

Minutes - Hunton Parish Council
Traffic & Road Safety Working Party (TRSWP)
Scotts Farm, West Street at 3.30pm on 1st July 2024

Present : Mike Summersgill (MS), Jonny Goddard (JG), Iain Simmons (IS), Stephen Banks (SB), James Forster(JF). *Apologies:* Fay Joyce (reporting only) & Celia Kennedy-Sloane (away)

1. Minutes of meeting on 26th February, 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record. Outstanding action points:

- **Signpost at the bottom of Barn Hill** – MS to speak again to DH about sign.
- **LorryWatch** – Signs collected and installed – JG to clip to another couple of sign posts.
- **Salt Bins** – HPC will fund 2 more (MS had located positions at bottom of Hunton Hill and next to noticeboard by Grafton) – MS to progress ordering and permissions with KCC.
- **Redwall Lane** – two new Tractor signs have been erected by KCC. HGVs from Holland on site.
- **Clearing open ditches** – still a problem at end of George Street with boundary stones in ditch; MS had reported an exposed utility cable to KCC, who had coned side of road off. To clear in Aug?
- **Prepare plan of proposed changes to improve Road Safety (IS)** – see below.
- **Keep reporting highway issues to KCC (All)** – especially signs obscured by vegetation now.

2. KCC Highways Issues, Speed Limits and Signage

Greg McNicol and JG had discussed HIP matters today. Slow sign placed at bottom of Hunton Hill, but would not be put on East Street surface due to road width. Works completed at Scotts Farm corner. We should now bring other issues onto the HIP, to replace the ‘top three’ now completed? Instead of monitoring lorries coming down Hunton Hill, JG had confirmed that what was needed from KCC was a sign at top directing HGVs coming up to turn towards Coxheath; KCC to sort it.

MS noted that two new ‘7.5t lorry restrictions in Hunton & Yalding’ signs had been erected by KCC at the second entrance to/from Wares Farm and on A249 – no-one knew who sourced/paid these.

IS updated the proposed plan focusing on speed limits and other safety measures on roads, predominantly West Street. An all-village drop in event on the day of the plant and produce event at the Club provided a good response (30 resident views) on local priorities, but an article in the Herald had a very low response. It was agreed that a second round of consultation would be facilitated at the Beer Festival on 31st August, and before then IS would talk to local businesses and after then to School users, on return. IS would check Terms of Reference for the Plan, and report to PC on 15/7.

Discussion again about Enforcement issues, whatever changes are made; things need ‘policing’!

IS also noted the recent East Farleigh Parish request for funding to change the speed limit on Heath Road, for safety reasons – which could apply equally to Hunton. MS noted that a recent Planning decision to allow a Care Home at Linton end included a 30mph limit and two build-outs for X-ing.

3. KCC Drainage / Culvert Work on West Street / East Street

The culverts and drains that have been cleared on West Street are now working better and this was welcomed. Some were definitely under-sized for dealing with heavy rainstorm run-off; March 12th.

MS has raised three blockages in East Street, Redwall Lane and George Street repeatedly with KCC – a visit was made in February by the ‘new’ KCC Drainage technician, but he had then ‘left’ the post. These were still defects that would show up again in the Autumn/Winter, and we needed to raise these with KCC Drainage (Claire Chewter?); MS to formulate a response, possibly via Simon Webb.

4. SpeedWatch

There are now 6 SpeedWatch volunteers, but one is a 'visitor'; MS had now taken on Marden Co-Ordinator role until they find a person to re-start it there. Report on first five months of 2024 had just been printed in Herald, giving more details and asking for a couple more volunteers (one had rung MS). Donna Hollingworth was unable to act as 2nd co-ordinator alongside MS, due to work.

5. Traffic Calming on West Street Plus School Drop Off Issues

There was now a morning lollipop person, a local resident from Bensted Close, which seemed to work very well again for child safety, but no afternoon presence. IS had nothing further to report from Parental discussions, although parking aspects were mentioned in newsletters and a poster is erected in School. There seemed to be more cars parking this year, but the same class numbers?

Residents and Teachers were pleased with the new visibility mirror at end of Bishop's Lane, and two residents on Bensted Close also thanked Parish for the mirrors erected there.

6. Monitoring of 7.5t West & East Street Weight Restrictions

There have only been two lorries reported since February, both on West then East Street. MS had stopped one of these, a UK Tesco HGV lorry trying to go to ISS on RedWall Lane. His 'risk schedule' routeing provided by the Tesco warehouse was shown to MS - from 7 Mile Lane end, over 2 Yalding bridges and down Vicarage Lane then through Hunton – he would feed back how incorrect this was to the Supervisor, and was very apologetic... re-directed to ISS via Chainhurst and Marden route.

A resident had asked about traffic recording strips on RedWall Lane, near the Wares Farm units and was this for HGV monitoring and potentially more traffic at Linton end? **MS** to write to Linton Parish Chair and ascertain if they know who has initiated this monitoring (day after meeting, similar twin strips have been erected on Hunton Hill and two down Dean Street, for unknown reasons).

7. Highway Maintenance issues

There are a number of areas where the road surface has degraded (on East Street, West Street and Redwall Lane) – all reported and some potholes were repaired and areas re-surfaced recently, but not all on West Street. RedWall Lane is still very poor on western side, and been re-marked again.

8. Any other business and/or New Safety issues

The crash into a resident's car at top of George Street on evening of 30th June, caused by apparent 'racing' of a Council Cottages resident on RedWall Lane and a long braking skid, was reported by JF. Police had attended but seemingly not taken action, as car is taxed and insured. Resident was very upset by both the damage and being accused of parking wrongly; further detail to be found out.

Two reports of one particularly noisy Clockhouse tractor had been received from residents, seeming to be a brand new one (2024 registration); MS to try to find out its Reg No. and email ClockHouse.

9. Date of next meeting

To be in second half of October, and before PC meeting in November.