

Minutes - Hunton Parish Council
Traffic & Road Safety Working Party (TRSWP)
Scotts Farm, West Street at 12.15pm on 1st November 2024

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

1. Minutes of meeting on 1st July, 2024

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

- **Signpost at the bottom of Barn Hill –DH** to install.
- **LorryWatch** – Signs installed. New ‘formal’ KCC roadsign has been erected at Wares Farm.
- **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.
- **Clearing open ditches** – still a problem at end of George Street with boundary stones in ditch.
- **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.
- **Drainage East and West Street (below)** – **MS** to write to Simon Webb, to talk to KCC.
- **Two noisy tractors** – **MS** to follow up e mail to Clockhouse Farm.

2. KCC Highways Issues, Speed Limits and Signage

Greg McNicol and **JG** had discussed a sign at top of Hunton Hill directing HGVs coming up to turn towards Coxheath. KCC to install a sign directing all Maidstone traffic through Coxheath and warning lorries not to turn left. We should now bring other issues onto the HIP, to replace the ‘top three’ now completed.

IS to present Terms of Reference for a plan to address speed limits and safety concerns to the PC on 18th November 2024. In seeking to develop this plan, **IS** will talk to Clockhouse, Betts and Hunton Engineering as well as the school (and playgroup?) to establish what issues they may have. **IS** to target completion of the plan by March/April 2025 (in time for next HIP annual update).

3. KCC Drainage / Culvert Work on West Street / East Street / George 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 the heavy rainstorm run-off from fields, and recent hedge cutting has created some blockages. Recent flooding on West Street cleared quickly but not before a Clockhouse workers’ bus was driven too fast and flooded a garage near the Gudgeon. A complaint was made to Clockhouse by the resident.

MS had raised three blockages in East Street, Redwall Lane and George Street repeatedly with KCC and these need to be raised again with KCC Drainage (Claire Chewter?).

4. SpeedWatch & LorryWatch

There has been no SpeedWatch activity recently, due to Mike being busy and he is looking for a replacement Co-ordinator, but it is hoped it will restart in the New Year.

There have only been a few reports of HGVs breaking 7.5t limits, so the situation is much improved.

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

The morning lollipop person from Bensted Close is working well and a volunteer for the afternoon has come forward but is not yet “in post”. **IS** noted that the planning application currently in process should remove 4-5 cars from parking on West Street and this would be welcomed. The school currently has 107 pupils vs a 105 max capacity.

6. Highway Maintenance issues

Some potholes have been repaired and the roads are generally in a better state of repair. Bishops Lane has recently been marked up and numbered for further work.

7. Any other business and/or New Safety issues

Nothing material to report

8. Date of next meeting

To be in week beginning 24th February 2025.