

Minutes of Traffic Advisory Group
Tuesday 14th September 2021, 7.30pm
held at Tasburgh Main Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Willie Crawshay (Chair) Jill Casson and Geoff Merchant
Martin Lyddall, Jim Barton, Nik Adams, Jane Hope and Tina Eagle (Clerk)

Also in attendance: 2 members of the public

1. Attendance & Apologies

Those present were welcomed and thanked for their attendance. Jane Hope, newly co-opted onto the group by the Parish Council was warmly welcomed. A round of introductions took place.

Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Patrick and Jeff Anderson

2. Declarations of interest for items on the agenda and applications for dispensations

None

3. Minutes of meeting held on 28th July 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting previously circulated were considered. An amendment was requested to Agenda item 6 to add 'that the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator' after 'It was agreed'. With this amendment the minutes were accepted as a true recording of the proceedings.

4. Matters arising from minutes

a) Community Speed Watch Group

Jill Casson advised that she had now taken over as Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator and had received confirmation from 6 volunteers that they are still interested in assisting with the speed watch sessions. Their first session is planned for Church Road.

b) Commercial vehicles speeding letter

It was noted that commercial vehicles are sent a letter when caught speeding by the Community Speed Watch team. Norfolk Constabulary had advised that the only companies not sent a letter are Hire Companies. The reason being that Hire Companies tend to charge an admin fee (normally around £25) for forwarding the letter, and if the plate is misread or even disputed by the renter Norfolk Constabulary have no firm evidence that the vehicle was in fact correct.

c) Church Road/Henry Preston Road inconsiderate parking

Details had been previously circulated and a summarized version of the events that took place in 2017 was presented to the group. After considerable discussion on the matter it was **agreed** not to take forward a recommendation to the Parish Council requesting that the owner of the vehicle should park more considerately and the matter would not be worth pursuing further. 1 in favor, 4 against.

d) Availability of air tubes

PC Sherry Locke had advised that air tubes are no longer used. Any concerns should be forwarded to her and passed onto the Safety Camera team, who will assess the initial complaint and possibly install a covert monitor or visit with their camera van.

e) Evidence Log

It was noted that the Parish Council had supported the recommendation to widen the scope of the evidence log to include incidents involving Church Hill one-way system, speeding in general and HGV's abuse of weight limit restrictions.

5. Highway response in relation to DfT extracts

The members of the public present were very dissatisfied with the response received from Highways to the Parish Council in relation to the points raised from extracts of Department of Transport (DfT) and are refusing to apply a 20mph speed limit in the village.

Whilst Highways state that the only roads being progressed are new estate roads, there are however exceptions to this. Bawburgh had recently secured a 20mph limit with similar proposals for Lower Costessey, Cringleford and recently Hempnall had a 20mph installed for a blind bend. If Highways decline to implement 20mph limits then how can pedestrians feel safe to walk in the village especially on Low Road which is an unclassified road?

Jill Casson advised with specific reference to the installation of traffic calming measures at Bawburgh, there had already been an issue with poor compliance with the existing speed limit for some time but it took seven years to collect the evidence required. As yet we do know that the new traffic calming measures have made any improvement.

It was also noted that Tharston & Hapton had been collecting SAM2 data for six years and the evidence being collected now is just starting to provide data that could bring about change. It was **agreed** to find out what data they are analysing that is producing credible evidence. **Action: Clerk**

Geoff Merchant noted that the Parish Council have no power other than to forward complaints received directly onto Highways. The Highway Department receive a vast amount of requests from hundreds of parishes and are not able to support all of them. They have however, supported the proposal for additional 30mph repeater signs on Low Road. To bring about change takes time, we must continue to produce credible evidence and with the expertise of the members of this group we hopefully can.

Willie Crawshay advised we need to work harder to continue building credible evidence, via our monthly SAM2 data and evidence log.

Jill Casson reported that the Parish Council had recently agreed to purchase an additional SAM2 specifically for use on Low Road. This will enable monthly data to be collected on this stretch of road and will continue to be forwarded to PC Locke.

It was **agreed** that the SAM2 data needed to be analyzed in more depth to ensure it is effective in building a credible case. This would require perhaps a volunteer from the community who has the relevant skill set to extract and analyze the data from the vast amount of statistics collected.

It was **agreed** that a brief would be prepared of what information is required from the SAM2 data to produce credible evidence to Highways for next meeting. **Action JB/Clerk**

6. Update on research gathered

- Speeding in general

The report provided by Jeff Anderson previously circulated was noted.

- Abuse of one-way system on Church Hill

It was noted that the vegetation had been removed from around the No-entry signs at the top of Church Hill making them more visible to drivers. This had made a slight improvement to the numbers of vehicles accessing Church Hill from the top.

- It was **agreed** to inform Willie Crawshay of the date/time of any vehicles abusing the one-way system as soon as possible to enable the details to be passed to PC Sherry Locke in a timely fashion. **Action: WC/Clerk**

- Abuse of HGV's ignoring 7.5 weight limit signs

It was reported that two incidents had been reported to PC Locke in August but nothing as yet for September. WC had recently stopped two HGV's but both had legitimate reasons to be within the weight limit.

The overgrown vegetation around the weight limit sign at the entrance to Low Road, Hempnall side had been reported to Highways.

7. Draft calendar of meetings for 2021/22

It was **agreed** to forward potential dates for January and March 2022.

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

Meeting closed at 9.05pm