



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 18th MARCH 2024

- 1. Present:** Councillors: R. Davies (Chairman); A. Barton;
R. Bean; D. Dorey; N. Ingledew;
I. Johnston; H. Parker; T. Walton; D. Wright
- 2. Apologies:** Nil
- 3. Absent:** Nil
- 4. Public Question Time:** There were 14 members of the public present to speak about the ongoing issue of parking at the bottom of Hazelbury Hill.

Mr Mike Redman stated that there was a video showing an ambulance passing parked cars which he was pleased to see. He referred to the email from Mr Smith with the statement from the Ambulance Service

Mr Steve Ellis felt that the solution to the issue would be to widen the road and Mr Owen Pye stated that it costs nothing to park further up the hill

Mr Ben Smith referred to the report received from the Ambulance Service

Mr Alistair McCormick stated that he did not feel it would be appropriate to submit the Issue Sheet as there were inaccuracies. The bin lorries did not have an issue with the road and the hedge obscuring the wall had now been cut back.

Mr Ollie Cox raised the issue of there not being a secure safe place to cross the Devizes Road by his property at 3 Fairview. He also pointed out the potholes on the bridge.

- 5. Declaration of interests:** Nil
- 6. Minutes**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd January 2024 were taken as read and signed as a true record
- 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: Cllr Johnston reminded everyone that the responsibility for all highway matters rests with the Wiltshire Council. The Parish Council can only submit issues but has no authority

Cllr Davies reported the correspondence he had had with the Ambulance Service which had been circulated to committee members. There was conflicting evidence from the Ambulance Service to that given to Mr Smith. The Fire Service had confirmed that there was no problem.

It was agreed to go back to the Ambulance Service to establish whether there is a problem or not with the parked cars.

The Councillors felt that there is an issue but the Parish Council appeared to be in the middle of conflicting views. It was also stated that an Enforcement Notice had been issued by Wiltshire Council re the cutting of the hedge.

It was felt that there was an issue with the wording of the Issue Sheet submitted by Mr Smith and this may need to be reviewed.

After discussion it was **recommended** that the Council would not be submitting the Issue Sheet in its current form as it was inaccurate. The Council would also request the Highways Engineer to visit and look at the issue of access on Hazelbury Hill and to go back to the Ambulance Service for clarification.

8. Matters Arising:

- a. **B3109 Bradford Road by the School:** The Road Traffic Order to reduce the speed to 40 mph had been confirmed.
A letter had been received from Broadwood School stating that the work to reduce the speed limit will commence on 22nd April and will also implement an advisory 20 mph limit at the school opening and closing times. There will be flashing 20mph signs between 8.20am- 9am and 2.50 pm – 3.20 during term times.

In Autumn 2024 there are place for construction to extend a new footpath from the toucan crossing back to Park Place to further support pedestrians.

b. Maintenance issues:

Update from LHFIG

- Maintenance and signage at Kingsdown/Box A4 boundary signs: Sarah Dearden will visit the site to look at additional highway safety and possible signage.
- Pavement opposite the garage A4 Ashley: An Issue Sheet raising the issue of the flooding and the safety of pedestrians having to walk in the road to get past parked lorries had been submitted
- Bus stop markings on road – Issue sheet submitted. Letter from Wiltshire Council stating that photographic evidence is required showing cars parking at the bus stops. Photographs had been taken of the bus stop on the Devizes Road but evidence was needed for the bus stop by the Chemist
- Dropped kerbs: Issue Sheet had been submitted
- Extension of double yellow lines at junction of Chapel Lane and Devizes Road – an Issue Sheet had been submitted
- Works to A365 Devizes Road/Tunnel Inn/Mill Lane/Lycetts Orchard: It was reported that the contribution had been made by the Parish Council to LHFIG but the work was still outstanding. It was agreed to raise this with Wiltshire Council.
- Top of Valens Terrace: Letter received from Gemma Winslow with a map showing that Valens Terrace is classified as Footpath 14 and this starts by the Vicarage driveway. There is an issue re cars parking at the entrance to Valens Terrace preventing the refuse lorry from accessing it.
It was **recommended** that an Issue Sheet be submitted to Wiltshire Council as this is Wiltshire Council's land. It was agreed to suggest that double yellow lines or road markings are put to prevent parking

9. Update on items discussed previously:

- a. **Parking of cars at Hazelbury Hill:** Discussed above
b. **Car Parks:**

Update on Survey: Cllr T. Walton reported that he is collecting emails for access to the survey. Another article will be put in the Parish Magazine. There is a QR code which can be distributed to allow people to sign up.

