



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 23rd OCTOBER 2023

- 1. Present:** Councillors: N. Ingledew(Chairman); I. Johnston; H. Parker;
T. Walton; D. Wright
A. Barton (observing via Zoom)
- 2. Apologies:** Councillors: R. Bean ; R. Davies ; D. Dorey
In the absence of Cllr Davies, the Chair was taken by Cllr Ingledew
- 3. Absent:** Nil
- 4. Public Question Time:** There were eleven members of the public present to speak about the ongoing issue of parking at the bottom of Hazelbury Hill.

Prior to any member of the public speaking the Chair stated that the issue of parked vehicles on Hazelbury Hill had been discussed at the Committee meeting on 26th June when it had been agreed that the households could continue to be approached or neighbours could continue putting notices up, asking for the road to be kept clear. Technically the issue should not be discussed again for six months from that date.

However, as this was a very emotive issue and because of an issue with an ambulance and fire engine attending Hazelbury Hill it was agreed to allow the residents to put their concerns to the Committee and that any comments should be made in a respectful way.

Mr McCormick, Ms Hewes; Ms Rudd; Mr Redman and Ms Tachell all expressed their views and felt that the current system worked well and did not wish to see double yellow lines put down. It was reported that the Fire Service had confirmed that there had not been a problem with access.

Mr Ben Smith and Mr Bob Smith both felt that there was a real problem. Mr Ben Smith drew the Council's attention to the Highways Code, specifically rule 243 regarding parking and felt that everyone needed to abide by these rules. The issue with the fire engine two weeks ago had highlighted the problem again and the need for access for emergency vehicles. Luckily it was fortunate that the residents were accessible and the cars could be moved. However, there was still the problem of what would have happened had the resident not been at home.

The Chair thanked all members of the public for putting forward their contrasting views and he hoped that they would continue to treat each other with consideration and fairness.

- 5. Declaration of interests:** Nil
- 6. Minutes**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th August 2023 were taken as read and signed as a true record with two amendments made and agreed.
- 7. Issues for Discussion:** It was agreed to move this item further up the Agenda so that members of the public could hear the discussion.

Parking of cars on Hazelbury Hill:

Several of the Councillors felt that this issue should not be discussed again because of the six months rule.

It was stated that Wiltshire Council are the Highways Authority – the Parish Council only has a consultative role in highways issues.

It was stated that if double yellow lines were to be installed how would this be enforced on a regular basis.

It was agreed that, because of the amount of correspondence that had only been received prior to the meeting and in order for the Committee members to familiarise themselves with the situation, this matter be deferred to enable all Councillors to visit the site and to bring any views back to the next meeting.

8. Matters Arising:

- a. **B3109 Bradford Road by the School:** The Traffic Order was out for consultation. It was confirmed that the School had submitted a Travel Plan to Wiltshire Council to include flashing warning signs by the school.

LHFIG had agreed to put in a bid for funding for construction of a footpath between Park Place and the Toucan crossing and a request had been made for Box Parish Council to consider making a contribution towards the cost of this although it falls outside of the boundary and is in Corsham.

Cllr Johnston felt that the Parish Council had a moral obligation to contribute towards this and it was agreed to put this forward to be considered with the budget. The Clerk will obtain costings from Sarah Dearden. **Action: MC**

Post Minute note: Reply received from Sarah Dearden as follows:

“Corsham LHFIG have covered the minimum contribution required for a substantial bid for the proposed footway from Park Place to the Toucan crossing, the more LHFIG/Corsham TC/BoxPC can contribute will lower the amount of grant required, hence a better chance of being successful. So, there is no number I can give you its up. Currently the grant required is £74,000 so any dent in that would be welcomed.”

- b. **Middlehill – Speed/metro count:** This will now be carried out in November
- c. **Maintenance issues:**
- **Maintenance and signage at Kingsdown:** Sarah Dearden will visit the site to look at additional highway safety and possible signage.
 - **Pavement opposite the garage A4 Ashley:** It was stated that Box Parish Council could be expected to contribute £8000 towards the cost of the work. This was queried as it is classed as maintenance and the Clerk will clarify this with David Arnup. It was also agreed to suggest that the pavement could be diverted around the layby on the grass which could be a cheaper option.
- c. **Bath to Box Cycleway and creation of Quiet Lane at Wormcliffe Lane**
There is no further update. The proposed cost would be £36K with the route via Ashley Lane. There is a problem with the drainage on Wormcliffe Lane.
- d. **Funding for dropped kerbs:** The cost for each kerb is in the region of £1K-£1250

It was also suggested that the whole village is surveyed to look at possible locations for dropped kerbs and whether there are any organisations for the disabled who would have any information on this.

