

SHUTTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL & OPEN TRAFFIC PLAN MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th JUNE 2008

1. PRESENT/ APOLOGIES

Present: Cllr J Tattersall in the Chair, Cllrs J Savage, E Wood & N Perry. Parish Clerk: Mrs A Allsopp. County Cllr Mick Stanley, Borough Cllr Richard Jenkins and WCC Village Traffic Plan Officer Christine Lambert & 24 members of the public were also in attendance, with 8 staying for the remainder of the Parish Council meeting.

Apologies: Borough Cllr Tilly May.

2. OPEN FORUM

The Chair opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and by introducing County Councillor Mick Stanley and WCC Village Traffic Plan Officer Christine Lambert.

Steve McCloskey, Main Road – felt that the footpath extension was primarily for the benefit of dog walkers and the Parish Hall and that if the hedge were to be cut back then visibility would be improved and an extension would not be necessary. He would prefer to see the money spent on the repair of existing footpaths, particularly the one between Main Road and Coronation Crescent where the surface is uneven and dangerous and the one between Church Lane and Coronation Crescent where again the surface tarmac is worn and uneven, there are loose slabs, no handrail and inadequate lighting. He also commented that the verge outside the Wolferstan Arms is a disgrace – the hedge combined with the ground slippage into the road is causing high vehicles into the centre of the road and so oncoming traffic mounts the verge in order to pass and keep going.

Cllr Tattersall commented that the extension to the footpath was to allow safe access to the Play Area, particularly as the youth are in the process of bidding for funding for a Kick Wall on part of the Playing Field.

Chris Lambert brought to light the misunderstanding that she had thought the quotation was to have been for the footpath to be extended right through to New Road and not just to the corner.

Cllr Stanley explained that there is a legal responsibility of the County Council to maintain roads and paths in a safe state of repair and that this is done on a rolling program which is completely separate from the budget of £50,000 that he has available to allocate within his whole area (not just Shuttington) for new work to be done.

When put to the vote 12 residents were in favour of the footpath being extended all the way into the village and 12 again just to the corner where visibility was improved if the full length was not possible. Six residents were against the money being spent in this way.

Lindsay Cooper, Main Road – The 30-mile per hour sign is obscured and not adequately visible by the Wolferstan Arms.

Shirley Allsop, Main Road – Was in favour of bollards where the children catch the bus, but not along Main Road. Neither was she in favour of the Grass Crete as it was felt it would continue to be double-parked and possibly result in more vehicles trying to park further along Main Road. She asked if kerbs would be removed to create the Grass Crete. She also felt it was speed that was the issue that this should be addressed by traffic lights.

Cllr Wood commented that a survey had shown that the issue was inappropriate speed rather than traffic exceeding the speed limit. Better visibility afforded by the Grass Crete could increase the speed of vehicles along Main Road.

Chris Lambert confirmed that the Grass Crete would be level with the road surface.

Lindsay Cooper, Main Road – commented that she and her husband were looking at the possibility of creating parking space for their vehicles on the garden, but this would necessitate them having to cross the Grass Crete to be able to do this.

Hazel Becknell, Milner Drive – commented that she felt the Grass Crete would have an adverse effect and increase the speed of vehicles along Main Road.

Steve McCloskey, Main Road – is not happy that there can be no allocated parking on a Grass Crete.

Mike Smith, School Lane – asked if the Grass Crete would work to improve the current situation and commented that ‘The Experts’ should be offering solutions to the problem, not simply villagers being asked what they wanted.

Chris Lambert commented that there had been a number of meetings with various experts and that her role was to pull it all together and that the suggestion of the Grass Crete, amongst other things, was something that had come out of those meetings. Mick Stanley does not want to allocate his budget to impose something that is unwanted and the meeting was designed to take on board residents’ suggestions and comments so that the best course of action can be taken. There will always be a certain amount of conflict of views and assessment about who will benefit ultimately.

Ray Lloyd, Pear Tree Close – asked if this was the only solution being offered.