Copies of the survey will be available at the APM and at the Revels

Lighting Options in Recreation Ground Car Park: It was reported that the solar lights are working – there are only small but larger units could be put in.

An Options Paper had been circulated. Cllr Davies had spoken to the Executive Committee of the Selwyn Hall to investigate all possibilities. The wiring for the existing list may still be in place. He will be attending a meeting in April to discuss this with them

- c. **Bath to Box Cycleway and creation of Quiet Lane at Wormcliffe Lane**
It was agreed to set up a Working Group comprising Cllrs Bean; Dorey and Johnston to approach Bathford Parish Council on this.
- d. **SID:** The latest data from the SIDs had been circulated
Two solar panel units and mounting kit will be purchased at a sum of £848.46 + vat in the new financial year.

10. Further items for discussion:

- a. **Parking restriction enforcement within Box Village:** Letter received from Ruth Hopkinson stating that this is not an LHFIG issue. There is a desperate shortage of traffic enforcement officers in Wiltshire, not least because their terms & conditions have been reduced by Wilts Council.

If you want to get some attention to a trouble spot contact Parking Services ParkingServices@wiltshire.gov.uk. It is best if a specific spot & time is given when the issue is worst. If it is actually causing a hazard, it is best to mention this as well. Parking offences have been decriminalised which means that the police won't normally become involved. However, if the miscreants are causing an obstruction (parking across driveways etc) or a hazard then they may do.

It was agreed to approach Parking Services regarding the problem with parking at the Chemist and the top of Chapel Lane.

- b. **Flooding update:** Thanks were given to Cllr Bolton for all his hard work in dealing with the flooding issues and for all his reports and updates. The issue of insurance can be raised when the Parish Council's policy is up for renewal.

11. Correspondence:

- a. **Corsham Area Board-** Highways Maintenance Programme. Additional further roads for improvement have been submitted to be included in Maintenance Programme.
- b. **Proposed works to pedestrian crossings on A4 Box:** Information on the planned works to upgrade the pedestrian crossings had been circulated.
- c. **Letter and Issue Sheet from resident re pedestrian crossing near the traffic lights A365 Devizes Road:** The issue sheet had been submitted by a parishioner re crossing the A365 near the traffic light and requesting a pedestrian crossing. It was stated that Wiltshire Council would not put in a crossing as there is not enough footfall to warrant it.

It was **recommended** that the Parish Council would not support or submit this Issue Sheet.

Cllr Bean offered to forward a copy of the report re the pedestrian crossing by the school.

- d. Letter received re the speed of traffic on the A4 Ashley. It was agreed to reply stating that the Parish Council was pursuing additional signage for this stretch of road and engaging with the adjoining Parish Council.
- e. Letter received re the state of the road on Box Hill by the Common. Work to this had been included in the Maintenance Programme for 2025/26. The Parish Steward had been requested to fill in the potholes.
- f. **Salt bin at Henley Lane**: It was agreed that no additional salt bin be put in, but the Council could look at resiting the existing one to a more appropriate location.
- g. Letter received re requests for improvement at Henley Lane/Longspitt. Clerk to reply requesting that the potholes, blocked drain, fly tipping and road names be reported to Wiltshire Council using MyWilts app

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

It was reported that the Cotswold Wardens had planted 6000 hedge plants at Jamies Farm and 100m of hedge.

A further kissing gate had been installed at Wadsick. A grant of £5000 for additional 17 kissing gates had been requested with £2500 received from the Cotswold Conservation Board and a further £2500 requested from the Area Board

13 Ash Trees had been felled on the Common and Hazel stools coppiced. 1km of dead hedge had been laid in Thoday Wood.

It was reported that the Cotswold Wardens spend 40 man hours a week in Box

13. items of report and future agenda items

- a. It was reported that there are four camper vans parked on the Recreation Ground Car Park. It was agreed to check if these were taxed and MOT – discuss further at the next meeting and look at the possibility of clamping
- b. Removal of the permanent green light at the traffic lights – it was reported that the light must be kept on green as it is a trunk road
- c. B3109 – entrance to Wadswick Country Store – to be added to the agenda for the next meeting
- d. Further metro count on the brow of the hill B3109 – to be put on the agenda for the next meeting to see if the new signage has made any difference to the speed of traffic.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman