



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE WAS HELD IN THE PAVILION ON 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

**1. Present:** Councillors: R. Davies (Chairman); A. Barton; R. Bean;  
N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker; D. Wright;  
T. Walton  
M. Carey (Clerk)

**2. Apologies:** Nil

**3. Absent:** Nil

**4. Public Question Time:** There were 8 members of the public present

It was asked if the Parish Council would consider any 20 mph limits in Box

A resident of Valens Terrace asked whether the Parish Council would extend the fencing that is down the side of Valens Terrace to the bottom part by the houses

Several residents spoke about the issues on Hazelbury Hill. The Councillors were reminded that the feelings are intense and everyone is focused on an amicable solution. It was stated that the Whats Up group is working well and would urge all residents to join.

It was felt that all possible solutions need to be examined before the Highways Engineer's report is agreed. The report seemed too extreme and the residents want to come up with a solution.

The residents of the Market Place/Parade had submitted a letter which had been circulated to all Committee members and felt that the status quo needed to be retained. It was felt that the figures quoted for the maintenance were excessive.

**5. Declaration of interests:** Nil

**6. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed

**7. Matters Arising:**

- a. **B3109 Bradford Road by the School:** The flashing 20 mph signs by the school had been installed.
- b. **New footway from toucan crossing to Park Place:** Work planned for November 2024. Some cutting of trees is being carried out
- c. **Future installation of SID on B3109:** There is conflicting advice from the Police and Wiltshire Council re the installation of a SID. Cllr Davies will raise this for clarification at the next LHFIFG meeting.

**Recommended** that a further SID be purchased for use within the Parish. This is already budgeted for and the order, if agreed, will be placed before the end of October.

- d. **Footpath 2:** Letter from Network Rail stating that due to a large number of similar requests they are restricting their workload to safety-critical tasks and therefore they cannot help with this.  
The Cotswold Wardens have cut back the vegetation but they have no further resources to carry out repairs.
- e. **Maintenance issues:**  
Update from LHFIG:
- Maintenance and signage at Kingsdown - installation of Horse Warnings signs and bar markings before the three SLOW on the road  
Site visit undertaken – plan and costs for next meeting
  - Box A4 boundary sign – additional chevron signs have been installed.  
Further accident reported. Bathford PC to come back with dates for a joint meeting
  - Footpath opposite the garage A4 Ashley - Sarah Dearden and Gemma Winslow to liaise regarding drainage works and issue of parking vehicles
  - Bus stop markings on road – A365 Devizes Road and A4 by Pharmacy – to be included as part of Box area TRO
    - Top of Valens Terrace – Some DYL opposite Pharmacy and refresh markings on other side of road by Old Vicarage entrance  
To be included as part of Box area TRO
  - Dropped kerbs – Leafy Lane near Dandelion Café x2; A4 entrance to Middlehill x2; Lower Bulls Lane x1  
**NB** the dropped kerb at Lower Bulls Lane can no longer be installed.  
Total cost of scheme £5800; Box PC 25% contribution **£1450**
  - Extension of the double yellow lines at junction of Chapel Lane and Devizes Road – Proposal to extend existing DYL additional 10m to increase visibility – to be included in the TRO for the Box area
- TRO** – total cost for A4 bus stop Box Pharmacy; Top of Valens Terrace; bus stop on A365 and extending dyl at top of Chapel Lane  
25% contribution **£1237.50** agreed (not including Hazelbury Hill)
- Works to A365 Devizes Road - Cllr Davies to check why this has not been carried out
  - Safety of pedestrian at Ditteridge – to be looked at by Highways officer Mill Lane/Lycetts Orchard – the signs installed
  - B3109 near Wadswick County Store: An Issue Sheet had been submitted.  
Highways Engineer to look at the site
  - Safety of pedestrians and horse riders at Ditteridge: Issue Sheet submitted. Highways Engineer to look at the site
- f. **Parking of cars at Hazelbury Hill:** Cllr Davies stated that it was a shame that the Parish Council had become involved in this and that the residents had not been able to sort it out themselves. The Parish Council had requested independent advice from the Highways Engineer which resulted in the report being drawn up – but the proposals were rather extreme. If the Council agreed with the report there would be a four week consultation period for residents to comment which could result in the proposals being changed.

Letter received from Wiltshire Council confirming that Wiltshire Council is the Highways Authority and therefore hold legal responsibility for any action taken/not taken.

Cllr Bean reported on the meeting that he had held with local residents. He had invited 36 residents and half of them had replied/attended. One lady had stated that she had had to wait two hours for an ambulance but this was not caused by an

access problem. Four or five residents feel that it would be wrong to implement the proposals. Six or seven residents would like things to remain as they are. The other residents agreed that something needs to be done but do not agree with the proposals.

After discussion it was **recommended** by six votes in favour and one against that the Parish Council does **not** endorse the report drawn up by the Wiltshire Highways Engineer.

If the recommendation is carried by Full Council a reply to be sent to LHFUG stating that the Parish Council does not endorse the report as it is felt that it is not an appropriate solution and is over excessive.

The Clerk reiterated that Wiltshire Council could still go ahead with the proposals without the backing of the Parish Council as they own the risk.

- g** **Signage at Middlehill:** It was reported that LHFUG had spent all of this year's funding allocation. It was suggested that the Parish Council could fund this at a cost of £500-£800 subject to agreement with LHFUG. Cllr Davies will discuss this with Sarah Dearden and come back to the next meeting

## **8. Update on items discussed previously:**

**a. Car Parks:**

**Update on Survey:** The result of the survey had been circulated and was discussed. 224 responses had been received.

66% of the responses wished to retain the Market Place Car Park and 60% said no to charging.

The majority of the residents are in favour of keeping the status quo.

An Options Analysis report had been drawn up which showed the baseline from now to ten years time.

The Parish Council currently has a repairing Lease for the Market Place Car Park with Wiltshire Council which is due to expire at the end of March 2025. The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the car park surface, the lines and the boundary walls. The Parish Council owns and is therefore responsible for the Recreation Ground Car Park and the Box Hill Common Car Park.

All of the car parks would have to be brought onto the Asset Register and money will need to be put into the budget to maintain the car parks going forward.

It was **recommended** by six votes in favour and one against to ask Wiltshire Council to renew the Lease on the existing terms for at least a further seven years .

The Wiltshire Council officer who had met with the Chair and Clerk on site did not think that there would be a need to remark the lines or to retarmac the surface at the present time. However there is an issue with the condition of the boundary walls and the vegetation growing out of the walls will need to be removed. The Clerk had written to the residents whose property has a boundary wall with the car park asking them to remove any overhanging vegetation.

A Condition Schedule should use the comments from the Wiltshire Council's officer as a baseline.

**Recreation Ground Car Park:** Cllr Barton reported that he had spoken to Horizon Parking who have confirmed that they could manage the Car Park. The current rule for parking is that no cars are left for longer than 24 hours with no long term parking.

Horizon Parking have suggested that they would manage this with increased signage with wardens carrying out regular checks. Anyone parking for longer than 24 hours could be issued with a penalty charge notice.

It was **recommended** that the Council proceed with Horizon Parking for a trial period for enforcing no parking for more than 24 hours, subject to more information on the wording of the signage and whether a list of exempt vehicles could be supplied.

**Camper vans left in the Car Park:** Two vehicles with SORN have been reported to the DVLA

**Lighting in Car Park:** Jimmy Bond to install the light shortly as agreed

**Remarking of disabled bays** - It was established that Government guidelines recommend that there should be 6% of spaces allocated for the disabled.

**Box Hill Common Car Park:** It was agreed to discuss the installation of a sign and conditions of parking in the future.

**9. Further items for discussion:**

- a. **Leafy Lane** Patching of the road to be carried out on 18<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed to wait to see if the white lines were remarked.

**10. Correspondence:**

- a. **Reinstatement of bus request stop on A4 near School/Post Office** – Issue Sheet received.

It was **recommended** by six votes in favour and one against that the Issue Sheet is endorsed by the Parish Council and forwarded to LHFIFG.

- b. **Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme (PEAS)**: Clerk to apply for bags of salt, gel sacs, Flood Warden tabards, Flood signs and Drive slowly through flood water signs
- c. **Discretionary Gully Service**: The request form for required gully works was completed and submitted but the drains could not be included due to the fact that they are situated on the A4 and would therefore require traffic management due to the speed of road and traffic volume.
- d. **Resurfacing of Church Lane**: To be carried out shortly.

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

Cllr Wright reported on the work carried out by the Cotswold Wardens including erection of stiles, clearing overgrowth and hedge laying.

Cllr Wright reported that £2000 match funding had been received from the Corsham Area Board for surface drainage improvements to FP20 and access improvement to FP80. The

work to FP80 have been completed as a cost of £1200. Unfortunately the land owner withdrew permission for the work to FP20 so there is currently £800 left unspent. It was **recommended** that the grant be reworded to allow the remaining funding to be used to install a Bristol Gate on FP 85 at the junction with Wormcliffe Lane/Lower Kingsdown Rd

**12. items of report and future agenda items**

- Cllr Johnston reported that at the January Corsham Area Board meeting a Police Safety Expert had agreed to look at the Bradford Road situation. He and Cllr Davies will be meeting with him on Wednesday morning at 8.30 am
- A local resident was concerned about the flooding on the pavement between the School and Fairmead View by the white railings. WC has no money available for this. It was agreed to submit an Issue Sheet
- Parish Steward to be put as an Agenda item

**13. Date of next meeting:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7 pm

*Meeting closed at 8.40 pm*

**Chair**