

Minutes of The Traffic and Highways Committee Meeting held at the Braywood Memorial Hall on Monday 24th July 2023 at 12:00pm

Present:

Cllr S Cross (Chairman), Cllr K Elvin, Cllr N Pellew, Cllr R Tavinor, Mr M Hall (OGFRA), Mr B Inglis (Deputy Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

TH001/2023 Apologies for absence.

Apologies from Cllr Kneen and Cllr Walters, Mrs B Frame, Mrs F Allen and Mr M Watson.

TH 002/2023 Election of the Traffic and Highways Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Cllr S Cross was unanimously elected as chairman for the forthcoming year, having been proposed by Cllr Elvin and seconded by Cllr Pellew.

TH 003/2023 Councillors to confirm meeting times for the forthcoming year

It was agreed that due to the priorities being identified, and in recognition of resident concerns, that the committee should meet approximately every two months in the year ahead. The Deputy Clerk will look at the meetings calendar and advise on available dates. It was agreed that Mondays at 12 noon is the preferred time, but dates of main and planning committee meetings would be avoided.

TH 004/2023 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2023

The minutes of the meeting on 17th April 2023 were signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of Part II of the meeting on 17th April 2023 were signed by the Chairman.

TH 005/2023 To receive reports from Community Groups

Mr M Hall of OGFRA – MH noted that together with OGAFCA there was a desire to be involved with the community Speed Watch initiative, and with a Lorry Watch scheme, due to concerns with breaches of the weight limit. MH will arrange to meet with Esther Cope (Clerk) to discuss the logistics and practicalities of using the old SID in Oakley Green as previously agreed. It was agreed that data from a Speed Watch scheme could be used to help with the choice of site for this SID.

MH thanked the parish council for its ongoing air quality monitoring programme, recognising that Cllr Cross has committed to present the data to RBWM officers and keep up the pressure to have the findings recognised during their decision making surrounding planning and highways matters.

Cllr Pellew reported that he had attended a site meeting in support of residents of The Willows as they put concerns over parking and road safety in the area to an RBWM Highways officer. A proposal for the installation of a temporary barrier has been made by RBWM, with residents offering to install and maintain a hedgerow, which once established would act as an acceptable screen. Cllr Pellew will keep abreast of developments and report back to a future meeting.

TH 006/2023 Coningsby Lane traffic concerns

Several residents of Coningsby Lane were present, and the Chairman asked for input from them. Those who spoke gave some insight into the recent deterioration of the verges along the lane, which has coincided with a sharp increase in the coming and going of heavy vehicles and plant due to ongoing planning and enforcement cases. The noise being generated by this increased activity is a source of discomfort and distress to the residents, who are impacted on a regular basis.

It was noted that the use of the lane by Highways as a diversion brings significant safety issues, with the 40mph speed limit being retained. Drivers unfamiliar with the lane cause significant verge damage and present a danger to walkers, dogs, children, cyclists and horse riders and it was agreed that it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident on Coningsby Lane.

There are concerns over cabling work and a land raising project, both of which were seen as having led to flooding already, and with the presence of a natural spring in the field, the residents feel that future flooding issues are inevitable.

All residents agreed with the suggestion that a barrier be installed in the middle of the lane, meaning that the entrances on Fifield Road and Forest Green Road would be used for access only, meaning Coningsby Lane would become a no through road.

The Chairman thanked those present for their vital and knowledgeable input and urged them to carry on with the reporting of any issues to RBWM as they arise. Residents were encouraged to take photographs and videos to be used in support of comments and/or objections.

In summary, The Chairman would consult with RBWM Highways official regarding the feasibility of a barrier, and with a request that the 40mph limit be reduced, ideally to 20mph.

The Chairman will consult with RBWM Flooding official to request that ongoing work is inspected. The Chairman will contact our local PCSO to discuss the feasibility of a TVP HGV watch in the area. The Deputy Clerk will liaise with the Chairman of BPC planning committee, following which a letter would be sent to RBWM asking for clarification and updates on current planning and enforcement cases involving businesses in and around Coningsby Lane.

TH 007/2023 Village gateways

The Chairman reported that she had met with Bray ward councillors to potential sites around Bray village, to build a picture of the feasibility of this project. It was accepted that there may be issues in choosing sites around Oakley Green, and possibly Holyport. A proposal including the number of gates needed, together with associated costs will be drawn up in consultation with ward councillors and RBWM Highways officer, for presentation at a future meeting.

TH 008/2023 To agree sites and schedule for SIDs and Speed Watch Cameras

The Chairman reported that 10 locations within Bray village had been approved by TVP as Speed Watch sites, with a similar exercise to be carried in in Holyport, Fifield and Oakley Green. Four people have been trained in the use of the Speed Watch camera and manual pack, with more to follow.

SIDs have been ordered, with lead time for delivery estimated to be around 5-6 weeks. It is the intention to use the data generated from SID use to feed into the decision on Speed Watch locations. Input on the location of SIDs will be sought from residents, and The Chairman will contact Simone Surveys with the findings, and to finalise the siting of the devices.

TH 009/2023 Priority List

No new items were added to the list.

The Chairman reported that RBWM Highways officer has indicated that ongoing consideration is being given to Bray Parish Council concerns over the speed limit on the A308, the Holyport roundabout situation and the Fifield junction outside the Braywood Memorial Hall.

TH 010/2023 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be decided.