Cllr Wood asked if this was the only option that can be afforded.

Cllr Perry asked if residents could be presented with options and costs so that they could make an informed choice.

When put to the vote the majority were against money being spent on a Grass Crete that could possibly worsen rather than improve the current situation.

Claire Underwood, Main Road – Expressed grave concerns about the regularity of vehicles mounting the Kerb that threatened the safety of pedestrians.

Cllr Wood felt that any Village Gateway needed to be before the Parish Hall along with the 30-mile per hour limit in order to protect where children would be crossing. A Play Ground sign is also necessary to alert road-users of children crossing.

Dave Baxter, School Lane – commented that the Children Crossing/Play Area sign needed to be reflective to ensure maximum impact in all light conditions.

Chris Lambert commented that we could have an appropriate Play Area or Children Crossing sign, but that the police would not endorse moving the 30 sign because drivers need to perceive the need for the reduced speed limit and it would also be difficult to enforce. She also advised that if Dragon’s Teeth markings are used, then it is not possible to have a countdown in conjunction with them.

Cllr Perry commented that if the 30 sign were to be moved closer to the village then children would then be crossing where traffic was permitted to travel at 60-mile per hour.

Kurt Kovach, Main Road – asked if a Village Gateway would restrict the carriageway or would be just a warning.

Chris Lambert confirmed that a Gateway would not physically restrict the carriageway but that the perception of narrowing usually resulted in a slight reduction in speed. She confirmed that the Gateway would be preceded by a red anti-skid pad and Dragon’s Teeth. She also confirmed that Roundels couldn’t be used in conjunction with Dragon’s Teeth.

A Village Gateway is viewed by the majority as being favourable only as a means of aggressively reducing speed past the Play Area and residents would prefer to see the 30-mile an hour limit moved to the opposite side of the Parish Hall for this purpose. They definitely would not agree to it being moved closer to Shuttington village.

As some were unsure as to exactly what a Village Gateway exactly is, it might be very helpful to have a pictorial example superimposed on a map of Shuttington so that residents could have an accurate idea of what is being proposed and what it would look like.

Cllr Tattersall asked about the possibilities of signage to make entry to Shuttington for local Traffic only.

Chris Lambert didn’t think this would be accepted.

Diane Archer, Main Road – asked about vehicle activated signs.

Chris Lambert stated that sadly these were unlikely to be authorised because Shuttington does not have a history of serious injury and that if they are over used they lose their impact. Speed Aware signs are being used at intervals for a short period.

Kathleen Beaumont, Milner Drive – enquired about the possibility of double yellow lines.

Chris Lambert responded that the Police are not in favour of double yellow lines outside residents’ property that are difficult to enforce.

Borough Cllr Richard Jenkins asked about the possibility of Chicanes giving priority to traffic in one direction, and/or Rumble Strips, Cobbles or Speed Humps to slow traffic at the entrance to the village, or even traffic lights encasing Shuttington.

Chris Lambert stated that traffic lights were unlikely to be permitted. She also commented that Chicanes are not favoured by the Police for Shuttington, that Rumble Strips must be 200 metres away from housing and that Speed Humps or Cushions depended upon specific formula of road width etc. Chris commented that a Safety Audit would be required for Rumble Strips or Speed Humps, but promised to enquire about the feasibility of these and what options would be available to residents.

Kurt Kovach, Main Road – commented that traffic needs to be slowed by the Parish Hall.

When put to the vote the possibility of Speed Humps, Cobbles or Rumble Strips at the entrances to Shuttington was virtually unanimous with only 1 person voting against it.

Grave concerns were expressed both at this meeting and previously about the safety of the 12-15 primary school children and parents that wait for the bus on the corner of New Road and Main Road. Chris Lambert has received conflicting information about the possibility of being able to use visirail but has agreed to sort this out.

Cllr Wood asked for confirmation that the visirail would extend to the point where the children mount the bus. This comment was noted.

When put to the vote the majority were in favour of using visirail if this were possible and there was only 1 person who voted against the proposal.

