



The Queen's Hall
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Parish Clerk: Sam Heynes
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Roads & Traffic Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at 8.30pm on Thursday 22nd February 2024

Present: Mrs J White (Chairman), Mr A Burton, Mr P Ceccherini, Mrs A King, Mr S Oversby-Powell and Mr M Sheldon

In Attendance: Mrs S Heynes (Clerk) and Mrs N Ripert (Communications & Admin Officer)

Public Question Time: None present

RT029 To receive apologies for absence.
None received.

RT030 To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda (*The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the course of a meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it.*)
None

RT031 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2023.
The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2023 were approved and signed.

RT032 To note the Actions List.
All actions were noted.

RT033 To receive an update on traffic calming measures for Staplefield Road, Cuckfield, specifically the request for a zebra crossing to improve pedestrian safety when accessing the sports club and nursery.
Cllr White had written to Cllr Bradbury and received no reply to date, so would write again for a response. Cllr White also proposed that a 30mph zone be considered from the roundabout at Tylers Green through to the Bolnore roundabout; this would be added to a future agenda for consideration.

RT034 To consider the draft public survey regarding the proposed introduction of the 20mph zones in Cuckfield.
The committee reviewed the questions proposed in the survey and agreed to add three more questions to confirm the participants lived in Cuckfield, what was their postcode and to understand their views on the impact the 20mph zones may have. The committee agreed that the survey should be shared in the next edition of Cuckfield Life and to share the results at the Annual Parish Meeting on 11th April 2024.

RT035 To consider a response to Cllr Pete Bradbury's email regarding the proposed implementation of the 20mph zones within Cuckfield along London Lane, High Street (and South Street) and Broad Street.
The committee resolved to write a letter to Cllr Bradbury in response to his emailed views regarding the proposed 20mph zones in Cuckfield; this letter was appended to these minutes.

Cuckfield Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence on 18th May 2023, all decisions made during this meeting are done so under this power.

RT036 To consider the proposal to introduce no drive zones in front of both schools within Cuckfield.

The committee required further information to understand the principle of the no drive zones and how they were implemented. The Clerk would continue to contact WSCC to request this information.

RT037 To receive an update regarding Operation Watershed.

The drainage engineers were reviewing the extensive findings after the jetting was completed and some issues along London Lane needed to be addressed. A Teams meeting was due to be organised to discuss further updates and the next steps to be implemented.

RT038 To note/discuss any accidents added onto the spreadsheet.

Noted.

RT039 To note items arising after the preparation of this agenda which the Chairman agrees to take as urgent. Such matters will be for noting only or deferral to a future meeting only.

None.

The meeting closed at 21.29pm

Signed: _____

Next Roads and Traffic meeting: 25th April 2024

RT035: Letter to Cllr Bradbury in response to his email regarding Cuckfield 20mph zones

Cllr Pete Bradbury
West Sussex County Council

26th February 2024

Dear Pete

Thank you for your email of 30th January with your comments regarding Cuckfield Parish Council's plans to implement a 20mph limit in Cuckfield.

After another school child was hit by a fast-moving vehicle in London Lane in early February (which did not stop), the Parish Council is compelled in its resolution to act. Do we have to wait until someone is seriously injured or even killed before pedestrian safety in the village is taken seriously? By widening the pavement in London Lane, we're told we have taken highway design changes as far as we practically can. So, the next option is to limit speed to reduce the risk, particularly within the village 'triangle' (London Lane – Broad Street – High Street).

WSCC's 2022 Speed Limit Policy determines the appropriate limit according to the type of road. For 'urban residential areas' within the 'formal defined boundaries of a town or village', 'adjacent to schools', in 'rural villages' where 'roads are very narrow', it is clear a 20mph limit is appropriate and acceptable to the Highway Authority. We assume, as our County Councillor, that you had an input to the debate prior to implementation of this policy and you have accepted the collective responsibility for it. Similarly, the vote of the Parish Council debate you highlight is irrelevant as the collective resolution was to progress with the proposal. Your minuted comment at our Full Council meeting on 21st September 2023 was that, despite some reservations, you would support the Parish Council and we recall that you were instrumental in implementing the 20mph zones with flashing lights several years ago in the road areas outside the schools.

It would also seem incongruous that a 30mph limit (from the previous 50mph) can be introduced along the whole of Brook Street, where there were few safety issues noted, but no action taken where there are clear VRUs (vulnerable road users). We also have feedback that a safer route would encourage greater walking and cycling, particularly to the schools, which we hope would also reduce volume and emissions as drivers take alternative, faster routes.

In addition, the Brookleigh developments will inevitably see traffic volumes increase ever higher through Cuckfield over the next few years (we have seen a noticeable increase arising just from the recent Penland Farm). We need to be acting now to ensure that appropriate traffic route behaviours – in particular, use of the upgraded A2300 – are embedded by discouraging use of village through-routes.

We have significant road vehicle speed and volume data available from our Speed Information Devices which show that whilst most thankfully keep within the current limit there are a significant number who do not. Approximately 45% of vehicles are recorded travelling at 25mph or lower.

We also have a proposal to repurpose the four existing pelican crossings within the village to become speed devices – lights which will automatically turn red on excessive speed. This is a common device across most of Europe which seems strangely to have passed the UK by. We are told by professional highway engineers that there are no technical, legal or policy reasons

why this cannot be implemented, but WSCC feedback is that it would be unlikely, simply because it hasn't happened elsewhere!

Of course, before progressing with any changes, CPC would consult widely with residents. However, unlike the feedback you tell us about, the evidenced feedback we have received to date has been very supportive.

As highlighted, we are strengthened in action to mitigate the road safety concerns within the village, and if you have further ideas on how this may be achieved we would be pleased to discuss further with you. We would also welcome a discussion with Matt Davey, the WSCC Assistant Director for Highways Transport and Planning and Cllr Joy Dennis as Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to express our concerns as they are key to progress any changes.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Andy Burton
Chairman

Cc: Cuckfield Parish Council
Matt Davey – WSCC
Cllr Joy Dennis – WSCC
Cllr Malcolm Avery – MSDC
Cllr Jim Knight – MSDC