would need time to consider specific suggestions and would bring forward proposals to the next meeting. Initial thoughts were that money could be used to contribute towards TRO costs, or tackle some of the problems raised in the Accessibility Audit.
- (b) Drain clearance: To note that County Cllr Hodgkinson has requested for GCC Highways to clear drains in Station Road, Meadow Way, Roman Way and High Street following a request from a resident.

10. Correspondence:

- (a) Parking in Lansdowne: The GCC Deputy Area Highway Manager (DAHM) had made a site visit to Lansdowne and spoken with the resident. The possibility of installing a bollard on the footway edge to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement would be looked into. However, the DAHM cautioned that this would only be possible if the pavement was wide enough and a bollard would not impede wheelchair or pushchair users. Changes to the parking arrangements could only be done through the application of a TRO following a full consultation process. As previously reported, GCC Highways will be liaising with the Parish Council to discuss future parish-wide TRO proposals.
- (b) There had been a complaint that traffic cones were being put out in the free spaces outside the hairdresser shop in Lansdowne. Cllr Roberts had spoken to the business owner to advise them that putting cones out was obstruction of the highway and illegal.
- (c) A temporary A-board erected outside the Church Rooms to advertise the Pulham's shuttle bus to The Cotswold Brewing Company had raised adverse comment from residents. The committee felt that the wording on the board was not acceptable, the board was causing an obstruction and permission to display it should have been sought from GCC Highways. It was requested that the Clerk write to the Brewery raising these points and suggest that they advertise the shuttle service in a more appropriate manner.

11. Any Other Business (items to note only)

Cllr Macklin said that there was a problem with overhanging hedges partly obstructing the pavement along Station Road in the area between Park Farm and Melville play area. Further investigation required and report at the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting – 7pm on Wednesday 22 June 2022. (Calendar change due to holiday and social commitments by councillors on the original date).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:37