An Issue Sheet had been received for a dropped kerb outside Woodstock House on Mill Lane.

Money to be put in the budget for this

9. Further items for discussion:

- i. **Extension of the double yellow lines at junction of Chapel Lane and Devizes Road:** Letter received from Sarah Dearden stating that changes to waiting restrictions need to be made via a Highways Request form. Waiting restrictions, once agreed, require a legal Order which costs £3000 each. A Legal Order will be required for each site so it makes sense to put in requests for more than one site which can be covered in one Order.

It was agreed to discuss all possible sites. It was asked if the top of Valens Terrace could be considered. Clerk to ask Wiltshire Council where the official highway ends.

To be discussed further at the next meeting.

- ii. **Car Parks:** It had been agreed that the report from the Working Party would go out for public consultation. It was agreed that the Communications Working Group will look at this. Cllr Wright agreed to draw up questions for this. **Action: DW**

Light in the Recreation Ground Car Park: This had been discussed previously at the Playing Fields Committee meeting. The old light had been operated from inside the Selwyn Hall to light up the area from the Hall to the Car Park entrance but this had been disconnected. The cost of a new solar light was too expensive. The light in the SE corner of the Car Park belongs to the Parish Council.

After discussion it was **recommended** that more posts with small solar lights, up to a cost of £200, be installed to go from the Bowling Green entrance down to the Car Park. Cllr Wright will provide the posts and Cllr Johnston will draw up the specification as to where these should go and how many will be required.

Action: DW/IJ

- iii. **Pedestrian safety in Mill Lane:** Complaints had been received from residents re parked cars blocking the pavement. Parishioner should contact the local police if the pavements are blocked and it was agreed to ask the Community Police Officer to look at this problem generally in the village.
- iv. **Signage issues at the B&NES county boundary:** Sarah Dearden to visit the site to look at safety issues and possible signage.
- v. **SID Information:** The data from the SIDs had been circulated and an article is to be put in the Parish Magazine. It shows that there is a high level of compliance and that the SIDs are helping to reduce speed.

Money to be put in the budget for a further SID - £2000

- vi. **Discussion on the footpath between Box and Bathford – viability of a shared path and setting up of a working party:** The pavement is in a poor condition, mainly on the B&NES side. It was felt that this was an alternative proposal for a cycleway and it was agreed to ask Cllr Mathew to look into this.

10. LHFIFG – update on issues raised

- a. **A365 Devizes Road, Box:** It is **recommended** that the proposed scheme for “SLOW” on the road and a “Reduce Speed Sign” be accepted in the sum of £1450 with a contribution from the Parish Council of **£362.50** be accepted

It was agreed that whilst this is not what had been suggested it will help to prevent speeding and that “before” and “after” SID readings be compared to see whether there had been a material effect.

b. Tunnel Inn Crossroads:

It is **recommended** that the proposed scheme for two agricultural vehicles signs and a new crossroads sign in the sum of ££700 with a contribution from the Parish Council of **£175** be accepted.

c. Mill Lane/Lycetts Orchard :

It is **recommended** that the proposed scheme for “SLOW” on the road and a new junction scheme be accepted in the sum of **£1150** with a contribution from the Parish Council of **£287.50** be accepted.

11. Rights of Way – update on work carried out by Cotswold Wardens and any issues:

Work had been carried out as follows:

- Application made to Removing Barriers Project for more kissing gates - £2500 from Area Board and £2500 from Cotswold Conservation Board.
- Two new stops installed in F33 and F34
- Clearing F35
- Installing two Marlow gates on F71
- Vristol Gate installed on F11 and F13
- Clear overgrown from F71
- Install kissing gate on F32

Thanks were given to the Cotswold Wardens for all their hard work.

Footpath between Church Lane and A4 by The Hermitage is still closed. Cllr Wright to take this up with the Rights of Way Officer

Action: DW

12. Items to be included with in the Budget:

- Purchase of additional SID £2000
- B3109 – contribution towards footpath from Park Place to Toucan Crossing
- Grant to Cotswold Conservation Board - £500
- Money for dropped kerbs - £1-£1250 each
- A4 opposite Budgens – possibly £8000
- B3109 – Speed Order £1438.53
- Car Park – Build up money for resurfacing
- Possible additional passing space half way up Valens Terrace – this may be funded by compensation from Wessex Water
- Market Place Car Park – Lease to expire in 2025
- Build up money for further contributions to WC highways schemes ie parking order £3000

13. items of report and future agenda items

- Discuss the parking at the top of Valens Terrace

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman