

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL

SAFETY GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th November 2020 7.30 pm

Virtually using Zoom

Present: Paul Webb (Chair), Robin Dyos, Helen McMenamin-Smith, Gill Miller, Jim Perry, Liz swift, Geraldine Tate and Brenda Wilson

Also present for the first parts of the meeting County Councillor Joshua Schumann and John Smith (Burwell Bike Club)

S/171120/01 Apologies for absence and declarations of interests

There were no apologies for absence and no declarations of interests.

S/171120/02 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2020 were approved. Proposed Liz swift, seconded Robin Dyos.

County Councillor Joshua Schumann updated the group on the request for the repainting of road markings in the village. Bob Rossiter Highways Supervisor has advised that an order has been placed for the road markings to be repainted. Bob Rossiter to inform Cllr. Schumann when work is likely to commence and which areas will be prioritised first. He continued to explain that funding is still secure for the cycleway between Burwell and Exning within the Section 106 Agreement for the Newmarket Road Development. This Land is intending to submit the planning application by the end of the year. Joshua Schumann reported that he has asked the County Council to make him aware of any Government funding available for cycleways.

Joshua Schumann left the meeting.

S/171120/03 Burwell Bike Club Presentation

John Smith gave a presentation on the Cycle Safety Survey carried out by Tom Judd of the Burwell Bike Club. He explained that cycling is one word but covers a very wide range of activities, but all have a common concern regarding safety. Cyclists even with body protection are vulnerable to injury from a fall or collision at any speed and unfortunately not all end with only a minor injury. This risk prevents many people either cycling or returning to cycling. Many of these incidents involving more than one person results due to the use of shared space i.e. road or path. John continued by explaining some of the issues that arise when space is shared such as speed differentials, air turbulence from high speed vehicles in close proximity, visibility issues, best practices not being adhered to by all parties. Cycle Paths shared with pedestrians also have their issues with a conflict of usage especially in built up areas, unclear signage, narrowness of paths for a two way flow and difficulty hearing approaching riders. Discontinuous cycle paths and routes are also problematic with cyclists having to make multiple transitions from road to path to road.

John then spoke of the three main routes out of Burwell, heading for Fordham, Swaffham Prior and Newmarket and the dangerous and lethal aspects of these roads for cyclists. He explained that the Bike Club uses detours to avoid these hazards. This is not a major issue for a social ride with no time pressure, but not so for a commuter.

John said that in an ideal world the solution would be a continuous network of dedicated cycle paths/routes connecting all local villages and towns. The best locally is the one from Anglesey Abbey to Quy.

Within the village there are a number of areas which cyclist avoid or need to avoid or be very cautious about. They are:

- All three major exit routes to Exning, Fordham and Swaffham Prior
- High Street intersection with Isaacson Road
- One-way system outside the Fox
- North Street by the Coop, car parking and buses
- Blind bends on Reach Road
- 4-way intersection Parsonage Lane, Newmarket Road and the High Street
- Right turn from Causeway on to the High Street
- Overtaking parked cars throughout the village

An option to create a route from one end of the village to the other avoiding all of these areas would be advantageous.

John Smith was thanked for his presentation and the work of the Bike Club in putting together the report.

It was agreed that the report should be looked at in more detail at a future meeting, probably the second one in 2021.

S/171120/04 Burwell to Exning Cycleway

Latest update provided by County Councillor Joshua Schumann at the start of the meeting.

S/171120/05 Buntings Path Road Markings and School Sign Issues

The Clerk reported that the keep clear wording and zigzags have been repainted outside of the Sports Hall entrance. Both school warning signs at either end of the road are clean and clear from overgrown hedges and overhanging trees.

S/171120/06 MVAS – Update

Paul Webb reported that the MVAS signs will not be moved during lockdown, but batteries will be changed as necessary. The signs will be situated on the High Street, Ness Road and Swaffham Road over the Christmas period.

S/171120/07 Speedwatch

Speedwatch is currently not taking place due to the 2nd national lockdown. The one planned prior to lockdown did not go ahead due to poor weather. As MVAS signs will now be used to carry out sessions in the future, all equipment other than the warning signs has been returned. Thanks, was given to Brenda and Helen, and all of the other volunteers for their work.

S/171120/08 Consideration of the Action Update Sheet

It was agreed that the Interactive Speed Signs Risk Assessments should be removed. The Clerk to check if she has received a response from Lucy Frazer QC MP regarding the A142/A14 junction.

The Safety Campaign to be discussed in detail at the next meeting. Helen McMenamin-Smith informed the group that she has photos of a number of vehicles that have been parked inconsiderately in the village. It was suggested that these should be retained so that they can be addressed as part of the Safety Campaign. The Clerk also suggested that if the cars are illegally parked then there maybe a way that they could be reported to the Police online. Parked cars at the bottom of Buntings Path cause vehicles approaching Silver Street from Buntings Path to travel on the wrong side of the road, causing a risk of

meeting traffic turning in to Buntings Path head on. Parking outside Elk also leads to confusion going into the one-way system. A North Street, Silver Street one-way system had previously been suggested, with a survey being carried out of those most affected to ascertain resident's thoughts on the suggestion. This will be discussed again at a later date.

S/171120/09 Any other business

1.Flooding outside GMH

Yvonne Rix reported that concern had been raised regarding the water accumulation when raining on the road outside the Gardiner Memorial Hall. This has been passed to Highways for their attention.

Gill Miller raised concern that one of the lights in Swann Alley is covered by tree branches and therefore causing the alley to be very dark in places. She was asked to let the Clerk know the number of the light so that this could be reported to streetlighting.

S/171120/10 Date of the next meeting

The next Safety Group meeting will be held on 19th January 2021. Members of the group were asked to let the Clerk know of any matters for discussion in time for the agenda being sent out.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed

Dated