

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Highways Committee held at Fogwell Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court on Tuesday 18 July 2017

Present: Tom Christophers, Chairman, Gerald Frost (Council Chairman), Alison Jenner, Fiona Newton, and Tina Brock, Clerk.

19/17 Apologies for Absence. John Griffin (prior commitment), Paul Taylor (prior commitment) and Steve Viner (Council Vice-chairman) (prior commitment). These apologies were approved.

20/17 Variation of Order of Business. None.

21/17 Declarations of Interest. None.

22/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2017. The Committee RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23/17 Update on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings. See Annex 1

24/17 Public Participation. No.

25/17 Current Costs 2017/18. Noted.

26/17 Cutting Grass Verges in Parish. The Committee had received a request for Council to consider cutting grass verges that belong to OCC within the parish. Currently OCC cut grass verges including visibility splays once a year and may cut visibility splays that become overgrown and are considered dangerous if reported via fixmystreet.com. (*Clerk's Note: The Committee had previously considered this matter at a meeting on 19/6/2016 and agreed not to take over the responsibility of cutting OCC grass verges within the parish until a decision on whether there would be a unitary council.*) The Committee RESOLVED to agree to recommend to Council that requests for verges to be cut received from Councillors and parishioners would be on an ad hoc basis only.

The Committee discussed making the triangle at the Oxford Road/Cumnor Road a wildflower area which would prevent the grass from growing high and obstructing visibility. The Clerk would make enquiries.

27/17 Cumnor Parish Emergency Plan was discussed and with a slight amendment approved.

28/17 Traffic Issues.

- i. Speed survey requests. To Note. Following the public meeting in Farmoor Village Hall on 30 June 2017 to try to resolve parking/speeding issues in Farmoor, Council approved requesting a reduction in speed from 40mph to 30mph through Farmoor to Lee Turner, Traffic Officer, Highways, OCC. PCSO Harry Cornforth would be carrying out speed checks in September after the school summer holiday, residents would be invited and the results would be taken to the next meeting in 6 months time.
- ii. The results of the speed survey by Oakenholt Care Home, Farmoor (B4044) on 26 April 2017 gave the following results: Westbound - overall mean speed 44mph, 85th percentile 50mph and mean daily volume of traffic 4,630; Eastbound - overall mean speed 46mph, 85th percentile 53mph and mean daily volume of traffic 4,488. Overall compliance with the 50mph speed limit was good.
- iii. Road safety issues. The Clerk, Geoff Barrell and Mike Wasley Highways OCC met on Tuesday 15 June 2017 to discuss other ideas for spending the S106 funding of £46,600, as the installation of the Puffin crossing had to be abandoned due to insufficient resources. A suggestion was made to install a pedestrian safety refuge in the hatched area near Chawley Lane. If this solution was practicable this change to the original agreement would have to be agreed by Persimmon.
- iv. Parking issues at Farmoor. Update on meeting held on 30 June 2017. See annex 2.
- v. Any other current matters. None.

29/17 Street Lights. No requests received.

30/17 Infrastructure Issues.

- i. Noticeboard at Kimmeridge Road, Cumnor. Permission and quotes to be sourced.
- ii. Noticeboard at Hansom Way, Dean Court. Permission and quotes to be sourced.
- iii. Asset maintenance check 2017. The Committee RESOLVED to approve replacing the noticeboards at Norreys Road and Mayfield Road Play Park. Several benches and noticeboards need repainting and the Clerk would obtain a quote.

- iv. Any other requests for repairs/upgrades. None.
- v. Any other current matters. None.

31/17 Bus Services / Stops / Shelters.

- i. Modification to brick bus shelter at Farmoor. Deferred as quotes need to be sourced.
- ii. Request for bus shelters Oxford Road, Farmoor (Botley to Eynsham). The Committee RESOLVED to approve the installation of a bus shelter at the Mayfield Road bus stop.
- iii. Any other current matters. The Chairman had visited and taken pictures of the 46 bus stops and 15 bus shelters within the parish (13 which are owned by the Council) to determine whether there would be adequate space to install a bus shelter if a request was received. The Chairman and Fiona Newton would go through the pictures and bring their views back to the Committee at its next meeting. It was agreed that requests should supply supporting evidence of usage and need. The Chairman would draft a policy for dealing with requests for approval by Council.

32/17 Botley Traffic Advisory Committee (BTAC). Next meeting to be advised.

33/17 Parish Transport Representatives' Meeting. Previously reported at the Council meeting. 'OurBus Bartons is run by a group of volunteers with 20 scheduled buses each week and was also available for private hire. If anyone was interested in driving for the community transport scheme to take people to hospital, doctors etc please contact her. The Comet Service was proving to be moderately successful.'

Next meeting to be advised.

34/17 Road/Street Signs.

- i. Parish nameplates. The Chairman supplied pictures of the proposed location for parish nameplates to be installed Henwood, Farmoor, Swinford and Arnolds Way. The Clerk would make enquires regarding permission to install.
- ii. Any other current matters. None.

35/17 Footpaths/Footways/ROW.

- i. The Parish Path Warden for Cumnor is Tony Harker.
- ii. Footpaths that cross the A420. The Committee discussed at length concerns of safety, diverting or closing the footpaths and mitigating risk by installing signs. It was agreed that the Chairman should contact the walking group (Tim Pottle) who regularly walk these footpaths, Jim Parke, Oxfordshire Ramblers Society, Tony Harker, Parish Path Warden, Arthur McEwan-James, Countryside for views and advice and bring the findings back to the next Committee meeting for discussion.
- iii. Walking Footpath Programme. The footpaths are regularly walked by Tony Harker.
- iv. Any other current matters. None.

36/17 Reports From Around the Parish. None.

37/17 Topics for Discussion at the next Committee Meeting.

- i. All of the above.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

38/17 The next meeting of the **Highways Committee** will take place at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 17 October 2017** in **The Fogwell Road Pavilion, Dean Court, Oxford.**

A further meeting is due to take place at **7.30pm** in **The Fogwell Road Pavilion, Dean Court, Oxford** on **Tuesday 13 March 2018** in **The Fogwell Road Pavilion, Dean Court, Oxford.**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed..... Date.....2017

Minutes 47/15 Replacement of Horse Chestnut Tree felled at footpath 19 (Eynsham Road to Nobles Close, Dean Court) to allow for the installation of a streetlight. Cumnor C of E School were asked if they would be interested in planting a tree in the school grounds, purchased by Council and the Clerk had received a reply saying yes. The Chairman met the Head Teacher and discussed which type of tree and location and was waiting to hear from after the summer holiday. The Committee suggested planting a Sweet Chestnut and to seek advice from Councillor Jeff Gee on sourcing the tree.

Traffic Issues

Minute 48/16 Other Matters iii b. Pedestrian crossing at Oxford Road, Farmoor. Laura Hutchins-Payne, Area Steward, OCC emailed 22/03/2017 for an Engineer to assess the site for suitability. Responded 'This road would require a Puffin crossing (with traffic lights) which would cost in the region of £100,000. Does the Parish have funding for this, or are you aware of any other funding which could be available?' No funding is available at this present time.

Street Lights

Minute 49/16 Street Lights. A tree outside 15 Oxford Road, Farmoor is obstructing a streetlight. OCC say that the tree belongs to a resident. Letters have been sent (22/03/2017) to 15, 15A and 15B Oxford Road requesting permission for Council to crown the tree. No objections received the work would be carried out after the nesting season.

Footpaths/Footways/ROW.

Minute 15/17 ii Walking footpath programme. Contacted Oxford Fieldpaths Society to see if they would be interested in walking the parish footpaths (21/03/2017).

Minute 15/17 Other Matters iii. For information the Cumnor Parish Path Warden is Tony Harker who has taken over from Roy Darnell. Tony sends regular reports of any work required at a footpath to Countryside, Vale and has agreed to also send a copy to the Council. (22/03/2017). Alison Jenner had contacted the WI walkers who informed her that they already walk the Hurst Lane/SSSI area.

Notes of the Community Meeting held in Farmoor Village Hall on Friday 30 June 2017 at 11am

Attendees: Tom Christophers, Chairman of Cumnor Parish Councils Highways Committee, John Griffin, Cumnor Parish Councillor, Lee Turner, Traffic Officer, Highways, Oxfordshire County Council, PC Carl Bryant, PCSO Carl Bryant, PCSO Harry Cornforth, PCSO Adi Wright, approximately 36 members of the public and Tina Brock, Clerk to Cumnor Parish Council.

The Farmoor Village Shop owner complained that local businesses, their employees and customers parked on the forecourt in front of the shop and that some business carried out their activities in the shop car park. This area is privately owned and for the users of the shop only. A sign is in place to say 'parking for customers only'. Hours of business 7am-6pm, parking capacity: 8 cars. The shop owner agreed that evening parking after 6pm was not a problem.

Village hall same problem. Some of the businesses have in the past, been allowed to park on the Halls car park. However they had not removed their vehicles at the agreed times and had been aggressive when asked to remove their cars because the Hall was in use. As a result of this the Village Hall Committee has decided not to allow these businesses to park on its car park.

Hour's sporadic dependent on bookings with parking capacity: 8 cars. A sign is in place to say 'parking for hall users only'.

Local businesses:

SD Timmo Car Sales: hours of business 9am - 7pm, parking capacity: 3 cars, can overspill.

Botley Windscreens, Tyres and Car Sales: hours of business 8.30am - 5.30pm Saturday 9am-12.30pm, parking capacity: 8-10 cars depending on movement on site.

Warburton Building Service: hours of business 7am-7pm, parking capacity: 110 staff, 22 cars for staff not operatives, overspill.

Spray Magick: hours of business 8am-7pm, parking capacity: 18-20, overspill.

Lee Turner. The shop and village hall forecourts are on private lane and beyond OCCs remit. The best way forward was for the community to find a solution and manage it accordingly. To stop parking on Cumnor and Eynsham Road the only solution would be to install yellow lines but the problem would migrate somewhere

else. Parking on yellow lines is a criminal offence but vehicles can unload. For yellow lines to be installed a democratic process has to be followed with the public being consulted over a 28 day period and then a meeting. Road safety at the mini roundabout was discussed. The vision splays at the roundabout are already sub-standard. When vans are parked on the footpath outside the car sales/Botley Windscreens, they provide extremely restricted visibility to the right when exiting Cumnor Road. This creates a very dangerous situation when added to concerns over speed. No Parking should be allowed on the footpath.

Lee would check the Personal Injury Accident data and forward to the Clerk for distribution. Unfortunately OCC do not have a road safety budget but the Council can make a request to reduce the speed through Farmoor from 40mph to 30mph. This would be raised at the Council meeting on Monday.

Carl Bryant. Car parking is a massive issue in the 30 villages he covers. The police try to educate car owners to park considerately and within the law. The best way forward would be for the community to find a solution.

Tom Christophers asked businesses and local residents to:

- Put up signs to inform visitors/operatives to the local businesses where to park preferably within their site
- the Village Hall Committee to consider allowing parking when the hall is not in use and to inform businesses when the hall had been hired
- residents to log anti-social parking

The meeting could not resolve these issues and it was clear that there is not enough parking places within the business sites for visitors/staff/operatives.

The situation would be monitored and another meeting held in 6 months time.