Ray Lloyd, Pear Tree Close – asked if there was any possibility of the New Road/Main Road junction being changed so that the Kerbs were not sweeping as at present and were rather a sharp right-angle, so that cars were forced to slow when entering and exiting Main Road.

Chris Lambert confirmed that the Police had refused to endorse a roundabout at this junction, and that she would enquire as to whether it might be possible to change it as requested.

Cllr Tattersall asked about the possibility of a Pelican or Pedestrian Crossing.

Chris Lambert responded that there was a set formula relating to the number of cars versus pedestrians and that it was very unlikely that Shuttington would qualify.

Cllr Perry asked about the possibility of bollards along Main Road to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement, as they do constantly. Concerns were raised that this might narrow the pavement too much.

Cllr Tattersall asked whether railings might not be used instead of bollards.

Mike Smith commented that having done a detailed investigation, it was quite possible to strategically place bollards that would not restrict the pavement adversely and would still allow pushchairs to use the pavement. Up to six bollards could be accommodated, although probably 2 plus 2 would be perfectly adequate.

Chris Lambert asked if residents would be happy to have bollards outside their house. Lynda Kovach and Claire Underwood would be happy to have well designed bollards outside their properties on Main Road.

When put to the vote 16 residents were in agreement for appropriately designed bollards or some kind of railings to be strategically placed along Main Road to prevent vehicles from mounting the Kerb. Steve McCloskey was the only vote against and this was only if it restricted the pavement for disabled use.

Shirley Allsop commented that white access markings that would extend one metre to either side of the driveway would extend over her property and would result in nowhere for her to park. They had been suggested as a means of allowing pull-in places for vehicles, but some were not happy that these are not any more enforceable than double yellow lines and would therefore not be respected.

When put to the vote there was not much enthusiasm and only 10 were in favour and 1 emphatically against.

Chris Lambert agreed to take away all the comments from the meeting as noted by the Clerk, to consult again with Senior Engineers, Safety experts and the Police and to then return with costs for all options open to residents.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May were proposed as a true record by Cllr Perry, seconded by Cllr Savage, unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. TRAFFIC CALMING

This was completely covered in the Open Forum part of the meeting.

6. SPEED AWARE PROJECT – UPDATE

Alvecote has already submitted the required signatures and has enough volunteers to proceed. Shuttington has also now submitted their application to join the scheme and has a massive 20 volunteers.

7. ALVECOTE TRAVELLERS SITE - UPDATE

No update was made available.

8. PLAY FACILITIES & GOAL POSTS - UPDATE

The Chair briefly updated those present that a grant for goal posts is being sought and that we should receive a reply any day. A grant application has also been completed by the youth for a Kick Wall, etc and this is moving forward, hence the Councillors desire to ensure that youngsters are able to reach the Play Area safely.

The Chair also confirmed that a fact finding mission was in progress to see if there was any possibility of having a small toddlers play area on Milner Drive, as requested by some residents, but stressed that this is only being looked into at this stage.

9. BUS SHELTER & BENCHES - UPDATE

The Clerk reported that the agreed funding has now been deposited in the Parish Council's bank account. It became apparent from the meeting that residents would probably prefer to see the Jim Harding bench put back in its original position. Cllr Perry agreed to investigate the possibility of placing the bench in a bus shelter, rather than have a perch rail in a shelter.

10. PLANNING

There were no new planning applications.

11. REPORT FROM THE NORTH WARWICKSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE FOR PARISH COUNCILS MEETING

Cllr savage briefly reported that much of the meeting covered the Speed Awareness Project which both Alevecote and Shuttington are fully aware of and both villages have now met the signature and volunteer criteria and submitted their applications to be a part of the project.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was dealt with as per the June Correspondence List.

13. INVOICES

Invoices were approved for payment as per the June Correspondence List.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS

There was no further business raised by Councillors.

15. DATE OF AGM & NEXT MEETING - 14th July, 2008

Anita M Allsopp
12th June, 2008