

**Minutes of Transport Committee Meeting held in the  
Community Office, Bruton  
on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Anderton, Karen Baker, Brownlow, Hood, Jones and Sida.  
In the Chair: Councillor Hood  
In Attendance: The Assistant Clerk

**1. Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from Councillor Pickering.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Hood declared a possible personal interest in item 4 by virtue of living nearby.

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

**Resolved 6-0-0 [for-against-abstained]**

**4. St Catherine's Hill**

A resident had expressed concern about illegal parking and fallen leaves obscuring the double yellow lines. It was noted that the introduction of parking restrictions enforced by Traffic Wardens had reduced the incidence of obstructive parking in the area, and the positioning of a dog waste bin had also helped, but motorists prepared to take a chance and park illegally are not easily deterred. However if local residents were to sweep away leaves obscuring the yellow lines it could be a great help to strangers who might otherwise break the law unwittingly. Extra signage is not an option because the old ***No waiting at any time*** signs are no longer favoured by the Department of Transport and are being phased out.

It was proposed and seconded that no further action be taken.

**Resolved 6-0-0**

**5. Park Wall (Park Road)**

The Committee acknowledged a resident's repeated expressions of concern about speeding and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) using Park Road, with the consequent danger to pedestrians including children. It was noted that similar problems afflict several roads in the town and that the dangers of traffic on Park Road did not feature prominently in responses to the Town Plan consultation. Drivers who defy existing signs and restrictions are unlikely to be deterred by additional signs and Police resources are concentrated on roads carrying more traffic. The 7.5t. weight restriction in the town

does not apply to HGVs serving local businesses but the Council is hoping to introduce a Lorry Watch scheme which should help reduce the number of non-exempt HGVs using the town's roads illegally (see also item 11, below).

It was proposed and seconded that Park Road should not be treated in isolation but included with other Bruton roads in measures to tackle the town's traffic problems.

**Resolved 6-0-0**

## **6. Dropping Lane**

The Committee noted that the dangers of this narrow, steep and windy section of a busy road are exacerbated by excessive surface water, encroaching foliage and unstable banks. The Highways Department of Somerset County Council (Highways) had found that the road did not meet the criteria for a 40mph speed limit but white lines would be painted along the edges of the road, a measure which influences drivers into reducing speed voluntarily.

It was proposed and seconded that Highways be asked again to deal with this long-standing and dangerous problem.

**Resolved 6-0-0**

*[Clerk's note: Councillor Hood duly emailed Highways who replied that work on the highway drains along Dropping Lane is scheduled for later this year, possibly around September. Highways will take advantage of the necessary road closure to tackle encroaching surface water and work with local landowners to cut back the vegetation.]*

## **7. High Street – Mill Lane junction**

It was observed that drivers who turn left (illegally) after emerging from Mill Lane almost certainly do so knowingly.

It was proposed and seconded that problems at this junction should not be considered in isolation but included in longer-term plans to deal with traffic problems on the High Street.

**Resolved 6-0-0**

## **8. Street Lighting at Cuckoo Hill**

Conservation Officers from Somerset County Council (SCC) and South Somerset District Council (SSDC) had attended a late evening site meeting and agreed that the street lights at Cuckoo Hill were over the top: too high, too many and far too bright. Councillors noted that not only did the blaze of excessive light disfigure the countryside for miles around but it could also represent a danger to human health, it could be dangerous for road users driving from bright light into comparative darkness and it interfered with wildlife sleeping patterns. Unfortunately Highways seems unprepared to take any action to mitigate these problems.

It was proposed and seconded that the Committee should continue to press SCC officials and encourage County Councillors to make Highways take these problems more seriously and instigate measures to mitigate or resolve them.

**Resolved 6-0-0**

## **9. Pedestrian Safety**

The Committee considered a number of areas of particular concern:

- **The route between the SSDC car park at Tolbury Mill and the school.** Neither the school nor SSDC seem interested or concerned so it was agreed to seek support from Highways whose responsibilities include pedestrian safety.
- **Crossing the road at West End.** It was agreed to consider this as part of longer-term plans to deal with traffic and pedestrian safety on the High Street.
- **Crossing the road at Plox.** It was suggested that re-routing the footpath from Lower Backway so that it met the road further down the hill (to the west) would make crossing the road safer. It was agreed to investigate this further and consider whether it should be prioritised for action and expenditure in 2019/20.
- **Station Road.** It was agreed to explore measures to improve pedestrian safety on the road and adjacent footpaths, in conjunction with Highways, neighbouring landowners and Bruton Community Partnership. Depending on the outcome of these investigations the Committee would consider whether this matter should be prioritised for action and expenditure in 2019/20.

The Committee agreed to have a 'walk about' in September to visit these and other sites in and around the town and review areas where there were problems for pedestrians and other road users.

#### **10. Speed limits on minor roads.**

It was agreed that since Highways would not countenance a 40mph limit on individual roads like Dropping Lane there was no point in lobbying for a 40mph speed limit on all the minor roads in the parish. However plans for a new factory access at Wyke Champflower would provide an opportunity to get Highways to look again at traffic problems on Wyke Road and Wyke Lane.

#### **11. HGVs and the 7.5t. weight limit.**

Committee members are continuing discussions with local businesses about the possibility of reducing or better managing the passage of exempted HGVs through the town. The importance of a Lorry Watch scheme is increasingly apparent.

#### **12. Library Junction.**

It was agreed to put on a Presentation of the proposed scheme in both the afternoon and the evening so as to give as many residents as possible a chance to find out about the proposals.

**[Clerk's note:** *Two presentations have been arranged at Bruton Community Hall on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, one at 2pm and another at 7pm*]

The meeting finished at 8.47pm

The next meeting of the Transport Committee will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm