

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Highways Committee held at Fogwell Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court on Tuesday 22 May 2018

Present: Gerald Frost, Council Chairman (chaired the meeting), John Griffin, Alison Jenner, Fiona Newton, Paul Taylor and Tina Brock, Clerk.

01/18 Election of Chairman. Tom Christophers was proposed by John Griffin, seconded by Paul Taylor and agreed. (*Clerk's Note; Tom Christophers had informed the Clerk that he was willing to stand as Chairman.*)

02/18 Apologies for Absence. Tom Christophers, Chairman (prior commitment) and Steve Viner (prior commitment). These apologies were received.

03/18 Variation of Order of Business. The Committee agreed to bring item 14 Footpaths/Footways/ROW forward on the agenda.

04/18 Declarations of Interest. Personal interest for:

Minute 14/18 ii Fiona Newton lives on Tumbledown, Cumnor

05/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 17 October 2017. The Committee RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

06/18 Update on Matters Raised at Previous Meetings. See Annex 1

07/18 Public Participation. None.

08/18 Footpaths/Footways/ROW.

- i. Footpaths that cross the A420. The Chairman gave an overview of the current situation. This matter was first raised in July 2017 when the Committee deferred its discussion until October 2017 to allow for consultations with the relevant people (minute 35/17 ii). At the October meeting it was again deferred to allow for consultations to take place. In the first instance the local MP Layla Moran was contacted as to her thoughts about the footpaths that cross the A420. MP Moran contacted OCC and it is understood from their reply that after checking the OCC's Personal Injury Road Traffic database for the last 5 year period, there had been no collisions involving pedestrians at the four crossing points. Since the Council AGM in May 2018 when the Highways Committee reported *'There are also four pedestrian crossing points on the Cumnor section of the A420, a road recently identified as the 23rd most dangerous road in the UK, for which discussions have started with the local MP, Layla Moran, and Oxfordshire County Council to understand possible mitigating solutions to this obvious hazard to health.'* emails have been received from concerned parishioners complaining of the proposed closure of these footpaths. This is incorrect and the Chairman of the Committee has been in separate correspondence to clarify this. The Council and its Committees are duty bound to discuss any relevant matters put before them, after all the Council is a democratic body responsible to all its parishioners. No expenditure has been made during these investigations. Tony Harker, Cumnor Parish Footpath Warden has informed the Clerk that he does not believe the crossings constitute a serious problem. The Committee considered the evidence available and unanimously RESOLVED that there would be no further action.

- ii. Walking Footpath Programme update. Deferred

- iii. Any other current matters. None.

09/18 Current Costs 2017/18. Noted.

10/18 Traffic Issues.

- i. Speed survey requests. High Street, Cumnor. The Committee RESOLVED to approve expenditure of £100 to carry out a HGV following the results of the speed survey carried on March 2018.

- ii. Results of speed survey carried out at the High Street, Cumnor 8-14 March 2018
Northbound traffic:

Average volume of vehicles 2,004, 85th percentile 30mph, average speed 25mph

Southbound traffic:

Average volume of vehicles 1,973, 85th percentile 30mph, average speed 25mph

(Clerk's Note: The 85th percentile values, indicative of the speeds at or below which 85% of vehicles travel, are said to indicate what drivers perceive to be the 'natural speed of the road' and are commonly used when setting speed limits.)

- iii. Parking issues at Farmoor. The Committee received the notes of the meetings held on 30 June and 7 December 2017. The Committee discussed installing yellow lines at the junction of Cumnor Road Farmoor, improvements to the mini roundabout, installing bollards on the footpath to improve visibility when turning right from Cumnor Road to Botley and the reduction of speed from 40mph to 30mph through Farmoor. The Committee agreed to contact Lee Turner, Traffic Officer, OCC for advice for permission to install bollards and ask for guidance on how to request a reduction in the speed limit. It was understood that the local businesses were making efforts to relieve parking issues in the area.
- iv. Road safety issues.
 - a. The Committee considered a request from a pedestrian cross at the western end of Oxford Road. The road is very busy and fast at peak hours making it difficult for pedestrians particularly school children to cross the road to the bus stop. Previous enquiries to OCC had resulted in the following response in July 2017 'that an Engineer had assessed the site for suitability' and responded 'this road would require a Puffin crossing (with traffic lights) which would cost in the region of £100,000'. The Area Steward at that time asked if Council had the funds to carry out the works as there was no funding available at this time. The Committee considered requesting a sign to warn drivers of children crossing. The Clerk would make enquiries and Alison Jenner would raise this at the next Botley Traffic Advisory Committee.
 - b. Junction at Abingdon Road, Cumnor / B4017, where the B4017 crosses the A420. A request for the Committee to consider how to make the junction safer following several near misses and accidents. The Committee agreed that a STOP sign at the junction would make the junction safer. The Clerk would contact OCC.
 - c. Reduction in speed from 40mph to 30mph on Cumnor Hill. MP Layla Moran had been contacted by a local resident raising concerns regarding speeding on Cumnor Hill. MP Moran contacted Major Transport Projects and Area Operations, OCC who had informed her that 'a proposal to reduce the speed limit here (as part of a major review of speed limits completed in 2011) was not supported by Cumnor Parish Council at the time and while we would be happy to consider this matter again, currently we have no specific funding for carrying out a further consultation and implementing this change should it be approved'. MP Moran would like the background as to this decision and whether the Council would be willing to reconsider. The Committee agreed that there had been an increase in traffic since the completion of the Persimmon development and single properties being demolished and replaced with flats/multiple dwellings. The Clerk would forward the minute item from the meeting when this was discussed and reply that Council would support reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph.

(Clerk's Note: At a Highways Committee meeting on 15 March 2011, it was agreed that as the evidence of 20 speed surveys carried out over the past 10 years had shown compliance with the 40mph speed limit being good, that there was no need for further involvement by Council and that the police would monitor the situation. The matter was reviewed again at a meeting on 19 November 2013 where it was found that speed surveys carried out at various locations on the hill showed speed being compliant with the 40mph speed limit and at that time the Traffic Management Officer who attended the meeting said that if TVP were approached to change the speed limit they would conclude that the current speed limit was appropriate and would not support a change.)
- v. Any other current matters. None.

11/18 Street Lights.

- i. Any current matters. None.

12/18 Infrastructure Issues.

- i. Any requests for repairs/upgrades. None.
- ii. Any other current matters. None.

13/18 Bus Services / Stops / Shelters.

- i. Any other current matters. None.

14/18 Road/Street Signs.

- i. Requests for signage. Abingdon Road, Cumnor. A resident has requested extra signage to be installed to warn of the junction into Glebe Road following a near miss with a van overtaking and a car turning out of Glebe Road without looking. The Committee considered the request but agreed that signage does not stop antisocial driving. Fiona Newton reported that the road markings had been repainted making the junction more obvious.
- ii. Tumbledown, Cumnor. Residents have requested signage to warn of the bends and concealed driveways on Tumbledown. The Committee agreed to contact Highways, OCC for a concealed entrance and sharp bend signs to be installed at the appropriate places.
- iii. Parish nameplates. The installation of Parish Nameplates would be passed to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to be considered in its Community Action Plan.
- iv. Any other current matters. None.

15/18 Reports From Around the Parish.

Tilbury Lane gate not working.

Alison Jenner would raise concerns of parking issues along Eynsham Road and Hurst Rise Road at the next Botley Traffic Advisory Committee.

Bike Safe would be submitting a planning application at the end of July 2018. Prior to this consultations would take place in Farmoor and Eynsham Village Halls.

16/18 Botley Traffic Advisory Committee (BTAC). Alison Jenner would take issues already discussed to the next meeting.

17/18 Parish Transport Representatives' Meeting. Nothing to report.

18/18 Topics for Discussion at the next Committee Meeting.

- i. All of the above.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

19/18 The next meeting of the **Highways Committee** would take place at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 16 October 2018** in **Fogwell Road Pavilion, Dean Court, Oxford.**

Further meetings to be held on **Tuesday 12 March 2019** in **Fogwell Road Pavilion, Dean Court, Oxford.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed..... Date.....2018

Annex 1

Update on matters raised at previous meeting(s).

Minute 28/17 Traffic Issues

ii Road Safety Issues. The installation of the pedestrian safety refuge at the top of Cumnor Hill (funded by S106) had been passed to Lee Turner, Traffic Schemes, OCC and was expected to be installed in June/July 2018.

Minute 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. A replacement Horse Chestnut Tree has been planted in the ground of Cumnor C of E School.

Minute 48/17 Committees 3 year action plan. The John Hanson map has been reprinted and placed in the map case at High Street, Cumnor.

Minute 50/17 Street Lights.

i The 5 streetlights have been fixed and replaced with LED streetlights (part of OCC LED street lighting upgrade programme).

ii Foliage has been cut away from the streetlight outside 15 Oxford Road, Farmoor.

Minute 52/17 Bus Services/Stops/Shelters

ii A Bus Shelter request policy has been adopted by Council at its meeting on 6 November 2017.

Minute 55/17 Reports from around the parish

i The pothole near the blind bend on Tumbledown, Cumnor had been repaired.