

**Draft Minutes of Transport Committee Meeting held in the
Community Office, Bruton
on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 7.30pm**

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

- 1. Apologies for Absence** - No apologies were received.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - No Councillor had any interests to declare
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on 13th November 2018**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2018 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Resolved 5-0-0 [For-against-abstain]

4. Matters raised by residents

i. Safety concerns over traffic speeds at the junction of Park Wall with Dropping Lane:

- A resident who lives near this junction described the dangers and frequent accidents caused by westbound traffic entering Park Wall from Dropping Lane without reducing speed: recent examples include a cyclist knocked off his bicycle and two fugitives from the nearby pig unit killed on the road. The many pedestrians who walk along or cross Park Wall are particularly at risk.
- It was noted that although the junction is within a 30mph zone there is a tendency for traffic to go faster downhill and Councillors felt that more prominent 30mph signs were unlikely to make much difference.
- The volume of traffic using Park Wall has increased substantially in recent years, possibly because drivers want to avoid the congested High Street.
- Some years ago a Somerset County Council (SCC) Highways traffic engineer recommended a 'build out' of the kerb on the southern side of the carriageway at the junction, judging this to be an effective and inexpensive way of slowing down traffic at the junction.

It was proposed and seconded that SCC Highways be asked to alter the lay-out of the junction in the interests of greater road safety.

Resolved 5-0-0

ii. Roadside detritus in Cheek Lane - Councillors agreed to find out who was responsible and ask them to remove the rubbish.

iii. Bypass to the East of the town centre:

- A resident had written to the Council suggesting that building a new road between Quaperlake Street (by the Unionist Club) and the B3081 (by Station Road car park) and altering the one-way system on and near Patwell Street would relieve traffic movement in the town centre and bring other advantages.
- Councillors felt that for all the merits of these proposals they would be prohibitively expensive and would conflict with the Council's policy of prioritising the needs of pedestrians over the free movement of traffic, and therefore they were unable to support them.

5. Speed Indicator Device (SID) - After a short discussion

It was proposed and seconded that the Clerk be authorised to obtain a quotation from and if appropriate agree a contract with a local contractor for the installation and management of a SID.

Resolved 5-0-0

6. Footpaths:

- Councillors considered the footpath survey conducted by the Bruton Community Partnership Footpath Group and agreed to report to the Full Council with recommendations for further action.
- The Committee responded to SCC's Parish Paths consultation. It saw no need to comment on the clearance schedule but

It was proposed and seconded that the following local footpaths be classified as follows:

A. From Category 3 (rarely used) to Category 2 (occasionally used):

- **WN 5/2 - Marksdanes to Whaddon Hill**

B. From Category 2 to Category 1 (frequently used):

- **WN 5/4 - Burrowfield to Coombe Hill Farm**
- **WN 4/36 - Whitehouse Farm to Macmillan/Leyland trail**

C. From category 3 to Category 1

- **WN 5/45 - Coombe Wood, upper path**
- **WN 5/39 – (part) Hauser and Wirth to Hardway (via Marydown and Deadman's Hole)**

Resolved 5-0-0

7. Ghost pavement on Shute Lane:

- The Committee noted with regret that SCC Highways had reversed its earlier agreement to consider the installation of a 'ghost pavement' or virtual footway.
- Councillors agreed to ask SCC Highways to remove the central white line in the interests of road safety. The line seems to encourage faster driving while discouraging drivers from giving pedestrians a wide berth and it was therefore removed some years ago, but it was recently reinstated, presumably in error.

8. Car parking:

- i. **Tolbury Mill and Higher Backway car parks** – The Committee regretted that South Somerset District Council does not give a high priority to the maintenance of these car parks but Councillors were pleased that the vegetation had been cleared.
- ii. **SCC's new parking strategy** – The Committee noted that SCC has introduced a rolling programme of 'whole town' reviews in place of its previous piecemeal approach. After discussing the pros and cons of a range of different options, including charging and residents' permits, Councillors agreed to refer the matter to the full Council for discussion and decision.

9. Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) – Councillors discussed a new system for enforcing the town's 7.5t. weight limit without disadvantaging local businesses.

It was proposed and seconded that the new HGV policy be recommended to the full Council for adoption, subject to Police agreement.

Resolved 5-0-0

10. For information – The Committee noted that no action had yet been taken to move the bike rack from the Station Road car park to Crown Green, to remove the redundant road signs on the churchyard wall and at the junction of Plox with Godminster Lane, or to repair the defective pavement on Silver Street.

11. Next meeting – the next meeting of the Committee will be on March 12th, 2019