

**Minutes - Hunton Parish Council**  
**Traffic & Road Safety Working Party (TRSWP)**  
**Scotts Farm, West Street at 2.30pm 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Present :** Mike Summersgill (MS), Jonny Goddard (JG), Iain Simmons (IS), Stephen Banks (SB), James Forster(JF), Fay Joyce (FJ). *Apologies:* Sue Pinks (SP) *Not attended* - Celia Kennedy-Sloane (CKS)

**1. Minutes of meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**

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

- **Signpost at the bottom of Barn Hill** – 3 plastic posts installed, **MS** to speak to **DH** about sign.
- **Wares Farm Signage** – a new sign has been installed on Redwall Lane/Linton Hill junction but no progress on better signage by Wares Farm exit.
- **LorryWatch** – Signs available - **JG** to collect.
- **KCC 7.5t limit map** is wrong – Simon Webb progressing with KCC Councillor, **MS** to chase decision on map revision and research limits of ‘access’ through adjacent restricted areas.
- **Clear overgrown signs** – Some were cleared by MS on West & East Streets.
- **Benstead Road mirror** – installed.
- **Salt Bins** – KCC will not fund more but will they fill and refill. **MS** to map out/scope new ones
- **Redwall Lane** – mud on road improved but recent wet weather unhelpful; signs are out!.
- **Clearing open ditches** – landowner contacted re ditch above Bull Inn corner (heavy stones to be cleared), but one stretch is unknown owner. KCC contacted re blocked culvert in George Street.

**2. KCC Highways Issues, Speed Limits and Signage**

JG had updated the HIP recently, and talked through some of the work done or planned by KCC. His next (annual) meeting with Greg McNicol would be due in March 2024, but could be sooner.

The kerbs have been installed by the school and this was welcomed. KCC not supportive of reduced speed limits, double yellow lines by road junctions etc but unclear why given the evidence in East Farleigh, Chainhurst, Yalding etc. Assume change achieved with political support. MS investigating.

We can either propose our three key objectives to KCC and expect them to support one at least or present a fully worked up plan. It was agreed that the latter was the best way forward but with a fall back of agreeing the three key and achievable objectives. **ACTION: IS** to prepare plan for speed limit extents/changes and other safety measures on village roads, predominantly West Street. Village drop in event proposed (at Club?) to elicit/provide resident views on local priorities.

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

The culverts and drains cleared in West Street (near the Gudgeon) are now working much better and this was welcomed. Some are clearly under-sized for dealing with heavy rainstorm run-off.

There are other drains and culverts in the village which have not been cleared and this needs to be addressed as they are identified. MS has raised blockages in East Street but paperwork has been “lost” three times now by KCC, and three cars have blown tyres in drains where manhole covers have been lifted by water that cannot flow as intended due to blockages.

**4. SpeedWatch**

There are now 7 SpeedWatch volunteers and a number of useful sessions have been held. Two motorists have been clocked at over 50% above the limit and both have had hand delivered letters from the police. Two locations regularly ‘watched’ and 75% of speeding was recorded outside the Club, 25% at the Church; other useful data on timing of traffic movements is being collected.

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

Hedge by Peace Cottages to be cut down and replanted further back to improve visibility. MS and IS investigating putting a mirror on existing (in hedge) post by Grove Lane exit to West Street.

The school is considering expanding hard standing within its grounds to increase staff parking. Staggered drop-offs and pick-ups only partly effective. Cannot progress plan to use park land behind school until sale of Hunton Court completed.

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

There have only been three lorries reported in the last 4 months, on East Street (by one person). Whilst this is not a complete record it does suggest an improvement from past levels, with some local firms no longer transgressing. Need to look at construction vehicles using West Street.

## **7. Highway Maintenance issues**

MS and other volunteers have been trying to clear gullies and manholes of leaves but KCC need to address the major blockage in George Street and culvert at the bottom of the permissive path beside West Street, as major equipment is required. **ALL** - Keep reporting blockages to KCC.

It was noted that the road margins are being seriously eroded by farm and other traffic to created 12" deep trenches beside the roads. This accident risk should be addressed but KCC only repaired a small section of the road by Brickyard Cottages, so we should expect progress to be slow. We should continue to report dangerous edge erosion as we see it.

Potholes are already opening up in Lughorse Lane (reported by SP) and East Street (notified by MS).

A dead tree has been removed from telephone lines on Redwall Lane, two days after being reported

## **8. Any other business and/or New Safety issues**

- Elm Corner remains concerned about probable damage from large or speeding vehicles, but there is nothing more that HPC can, or KCC will, do (not enough verge to place bollards) .
- Question raised about domestic debris in garden of No.1 Council Cottages, and potential health hazard; not sure if this is private or Council matter? Less car parts along lay-by there nowadays.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

To be arranged in February 2024. Later if consultation with residents (Item2) occurs around then.