

Draft Minutes of Traffic Advisory Group
Wednesday 28th July 2021, 7.30pm
held Tasburgh Main Hall

Present: Cllrs Willie Crawshay, Geoff Merchant and Andrew Patrick
Jeff Anderson, Martin Lyddall, Jim Barton and Nik Adams and Tina Eagle (Clerk)

Also in attendance: 1 member of the public

1. Welcome & Introductions

Those present were welcomed and thanked for their attendance. This was followed by a round of introductions

Apologies were received from Jill Casson.

2. Election of Chair

Cllr Willie Crawshay was unanimously approved as Chair. It was **agreed** that the term of office would be for a period of 12 months.

3. Election of Vice Chair

Jeff Anderson was unanimously approved as Vice Chair by members. It was **agreed** that the term of office would be for a period of 12 months.

4. Declarations of interest for items on the agenda and applications for dispensations
None

5. Aim of the meeting

Individual aims of those present included:

- Ways of controlling speed along Low Road, and the bends on Grove Lane.
- Overall needs of traffic control within Tasburgh
- Parking/vehicle obstruction
- Footpaths
- Retaining the quality of life for those who use Low Road
- Overgrown hedges, ignoring one-way signage
- Speeding – traffic calming measures on the bends
- Overall safety of everyone in the village
- Importance of pedestrian awareness.
- Flooding, and A140 closures which effect where traffic gets diverted too

6. Update on current traffic calming measures

Community Speed Watch Group (CSW)

The CSW was set up at the beginning of 2018. 3 locations were risk assessed and approved by Norfolk Constabulary/Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership Scheme one on Church Road, one outside the Village Hall on Grove Lane and another on Low Road. All sites had to be within 30mph limits. Sessions were most effective when they were held early morning/late afternoon and in order to keep volunteers interested sessions were only held between April – September. It was noted that volunteers quickly realised that speed is definitely a perception.

Due to Covid-19 the group had been unable to hold any sessions, and with a decline in enthusiasm from volunteers only three now remain. Jim Barton had come forward as a volunteer and his application is currently being processed by Norfolk Constabulary Camera. More volunteers are needed though. Willie Crawshay advised that he would be stepping down as Co-ordinator of the group and one of the current volunteers had indicated an interest in taking over the role.

Whilst those caught speeding will receive a written response by Norfolk Constabulary it was noted that disappointingly this does not apply to commercial vehicles. It was suggested this should be followed up direct with Norfolk Constabulary. It was noted that CSW groups can provide that visual impact that changes driver behaviour even if only momentarily. It was noted that the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team are starting to attend CSW group sessions if required, but consistency is key.

Jeff Anderson reported that it would be worth looking into whether air-tubes are currently still being used by the Police as they are also a very effective means for recording volume/speed over a set period of time.

Action: It was **agreed** to contact Norfolk Constabulary to enquire why commercial vehicles are not sent a speeder letter. **WC**

SAM2

The speed awareness machine is currently moved around the village on a monthly basis to set locations within 30mph limits as previously risk assessed and agreed by Norfolk County Council. It provides no enforceable function. There is currently only one machine owned by the Parish Council at the moment but this could change if it was considered there was a identified need for a second. There is a considerable amount of monthly data downloaded and visual graphs which are uploaded onto the Parish Council website, signposted on the Parish Council's facebook page and also forwarded onto PC Sherry Locke, the Local Beat Manager for the area.

Highway scheme for Low Road

It was identified by Highways that it would be difficult to enforce speeding along Low Road due to a lack of 30mph repeater signs. A proposal for 8 additional repeater signs had recently been approved and is currently being processed. It was noted that when the additional locations for the repeater signs are identified the location list for the SAM2 would need to be reviewed to accommodate the additional site locations.

The Parish Council also put forward a second proposal for the consideration of pedestrian white lines to be placed along Low Road and on the bends on Grove Lane similar to those on Cargate Lane, in Saxlingham. This was turned down by Highways as it was considered it would give pedestrian/s a false sense of security. Geoff Merchant reported that the Parish Council had found dealing with Highways very frustrating but hoped this might change any future requests made by the Parish Council due to the expertise of members from this group.

It was noted that following the installation of the traffic calming scheme at Bawburgh to reduce traffic speeds it was suggested that the Parish Council keep a log of any traffic incidents, witnessed and reported on Low Road. In doing so would help provide the

necessary evidence to look at further traffic calming measures on Low Road if required. More evidence is required of specific incidents to include abuse of one-way system on Church Hill, abuse of HGV's ignoring 7.5 weight limit, and speeding in general.

Discussion took place on inconsiderate parking within the community in particular on the corner of Church Road/Henry Preston Road where there have been a number of incidents previously reported to the Parish Council.

Action: It was **agreed** to provide the history of correspondence relating to these matters for future consideration by the group. **Clerk**

7. To consider and agree priorities for the future

It was **agreed** the areas of importance that needed to be covered were:

- speeding in general
- abuse of one-way system on Church Hill, followed by
- abuse of HGV's ignoring 7.5 weight limit signs.

It was **agreed** to undertake some research on the above areas obtaining as much evidence as possible for further discussion for meeting to be held in September.

Recommendations for the Parish Council were **agreed** as follows:

- To request contact is made with PC Sherry Locke to establish if air-tubes are still available/currently being used by Norfolk Constabulary.
- To request evidence log includes specific incidents involving Church Hill one-way abuse, HGV's abuse of weight limit restrictions and speeding in general for publication on Parish Council facebook page and on Tasburgh Times.

The member of the public wished to raise their concerns from a pedestrian perspective the most dangerous time to walk is during school drop-off times.

8. Draft calendar of meetings for 2021/22

It was **agreed** before setting the next quarterly meeting dates an additional meeting would be held in September to consider and collate the information gathered on the identified priorities for further consideration.

Date for next meeting: To be confirmed, start time 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm