

COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

AGENDA REPORTS PACK – FEBRUARY 2015

Item 15H/004

Cottenham Parish Council
Minutes of Highways Committee
Held in the Village Hall, Recreation Ground, Lambs Lane, Cottenham
On **Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Heydon (Chair), McCarthy, Morris, Ward and Clerk (Jo Brook).

In attendance: 3 members of the public

- 14H/034. Any Questions from the Public or Press – Standing orders to be suspended** – Cllr Nicholas attended as a member of the public and spoke regarding the residents report on a 20mph zone. In his opinion it was a good report however he queried how many residents were involved since the report didn't state this information. Cllr Collier arrived at 7.32pm. Cllr Morris commented that he had contact approx. 25 residents and 20 resident groups as a general traffic consultation but not specifically about a 20mph zone. Some of those consulted strongly lobbied for a 20mph zone but only approx. 5 were involved in the report. Two other residents present (husband and wife) spoke to say that they had commented on the consultation independently of each other.
- 14H/035. Standing Orders re-instated - Chairman's Introduction and Apologies** – Cllr Wotherspoon (business). Cllr Bolitho has resigned from the committee and the vacancy will be added to next full Council agenda.
- 14H/036. Declarations of Interest** *To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.* Cllr Heydon declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14H/039.
- 14H/037. Minutes** - Resolution that the minutes (circulated to members) of the Committee meeting held on the 14th October be signed as a correct record. **RESOLVED.**
- 14H/038. Reports**
- **Clerk** – report circulated prior to the meeting. Updates: Dunstal Fields potholes have now been filled. Have chased Balfour re. new street light installation. Gavin Wiseman has advised the white lining will be done in the spring. Meeting to be set up with Sue Reynolds in February to discuss Tenison Manor adoption – Cllr Morris expressed an interest in being involved.
 - **20mph representation letter received** - to be considered under Agenda Item 14H/039
 - **Cottenham Speedwatch update** – Kate Heydon, Cottenham Speedwatch co-ordinator. Cllr Heydon summarised. Cllr Morris commented that she shouldn't have acted as a sole Cllr to amend the application form for the signs. Clerk to resend form. Query raised regarding speed enforcement. The speed limit can't be amended if it will criminalise more than 15% of the population. One of the options on the 20mph report therefore wouldn't work. The Speedwatch kit can't be re-calibrated easily because it is shared with other parishes.
 - **Update from Northstowe Traffic Working Group** – Cllr Heydon, Parish Council Representative. No report available; meeting cancelled after sudden death of the Chairman of the Northstowe working group.
 - **Chair** – report circulated prior to meeting. Cllr Morris raised a point of order: the report can't be used to hide agenda items. Agenda items must be explicit and give members of the public a reasonable knowledge of what is being discussed. Cllr Heydon responded that the purpose of the report was to give an update of what had happened within the Highways Committee. Cllr Morris again stated that during the recent Cllr training we had been advised not to have Chairs reports. Standing Orders suspended at 8.03pm. Chair asked public present whether they were happy with the report. Clerk advised that this would not be representative of the general population. Residents present responded that they were unable to comment. Standing Orders reinstated at 8.10pm. Report should have been entitled as Highways Committee Quarterly Report and therefore a motion tabled for it to be agreed by the Committee.

- 14H/039. 20mph zone** - To consider a 20mph zone in the four year strategy, based on collaborative resident input. (Deferred item from August 12th ref: 14H/004, October 14th 14H/025) – Cllrs Heydon firstly thanked Eileen Wilson for the report. Standing Orders suspended at 8.11pm. Eileen outlined the report. There appear to be a lot of benefits of the scheme and therefore worth seeing whether it was something that Cottenham wanted. There are lots of obstacles to overcome but the benefits would appear to outweigh these. Cllr Morris mentioned that the High Street is a B road and therefore a speed reduction can't be applied. If we lost B road status it wouldn't be gritted or maintained by County and we may lose the bus route. It was generally agreed that noise reduction and safety perception was a positive. No mention in the report of reduction in pollution which would be an added advantage. Consultation suggested with Corbett St/Rooks St/Margett St and Denmark Road in the first instance. Separate consultation with the whole village via newsletter. It was noted that Lambs Lane already had a weight limit and zoned speed limit in force. Standing Orders reinstated at 8.27pm. Suggestion that formal crossings would be a better option for the High Street to reduce speeds. Cllr Ward expressed an interest in being involved with the consultation process. It was noted that we would need to introduce more traffic calming measures before 20mph could be implemented. Resolution to consider a 20mph zone in the 4 year Highways strategy. **RESOLVED.**
- 14H/040. Meeting with County Council** – To receive an update on meeting arranged by Cllr Morris with David Lines, County Highways, looking at the short term, and long-term project planning – Cllr Heydon & Morris plus the Clerk had met with David Lines, the Policy & Regulation Office, to check on the feasibility of various highways projects and how we would enforce existing TRO's (traffic regulation orders). Cllr Ward picked up that a weight limit couldn't be applied on the Twentypence Road bridge because it was on a B road; she will feed back to the Joint HCV group accordingly. Cllr Morris has submitted further questions and is awaiting response from David.
- 14H/041. Matters for consideration at the next meeting** – child-designed street signs (Cllr Collier) and gritting.
- 14H/042. Date of next meeting** – TBC.
- 14H/043. Close of meeting** – 8.57pm.

Signed _____ (Chair) Date _____

Item 15H/005

CLERKS REPORT – February 2015

Items in red have been outstanding for some while and reported again in bulk to County.

- Telegraph Street - unsuitable for HCV's sign has been installed but at the High St rather than Denmark Road end. Highways have been asked to either move or provide additional signage. Waiting further follow up from Emma Murden (Highways). FOI request submitted to Emma Murden on behalf of resident, asking to see the original order form for the work. This has been received and confirms that the signs were commissioned for the wrong end of the road. Gavin Wiseman has confirmed that there is no money available to move the signs at the current time and that it may be actioned in the new financial year. Clerk doing onsite visit with Gavin on Feb 12th.
- Harlestones Road – have been informed that the road hasn't received a capital bid and it is unsuitable for standard resurfacing. Jon Clarke is liaising with Martin Gowler to see what else can be done. Have pressed for action due to the very poor state of the Lambs Lane end.
- Denmark Road – Met with agent for TW on 7th Oct. Agent is now meeting with contractor with a view to getting the work done by the end of March – access from other side of the ditch. County are working with SCDC Planning to assess the pipe from Denmark Road which runs along the building plot at no. 2.
- Waiting restriction signs (x2) have been requested for the 2 unmarked bays on the High Street (from post office to Hopbine). Without the signs the police are unable to enforce waiting restrictions. Have been informed that this now won't be looked at until replacement for Jon Clarke is found. Following meeting with David Lines he will now look into this for us.
- Have followed up with County re. additional work needed for the Knotweed issue on Wilkin Walk. SCDC EH offices has advised that they have looked into this. The land is owned by a builder from Colne, not a local resident, he is aware of the problem re the knotweed and is taking measures to combat it. A company called K Fergusons are contracted to eradicate it. It has been sprayed and cut back. Some has been removed and burnt. Further action will be taken when new growth appears in the spring. Fergusons are following the Environment Agencies Code of Practise in respect of this. The County Council were advised re the knotweed may be affecting their footpath, they have been out to examine it. They are not taking any action. NB: It is not an offence to have knotweed only an offence to encourage its growth and spread.
- Tenison Manor adoption – Sue Reynolds organising potential meeting dates between the various parties to move this matter forward.
- Have spoken to Jon Clarke re. gritting routes with the intention of getting Beach Road upgraded this year. Still unable to get the road upgraded because it doesn't meet their criteria – despite being used by school buses. In the past 2 months there have been numerous accidents on this road with cars going into the ditch.
- Have contacted CCC Cllrs Jenkins & Mason re. taking over land at the back of the Dissenters Cemetary and near Pelham Close/Wilkin Walk to use for additional parking. No info received. I have now mailed Gavin Wiseman to see if he can assist.
- Line reinstatement requested at junction of Broad Lane/Tenison Manor; Smithy Fen/Twenty pence Road; end of Histon Road cycle path; and Rampton Road/Lambs Lane will be actioned in the new financial year.
- Street light for Lyles Road has been ordered. Installation expected end of March.
- Low-hanging tree over Narrow Lane has been cut back by BT Field Services and groundsman has removed the weeds.

- Streetlights – Balfour are rescheduling all the outstanding issues and I am liaising with Keeley Russell to get a date for the work.
- There has been an ongoing issue since May 2014 whereby a couple of residents have been directly liaising with County regarding a filled in ditch on Histon Road, in front of the new affordable houses. Due to a lack of response from both the County Officer, who has failed to respond to any emails in the past 7 weeks, and Cllr Mason, who has been mailed twice and asked to assist, I have mailed Bob Menzies directly to take the issue to a higher level. Responded to say he would investigate and get a response sent shortly. Residents were informed accordingly. Response now received from Sass Pledger and I am awaiting feedback from residents.
- Following email correspondence from County re. contacting Highways I have provided feedback to Chris Stomberg re. their online Highways reporting tool and phone system. Conversation arranged for 2nd Feb with Nicola Speechley who manages the Contact Centre to discuss issues. Re. the online system Chris will be investigating making possible changes going forward.
- Potholes have been filled at the following locations: Dunstal Fields, Marget Street
- Resident has contacted us re. regular parking issues on the corner of Rooks Street near Fitzwilliam House. Has been passed to our PCSO to follow up.
- Residents have contacted us re. speeding issues on Denmark Road.
- Resident has contacted us re. lorries using Rooks Street. Due to the narrow width of the road a) the front verges outside the bungalows are being damaged and b) a lorry hit a parked vehicle but failed to stop. Additionally vehicles accessing Millfield have been going straight across from Corbett St without stopping and a near miss has been reported.
- We have fed back to Karen Lunn at County regarding the siting of the 30mph sign on Landbeach Road.

The majority of other general pothole issues haven't been actioned. The majority of these were reported prior to Martin Allen leaving in September. It appears that everything for Cottenham has been put 'on hold' with nobody picking up the work until a replacement is in situ which should be later this month.

New faults reported since last meeting:

- Blocked drain in Lambs Lane (near junction with Pelham Way). Causing damage to front wall outside property.
- Pothole on Telegraph St/Denmark Road junction.
- Drain on Lambs Lane (end of Crowlands) is still blocked despite being jetted on several occasions. Have contacted Pauline Peachy and this has been jetted again.
- Standing water on Denmark Road alongside the Chequers has been cleared.
- Previously repaired hole by sunken ironworks on the High St, opp. King & Co, has crumbled and is causing a significant dip in the road.

Update from Cottenham Speedwatch on recent events held in the village

Cottenham Newsletter edition 145, page 4:

http://www.cottenhamnews.org.uk/archives/Newsletter_145.pdf

Update from Northstowe Traffic Working Group – Wednesday 21st January 2015

1. Notes from the meeting provided by County have been shared within the Council, internal use only.
2. Presentation shared within the Council, internal use only.
3. Points relevant to Cottenham:
 - Cllr Heydon made a request for the B1049 temporary site data from November 2014 to be provided, as the data was not available at the previous NTWG meeting.
 - Passed on a request from the HCV group, of which Cllr Ward is our Cottenham Parish Council representative. HCV group wish to receive data from the S106 monitoring related to Northstowe.
 - NB. A previous NTWG decision had been agreed that Parish Council's could request raw data, provided that data source was acknowledged.

Update on Bus Service - article submitted to Cottenham Newsletter current edition (Issue 145) and 2013 survey information provided re: County Council published survey - Cllrs Heydon and Ward

1. Article in Cottenham Newsletter, Edition 145, Page 3. Ref: http://www.cottenhamnews.org.uk/archives/Newsletter_145.pdf
2. Attached Report Cottenham Village Summary v1-2.doc Cambridge Future Transport, Cottenham Transport Questionnaire Results, provided by Cllr Ward, via email to Cllrs Heydon, Collier, Morris, Bolitho, as well as James Rowley, and Clerk, on 29th July 2014. Cllr Ward helped co-ordinate on behalf of Cambridgeshire future Transport (but was not involved in analysing the circa 130 responses).

Item 15H/007

Update on County Gritting routes and strategy. Resolution to write to County Highways to ask that Landbeach Road is routinely gritted on days when the Cottenham Village College school buses use the route (weekdays, in term time).

1. the Cambridgeshire County Council Gritting routes are published online at:

http://www4.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/111/gritting_routes

2. Realtime information is also available on Twitter, through #grittertwitter following @CambsCC.

Eg. Ref: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/grittertwitter?src=hash>

“South Cambridgeshire retweeted



Cambridgeshire CC @CambsCC Feb 1

It's not getting any warmer so the gritters will be out at 4pm. The secondary routes are being covered from 1pm too **#grittertwitter**”

This also provides a realtime interaction, where our local cllrs sometimes step in to help. Quote ref: <https://twitter.com/CambsCC/status/549658695165304832>



3. Proposed letter to County Highways Gritting Team, copied to Steve Ellison, Headteacher at Cottenham Village College, asking for gritting of the Landbeach to Cottenham road, when used by school buses.

Dear (County Highways, Gritting Team),

Please would it be possible for Cambridgeshire County Council to consider gritting of the Landbeach to Cottenham road, at times when the local school buses will be using that route to transport children to and from Cottenham Village College Academy. I.e. on weekdays, in term time?

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

(Clerk on behalf of Cottenham Parish Council).

Item 15H/012

Quarterly Report of the Highways Committee – Feb 2015

Community Speedwatch signs on Rampton Road

Two signs have now been installed and positive feedback received from residents.

Street Lighting on Lyles Road

Lighting has been ordered from Balfour. Estimated installation date of end of March.

Cyclepath support request from Landbeach Parish Council

A letter was drafted on 1st November 2014 and shared with the Highways Committee, prior to being signed and delivered to Landbeach Parish Clerk, on 1st December 2014.

Street inspection with County Highways

A replacement has not been instated as yet to replace Martin Allen. Contact has been made with Jonathan Clarke's replacement, **Gavin Wiseman** and Clerk is attending a meeting with him on 12th February.

110 Bus

Following changes in the autumn the 110 now runs to Ely twice a week on Ely Market Days (Thursday and Saturday). The online timetable shows that it leaves Cottenham just before 10am, and returns from Ely at quarter past one on those two days.

B1049 Cycle Path maintenance

Vegetation has been cleared from the solar light studs. The path has been swept again in January which was well received by residents and improved conditions. Cllr Heydon has contacted Mike Davies (on twitter) and he advised that he has set up a path maintenance volunteering group on Twitter. You can follow that group at [@CamPeoplesPaths](https://twitter.com/CamPeoplesPaths)

LHI Bid

Unfortunately our bid was unsuccessful on this occasion. The scheme had near 60 bids and with County funds being low, this may have significantly impacted on our odds of being successful.