

MINUTES of the MEETING of the

**TOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 7pm

Councillor R Fryer in the chair

**Membership:** Councillors Baker, Davis, Field, Fryer, March, Nicklin, Ridout, Messrs Jolley, Montagu and Parks

**Present:** Councillors Davis, Field, Fryer, March, Nicklin, Messrs Jolley and Parks

**325. Apologies and Substitutions** – Councillors Baker (ill) and Ridout

**326. Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**327. Chairman’s Announcements** – None.

**328. Public Participation**

**Gary Naylor, 4 Beech Grove, Warminster – agenda item 11b, Waiting restriction Beech Grove** – advised the Members that he had been a resident of Beech Grove for 8 years and since moving there weekly debates had been held about the difficulty of road usage in Beech Grove as it is used as a ‘rat run’. It was decided by the residents that their thoughts should be collected and put in a document which had been presented to the Members. This document contained 80 signatures requesting something be done to help the situation in Beech Grove. It had been suggested that traffic calming measures be used and the residents realise that this will take time and expense and so requested signage saying ‘Access only – residential area’.

**Heather Spurr, 16 Folly Lane, Warminster – agenda item 8, Folly Lane** – advised the Members that a group of residents live part way up Folly Lane where the section of lane nearest their houses is, in parts, too narrow for two vehicles to pass. It has no pavement and no street lights. The lane is the only access to Warminster Rugby Club which generates a lot of traffic at various times during the week. It is also well used by dog walkers and residents on foot and sometimes horse riders. Wildlife frequents the land, particularly badgers after dark. This set of circumstances has created a unique scenario in Warminster where traffic accessing a major leisure facility is sharing the same space as pedestrians, including children. This dangerous situation is compounded by the fact that there are both bends in the road and the brow of a hill, meaning that vision is extremely poor. There have been many near misses along this stretch including near collisions from cars coming over the brow of the hill unable to see residents pulling out of their drives. Children and adults walking on the land have had to jump clear of cars, and animals – both wild and family pets – have been hit and in some cases killed. These are not isolated incidents as the residents witness them frequently.

Given the above circumstances the current speed limit of 30mph is way too fast. The speed limit needs to be reduced and traffic calming installed to enforce this. The residents are working with the Rugby Club, who are also concerned, to highlight the problem to all users. Leaflets have been given out to users of the Rugby Club asking them to reduce their speed and the Rugby Club has added the same notice to their website and on their clubhouse TV screen. The residents have written to the Warminster Journal who featured an article highlighting the issues. A further letter from an unnamed user of Folly Lane to the Journal was printed last week saying "I narrowly avoided an accident recently, not for the first time. It is obvious to anyone with knowledge of traffic and accidents that siting a club there was lunacy. Entry to the club from Victoria Road is the answer. Folly Lane was a peaceful and safe place for children and walkers and is now a nightmare." The residents have asked why Haygrove Close is a 20mph zone where it has none of the problems seen in Folly Lane. The residents are in agreement that if the situation is not resolved in the very near future then they fear that the result will be a very serious accident. The residents see "near misses" with frightening regularity and feel they cannot stand by and not campaign for much better road safety for both their own sake and that of the community. The residents asked if an accident has to happen before anything is done. They feel they are doing everything they can but need the help of the Council urgently.

**Glen Marden, 2 Portway, Warminster – agenda item 8, Folly Lane –** advised the Members that he represented the Rugby Club and echoed all that Mrs Spurr had said on the situation relating to Folly Lane. Mr Marden advised that it is not the volume of traffic seen on Folly Lane but features such as the lane being very narrow and the passing bays being obliterated because they are filled with sediment and leaves, thereby reducing the lane by 4–6 feet causing both walkers and vehicles to use the middle of the road. It would be very helpful if the bays could be cleared, thereby widening the road, and for two speed bumps to be put in Folly Lane to reduce speed. The Rugby Club tries to make everyone aware of the dangers but would like to see some effective measures.

**329. Deputations and Petitions –** the petition submitted by residents of Beech Grove had already been sent on to Wiltshire Council as part of the consultation on Waiting Restrictions.

