

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Road Safety Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 30th September 2009 at the Ray Shill Building, Northway, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr C Woodward (Chairman) Cllr C Cooper (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr A Allsopp Cllr D Birch
Cllr Mrs M Litherland Cllr Mrs J Shillam
Cllr B Sluz

In attendance: Mr Richard Waters, Area Programme Manager
Mr Len Reid, Northway/Ashchurch Tenants Association
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council

RS/01/09 **Election of the Committee Chairman for the forthcoming Municipal Year**

Cllr Shillam PROPOSED that Cllr Woodward be elected as Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year. Cllr Woodward accepted the nomination and Cllr Sluz SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Shillam	Cllr Sluz
	Cllr Allsopp	Cllr Birch
	Cllr Cooper	Cllr Litherland

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Woodward

RS/02/09 **Election of the Committee Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming Municipal Year**

Cllr Shillam PROPOSED that Cllr Cooper be elected as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year. Cllr Cooper accepted the nomination and Cllr Sluz SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Shillam	Cllr Sluz
	Cllr A Allsopp	Cllr Birch
	Cllr Litherland	Cllr Woodward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Cooper

RS/03/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Lewis, Mrs D Bailey, A Snarey and Cllr Goloskof had advised that he would be late.

RS/04/09 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest, as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 14th May 2008 (Min Ref C/04/08), including paragraph 12(2), were made.

RS/05/09 To discuss and / or receive an update regarding the following issues:-

Northway Lane:-

- i. **Cycle Way (over hump back bridge) / Pedestrian / cycle link to Ashchurch Station.** Mr Richard Waters reminded Members that it was the long term plan to upgrade the pedestrian cycle link to try and by pass the hump back bridge. The development on the east side is intended to provide this path but unfortunately this application has not progressed. Mr Waters admitted that the pedestrian route is not good and he is arranging to have the vegetation cut back as far as possible. He is also putting in a bid for resurfacing the path but is not certain about the capital budget. As well as this there should be a dropped kerb at the base of the bridge installed within the next two months.

Cllr Shillam reiterated the need for the improvements to this bridge as it is a well used school route.

- ii. **Hump Back Bridge.** Mr Waters informed Members that he had submitted a bid to get some safety fencing erected at this location following the removal of the hedging along the embankment, although he did not feel that this would obtain a high score. New hedging has been replanted and once this has grown will probably be adequate.
- iii. **Shrubs between Virginia Close and Co-op Car Park.** It was noted that this area which gets overgrown and obscures the view for drivers has now been incorporated for annual maintenance by Severn Vale Housing Association.
- iv. **M5 Overbridge.** Mr Water and Members discussed the existing traffic calming and weight restrictions on this bridge. The bridge has now been strengthened but Mr Waters was keen to have input from the Council on their views regarding its future. It was felt that due to the narrow width of the bridge that if two lorries were passing each other it would be very dangerous especially as there is a cycle path that is heavily used by school children. Cllr Birch mentioned that whilst visiting London he noticed a form of fencing that protected the cycle path and wondered whether this could be considered to protect users on the cycle path. Northway Parish Council AGREED that they did not wish to see the weight restriction or traffic calming removed from the bridge upon completion of works.

It was also noted that whilst the deck of the bridge is repaired early next year the road will be closed for a period but access for pedestrians and cyclists will be maintained.

- v. **Northway Lane/Shannon way junction.** It was noted that Brian Watkins, Assistant Traffic Systems Manager is currently in the process of drawing a design for the upgrading of these lights. It should be included in next years capital programme but this will not be confirmed until later in the year. Mr Waters has seen the design and advised that it is intended to reposition some of the poles, incorporate a right turn lane and to include a 'mover' system (computer controlled) to ensure the lights run more effectively as well as including a LED illumination system which is more environmentally friendly.

RS/05/09 **To discuss and / or receive an update regarding the following issues:-** (Continued)

Traffic Claming - The Park / Hardwick Bank Road / Grange Road. Now the work on these roads is completed a review of the success was requested. Mr Waters advised that this is done as a 3 stage safety audit. The first part is the design, the second part is when it is audited and then thirdly completion. It seems to have been successful but there is to be a speed survey undertaken on Grange Road shortly. This is the one section of road where residents had complained that not enough humps were included and the one that was there was incorrectly placed.

Members admitted the humps slowed smaller cars down but were not too much of a deterrent to larger cars.

Repainting of cycle lanes. Mr Waters advised that this work had been undertaken the day before.

Trunk Diversion Routes. Following the Highways Agency plans for drafting proposals for designated diversion routes in the event of emergencies Mr Waters advised that he had tried to obtain an update but had been unsuccessful.

Flooding/Drainage issues:-

Northway Lane - It was reported that there are still problems on the bend in Northway Lane between the old Youth Club and Saxon Park. At times of heavy rain the road floods significantly. Mr Waters asked if it was possible to meet with the Clerk to inspect this himself.

Old Northway Lane (by The Gould Field) - Mr Waters reported that Gloucestershire Highways are shortly to be undertaking works in this area. An old pipe has collapsed under The Plateau so it is intended to install a diversion around the embankment which will then eventually drain to the Tirlbrook.

Grange Road - There had been a request from residents for the installation of safety barriers at the footpath that enters Grange Road from Grange Court. Children had been seen running straight into the road from this path. As requested by Mr Waters the Clerk had written to the surrounding houses asking for their views and only two responses were received, one in favour and one not. Members considered this matter and AGREED that in view of the road safety aspect that railings should be installed. Mr Waters will now see if this can now be progressed.

Warren Road / Kingston Road / Oak Drive:- The possibility of assisting with some sort of scheme that would restrict the playing of football at this location was considered but Mr Richard Waters advised that there was nothing Gloucestershire Highways could do as it was not their responsibility.

RS/06/09 **Accidents since the previous meeting**

None known

RS/07/09 **Accident Data**

Mr Waters was unsure what data was normally tabled at this time and did not have any figures to hand. He agreed to see what was normally provided and if he could continue this practice.

RS/08/09 **Other Issues of Concern**

Mr Waters informed Members that he was unsure whether they were aware that an Air Quality Group had been established. This is a Consultation group including representatives from various other organisations/groups. It mainly relates to Tewkesbury Town Centre but obviously affects residents of Northway as it is also their town. He asked that the Council consider whether they would like a representative to sit on this group and if so to contact Paul Hearn at Tewkesbury Borough Council.

The Clerk informed Mr Waters that she had been contacted by a resident asking for a meeting with him to discuss the roads in Howard Close, Howard Road and Stanford Road. The Clerk passed on details so Mr Waters could contact the resident directly.

RS/09/09 **Correspondence for Information/Available in Clerk's Office**

None received

RS/10/09 **Date and Agenda for the next road Safety Committee meeting**

It was AGREED that Members should reconsider this at a later date.

RS/11/09 **Correspondence received after 24 September 2009**

The Clerk informed Members that she had been contacted by PSCO Karl Simpson offering the use of a speed gun for areas members have concerns about, he would also assist if necessary. If Members have any speed enforcement requests they can be passed through him. He also advised that if there are any areas of concern that he can provide a SDR (Speed Data Recorder) which will measure the weight, quantify and speed of traffic.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 7.35 p.m.