

Meeting Minutes of the Highways Committee
held in the Village Hall, Lambs Lane, Cottenham
On Tuesday 14th June 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs McCarthy, Hodson, Morris, Nicholas, Young, Assistant Clerk

In attendance: 1 member of public

- 16H/028. Election of Chair** – Cllr McCarthy was re-elected, proposed by Cllr Young, seconded by Cllr Nicholas.
- 16H/029. Any Questions from the Public or Press – Standing orders suspended at 7.31pm.** Resident contacted SCDC in March and April 2015, regarding large number of static caravans arriving at Smithy Fen, but none have been seen leaving. No response received, can Cottenham Parish Council (CPC) investigate – Assistant Clerk to chase District Councillors.
Resident asked if there was any progress regarding fencing by the wall of the Old Rectory. Cllr McCarthy said it was a planning issue and enforcement has been notified. Resident said as it's on county land, it's highways - it's an eyesore and it's used as a rubbish dump. CPC will consider best way forward i.e. planning or highways, it's supporting a garden wall of a listed building within a conservation area. Assistant Clerk will contact highways. Standing Orders reinstated at 7.39pm.
- 16H/030. Chairman's Introduction and Apologies** - Apologies accepted from Cllr Ward (litter pick). Cllr Collier and SCDC Cllr Wotherspoon were absent.
- 16H/031. Declarations of Interest** – None received.
- 16H/032. Minutes** - Resolution that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 12th April 2016 be signed as a correct record. **RESOLVED**
Cllr Morris asked that no abbreviations be used in future minutes as they are a standalone record of meetings.
- 16H/033. HCV joint committee** – update following attendance at May meeting - report circulated prior to meeting. Cllr McCarthy pointed out that most of the villages included in the report are north of Cottenham. Cllr Nicholas found the report to be very useful and it was pleasing to know that other villages are also concerned. Cllr Ward arrived at 7.45pm (litter pick cancelled). Cllr Ward said that focus has altered to reducing HCV access and 20mph introduced to villages. Cllr McCarthy asked what the long term plans were. Cllr Ward unable to answer at this stage, but pleased that County and County Councillors are responding. Possibly waiting for A14 upgrade and Ely bypass to gauge effect. Loading is easier to approve/police than access. Cllr McCarthy asked if CPC should be doing anything. Cllr Ward answered that the Neighbourhood Plan ideas need thinking through regarding HCV implications.
- 16H/034. TRO applications** – update on progress re Lambs Lane Parking Restrictions, High Street Parking Restrictions (outside Shaun's Newsagent), Twentypence Road Layby, Twentypence Road Speed Humps and Remembrance Day Road Closures. Cllr Nicholas asked if SCDC had been asked about Paxton Close signage, Assistant Clerk to check that right council is being asked.
Cllr McCarthy outlined report circulated prior to meeting. Cllr Morris confirmed that all 3 are now going through to advertising at a cost of £3,878. Approval expected late June/early July, approximately a 2 month progress to completion. Remembrance Day road closures will be advertised with other villages near the time.
Cllr McCarthy said that the Twentypence Road Speed Humps could be replaced with cushions. Cllr Morris stated that the Neighbourhood Plan included 18 responses from Twentypence Road, 6 of which wanted to remove humps and that the Neighbourhood Plan was resident's chance to air their views. Cllr McCarthy suggested a more focussed consultation. Cllrs Ward and McCarthy reiterated that the Neighbourhood Plan responses were not specific enough.

Standing Orders suspended at 7.57pm. Member of public said that we may be able to receive funding from County as existing humps are old and are not up to current regulations and suggested that the Parish Council apply directly to County. Standing Order reinstated at 7.59pm.

Cllr Hodson agreed that we should consult with residents and that funding sources ought to be investigated. Cllr Young said that if the humps are to be removed, alternatives must be investigated before consulting with residents. Cllr Hodson said there was other traffic calming measures in a relatively short run; a priority feature, humps, mini round-about. Cllr McCarthy said as part of the same consultation, we will also look at installing a 40mph to 30mph buffer zone, like the one along Beach Road which has slowed traffic coming into the village. Cllr Young pointed out that as Beach Road has no additional speed reducing measures, it cannot be used as a comparison. Cllr Morris pointed out that police are able carry out speed checks within the buffer zone, but not on a national speed limit road. Cllr Ward, asked why not just remove offending speeding hump.

Standing Orders suspended at 7.07pm. Member of the public said the mini roundabout had to be there to enable speed humps to be installed. Cllr Nicholas confirmed that this was part of an overall package (at the time of installation). Standing Orders reinstated at 8.08pm.

Cllr Ward suggested we contact County for advice and clarification of rules governing speed reduction measures and include that we are considering removal of a sped hump and go from there. Cllr Young suggested including that the current humps appear not be compliant with current standards.

16H/035. Highways Issues - report circulated prior to meeting. Cllr McCarthy said we should encourage residents to report potholes, via online system to County website. Cllr Young Said that Beach Road, from Long Drove to Data Racks, outbound, is puddling badly and not draining, causing vehicles to go onto wrong side of road. Assistant Clerk to report.

16H/036. Speeding – consider steps to reduce speeding on Histon Road. Cllr Morris outlined responses from Neighbourhood Plan; 36 responses from Histon Road, 19 wanted 20mph, 13 more speed humps, 15 no HCVs, therefore there’s obviously an issue. Speed humps are not viable as they are disruptive to neighbours. Cllr Young suggested contacting County for advice on acceptable passive road markings, so that options can be investigated. Cllr Hodson asked whether Speed Watch could visit. Cllr Morris stated that there currently isn’t a coordinator and more local support/engagement was needed. Cllr McCarthy stated that Speed Watch has no connection with CPC.

16H/037. Update on pavement improvement project with CCC - report circulated prior to meeting. Cllr Morris explained that progress was slow due to restructuring at highways, cost estimates have been received. Cllr McCarthy has serious safety concerns, regarding the proposed crossing between the High Street and Wilkin Walk. Cllr Morris said that we must rely on experts; traffic and pedestrian surveys will be carried out and the outcome would dictate what sort of crossing would be given the go ahead.

16H/038. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

- Local Highways Initiative (LHI) bid.
- Feedback from Highways Depot open day 4th July 2016 (Cllrs McCarthy and Morris).
- Upgrading of illuminated speed warning signs (Cllr Nicholas).
- HCV update (Cllr Ward).

16H/039. Date of next meeting – 13th September 2016

16H/040. Close of meeting - 8.34pm

Signed _____ (Chair) Date _____