Burwell Parish Council

Safety Group Meeting – 19.3.2024 7.30 pm at the Jubilee Reading Room

Minutes

Present: Paul Webb (Chair), Jim Perry, Brenda Wilson, Ian Woodroofe, Lea Dodds, Liz Swift.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Geraldine Tate.

2. Approval of draft minutes of the meeting held on 23.1.24

The minutes of the meeting held on 23.1.24 were approved. Proposed by Jim Perry and seconded by Liz Swift.

3. 20 mile per hour village restriction

The group noted a summary sent out by Paul Webb in view of recent statements made by the Government. Following the recent Council meeting when it was agreed that the delivery of the scheme should be moved to the next stage, the Clerk has written to Highways and asked for a face-to-face meeting with them. It is intended to hold a public exhibition at Mandeville Hall during the statutory consultation period providing details of the scheme and if confirmed, as acceptable by Highways, a means for the public to make comments on the proposal as part of the 21-day statutory consultation. Having stands outside of either the Co-op or the Jubilee Reading Room was also suggested, along with having drop boxes for comments. It was felt that there is no need to go overboard with the consultation. Ian Woodroofe said that he would like to see Highways leading the project in essence and working with the Parish Council. The date for the meeting with Highways will be shared once known and all members of the Safety Group are welcome to attend. Anyone unable to attend the meeting should forward questions that the wish to be raised to the Clerk.

It was agreed that, if possible, an ideal time for the restriction to be implemented is at the start of the new school year. Having something on Burwell Radio is also an option. The Clerk to put an update on the decision by Council on the Burwell Community Facebook page over the next couple of days. Jim Perry informed Council that Lucy Fraser may get questions from the community about the restriction when she attends her surgery at the weekend and should a couple of members from the Safety Group be there to help her answer the questions. It was agreed that this would not be necessary.

4. Parking on the Causeway

An email has been received from the resident about people who are parking their vehicles on the pavement along the Causeway. Lea Dodds reminded the Group that when the Police and Crime Commissioner previously attended a Council meeting, he had said that if there are issues that he could help with to contact him. There appears to be no law about parking on a pavement, but it is against the law to drive on a pavement. The Police have to have seen the crime actually taking place if they wish to act. In some areas photographic evidence from members of the public has been used to prosecute. Digital photos often have the date and time on them to clarify when the crime has taken place. It was agreed that the following action would be taken:

* A letter delivered to all residents asking that they do not park on the pavement along the Causeway.
* A letter sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner (Lea Dodds to draft)
* A request to be included in the next edition of Clunch.
* Photos of parked cars on the Causeway path to be sent to the Clerk.
* Letters on windscreens

Liz swift informed the group that she has invited the Jo Andow (Community Safety Partnership) and the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 7th May 2024.

5. Buntings Path – Speeding

The Safety Group considered the email sent in by Mirka Bures regarding traffic on Buntings Path and the dangers that it causes. MVAS data in the past has not shown any great issues with the speed of the traffic on Buntings Path. Having the 20-mph restriction in place will help slow the traffic down and generally making it safer which will be beneficial around the entrances to the school. The Safety Group are optimistic about the impact the lower speed restriction will have. The Clerk was asked to write back to Ms Bures thanking her for her views and about the possible implementation of the 20-mph speed limit.

6. A to B1102 Revised Bus Routes

Liz Swift explained that she represents the Council on the A to B1102 Group and that the group has been campaigning for a better bus service. Meetings have taken place with the mayor of the Combined Authority, who hold the budget for public transport. The group is also campaigning for buses directly to the Post 16 establishments in Cambridge. The group carried out a survey on public transport in the area and has analysed the results. The results have been presented to the mayor.

The group has come up with an initial proposal for a bus service for the area. The proposal is in its infancy and would now like the support from the parishes involved. Much more information is required regarding frequency and times.

***The Safety Group recommends to Full Council that they support the A to B1102 Bus Routes Proposal.***

The A to B1102 Group has also suggested that parishes consider using CIL funding to provide improved bus shelters and to contribute towards bus hubs.

Ian Woodroofe told the Safety Group about an app that gives real time data for buses.

7. MVAS Signs Update

The MVAS units are now back with Westcotec for checking. One of the signs if fine and needs no work carried out. There will be a small inspection fee of £45.00 for this.

The other two machines both need to have work done to them. This includes replacing the poly case at a cost of £410.00 plus VAT per sign. The software on the machines will also be updated. The repair is likely to take between 2 and 3 weeks to carry out. It appears that the Nitric Oxide sensor has not been working at all. The Council could pay for a sim card to allow the data to be collected and analysed. This would cost £660.00 for the year. The Group agreed not to purchase the sim card as they could gain little from the results.

Westcotec is willing to provide training for the signs in Burwell. This will cost £495.00. The group that felt that this would be a better option. Especially as it will be easier for Debbie Cawley and George Rowland to attend. The training should last between 2 and 3 hours and the Council’s equipment can be used. The repairs and training can be covered by the balance of the Safety Campaign budget. ***The Group recommends to Full Council that the MVAS signs are repaired at a cost of £865.00 plus VAT and that training is carried out in Burwell at a cost of £495.00.***

Paul Webb to clarify the warranty period and if the machines automatically calibrate from Westcotec. The machines can be adjusted easily to reflect the new 20 mph speed restriction. A question can be raised at the training about maintenance requirements for the signs.

8. Zebra Crossing Newmarket Road Junction

Two emails had been received regarding safety issues with the zebra crossing opposite the post office near the Newmarket Road junction. The markings have faded. The Clerk was asked to report to Highways and also send a copy of the emails from the residents, along with requesting some remedial action. Lea Dodds reported that it is difficult to realise that there is a crossing and suggested that we should be asked for the existing lights to be changed to the LED Halo lights. Some downlighters pointing over the crossing could make the crossing more visible. A raised crossing signs on the approaches to the crossing could also help. The lower speed restriction will also help.

9. Signage – Burwell Village College

A letter has been received from the school Governors regarding signage for the school along the Causeway. There is a school crossing sign, but this is dirty, has a patrol sign underneath which is no longer relevant and also is fixed to a post at a height that is often blocked from view by parked vehicles. The Clerk to write to Highways about this and also respond to the letter from the Governors detailing the action to be taken and also to let them know the Liz Swift, Parish Council Chair agrees with the action to be taken.

Paul Webb asked group members to consider projects for the 2025/2026 Local Highway Improvement Scheme. He asked those involved with the Parish Council Emergency Plan what needs to happen to move the plan forward as it is due to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Liz Swift informed the group that concern has been raised about the movement of parked vehicles on the area outside the chemist and estate agents. Apparently, the Minister of the Methodist Church is willing to allow cars going to the chemist and estate agents to park in their car park. It was agreed that the Clerk should make contact with the Methodist Minister for confirmation and if he agrees to cars using the car park, then ways to publicise this can be explored.

10.Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21st May 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Signed Dated