

Minutes - Hunton Parish Council
Traffic & Road Safety Working Party (TRSWP)
Scotts Farm, West Street at 3pm on 28th February 2025

Present : Mike Summersgill (MS), Iain Simmons (IS), Stephen Banks (SB), James Forster (JF), Celia Kennedy-Sloane (CKS). *Apologies:* Jonny Goddard (JG) + information by email from Fay & Donna.

1. Minutes of meeting on 1st November, 2024

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

- **Signpost at the bottom of Barn Hill –DH** still to install. Noted one of the marker posts had gone.
- **Salt Bins** – HPC will fund 2 more – **MS** to progress ordering and permissions with KCC.
- **Clearing open ditches** – still a problem at end of George Street with boundary stones in ditch.
- **Keep reporting highway issues to KCC (All)** – especially signs missing and potholes.
- **Drainage East and West Street (below)** – **MS** to talk/email to KCC; East Street jetted on 25/2.

2. KCC Highways Issues, Speed Limits and Signage

Jonny not present, but had two issues for the next HIP – Deer/animal sign on Hunton Hill and protective barriers/posts on the Scotts Farm corner (where trees were being eroded in the bank now). This led to quite a discussion on the damage being done to verges, chiefly by Clockhouse tractors and telehandlers going fast, pulling large trailers – MS had taken pictures last week and emailed Transport Manager, suggesting they pay a visit and see damage – to be brought up at **PC** if we need a formal letter. Any other issues onto the HIP, need to replace the ‘top three’ now completed. Also suggested was an ‘old people’ sign at Bishop’s Lane junction with West Street.

IS has sent a questionnaire round the school and got 15 replies. In seeking this plan, **IS** will talk to Clockhouse, Betts and Hunton Engineering (and playgroup?) to establish what issues they may have.

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. But there was a problem at top of village with debris in the field ditch right by the corner, where the road gullies at top of West Street discharge – need to get farmer to clear a ditch.

The Dolmans had written separately to KCC (Ian Hutcheon) about drainage outside Gudgeon back in October, and got a reply that they had inspected the next day and seen no problems at the time.

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?). East Street jetted last week, but they left RedWall Lane, so water just flows out of second gulley and still erodes tarmac. Some work had been done on George Street (twice) so **MS** has to check if blockages removed. Last week, the final culvert line to the Beult by Bridge House was blocked and the manhole overflowed; MS put out Road Flooded sign this side, and reported to KCC Highways (same as on 06 Jan).

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. We have two new volunteers to train up.

There have only been a few reports of HGVs breaking 7.5t limits, almost all are foreign. The new-ish KCC signs at top of Pattenden Lane, Green Lane and exit from Wares Farm have worked well.

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

The morning lollipop person is working well and a volunteer for the afternoon had come forward but was not going to proceed with it. KCC Highways had suddenly come up with a build-out and safety crossing proposal, which the PC had discussed (some residents were unhappy) – may not happen, as it's only a bid for central government funding and other schemes may have priority.

6. Highway Maintenance issues , plus Ice/Snow issues

Some potholes have been repaired and the roads are generally getting damaged by groundwater inflows (MS had put a note in Herald about riparian duties to clear roadside ditches); East Street has recently been marked up and numbered for further work. In early January, there were 8 skids on ice on East Street (3 at RedWall Lane junction, 5 at the south bend, including demolishing the chevrons – probably being replaced this month, as Road Closing sign is out); the chief cause of ice was an overflowing ditch higher up – MS was asked by a resident for a salt bin down the south corner, then the resident rescinded permission to put it on their land (citing responsibility to spread salt!). MS also wheelbarrowed salt from the George Street bin to salt outside Grafton, reported the bin empty, it was filled and then a foreign HGV knocked it over a week later – reported again.

7. Any other business and/or New Safety issues

Vans parked on corner of Grove Lane and also opposite Bishop's Lane T-junction; **IS** to put informative Highway Code notices on vehicles.

Two missing speed limit signs at either end of West Street; Donna to report them...

Request to contact the farmer(s) alongside Permitted Path to Hall, as dog walkers leaving poo behind (used to be signs that said food production area). Could also do with a dog poo bin halfway along...but who empties it?

The two/three side channels from West Street (between houses and hall) really need to be cleared of brambles and silt debris; can we not get this done by the man who trims the hedge for **PC**?

Exit from Church Woods footpath onto West Street still a bit visually unsafe to see traffic, but DH had trimmed back the bus stop vegetation, after a complaint by a resident.

8. Date of next meeting

To be in June 2025; MS to sort a date/week out during May.