**330. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Davis declared he is dual-hatted as a Member of Wiltshire Council and would reserve the right not to vote if appropriate.

**331. Reports from Unitary Authority Members relevant to this committee**  
None.

Councillor Fryer requested that items 8 – Folly Lane, 10 – Waitrose Signage and 11b – Waiting restriction Beech Grove be brought forward as the first items to be discussed. This was agreed.

**332. Folly Lane**

This lane is classed as Highway and comes under the remit of Wiltshire Council. Councillor Davis advised that the Community Area Transport Group

(CATG) had discussed this at their last meeting to look at possible solutions. Whatever scheme might be considered, consultation would have to be undertaken and this would mean that it could be one or two years before any solution is implemented. Traffic calming is expensive and putting in a 20mph speed limit is unlikely as there is no way of enforcing it. The 20mph speed limit sign at Haygrove is a private sign and is not enforceable.

There were discussions about a 20mph speed limit trial throughout the county, there are currently six pilot areas and no additional trials are expected at the moment. A Speed Indication Device (SID) could be requested for this site.

Councillor Field thought that there were possibly five ways to improve safety and a future community project might be to look at creating a path to separate motorists from pedestrians. Would local landowners in the area be interested?

*Standing Orders were suspended at 7.30pm for further discussion with the public gallery.*

Glen Marden from Warminster Rugby Club advised the Members that footpaths had been discussed before and he believed that George Baker owned some of the land to where a footpath could be situated. It might not be a straightforward solution.

*Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.35pm*

Councillor Nicklin proposed that the Clerk ask the Parish Steward to clean up the passing bays that had not been maintained and remove silt and leaves that had built up over time. In addition a request should be forwarded to the CATG that warning signs should be considered to advise motorists that there are pedestrians in the vicinity and that Members supported the recommendations put forward by local residents. Seconded Councillor March. Voting unanimous in favour.

### **333. b) Waiting restriction Beech Grove**

Councillor Nicklin thanked Gary Naylor for putting together plans for Beech Grove. The members had a long discussion about the proposals and there were suggestions of No Entry signs or No Access signs but this was discounted as it would prove difficult to enforce.

Councillor Field thought that the idea of a physical barrier to make it more difficult to turn left into Beech Grove could be installed as a temporary measure which would give residents and users the opportunity to assess something more tangible.

Councillor Davis felt that a suggestion to the CATG for trial such as this would be perfect but he would be against trying to obtain a one way system for Beech Grove.

Councillor Field proposed that the Council refers this issue to the CATG who would appreciate further investigation into traffic hindrance measures in the left turn from Copheap Lane into Beech Grove but would especially appreciate a temporary measure to demonstrate effectiveness and assist further consultation. Seconded Councillor March. Voting unanimous in favour.

Councillor Field also pointed out that an additional part of the proposal put forward by the residents included making an additional car park at the bottom of Elm Hill. The members felt that this detail was already in the full report and would be picked up by the CATG.

**a) Waiting and Parking restriction reviews**

The Members NOTED the new proposals and process for future requests. There was a limited discussion on the proposed yellow lining under the bridge at Portway but Members agreed that representation had been put forward as part of the consultation from Members and residents. The relevant officers at Wiltshire Council would be able to take into consideration all comments. Councillor Davis proposed no further action. Seconded Councillor Nicklin. Voting in Favour 4, Against 1, Abstentions Nil.

**334. Waitrose Signage**

The Members discussed whether it was normal procedure to ask for personal signs. The normal classified route into this business area was through Imber Road. If this signage was agreed it would take deliveries through the High Street. The black finger posts are owned by Warminster Town Council and are used for amenity signs and are not directional. What was agreed in the original traffic plan?

Councillor Nicklin proposed that this application is denied and that the members support Mark Stansby’s decision not to proliferate the town with additional direction signage. The company should be referred back to their traffic plan which would have been approved with their planning application. Seconded Councillor Field. Voting unanimous in favour.

**335. Alcock Crest Stop Up Highway**

Councillor Davis moved acceptance of the request and instructed the Clerk to respond to Wiltshire Council. Seconded Councillor Nicklin. Voting unanimous in favour.

**336. Speed Limit Review for C class and Unclassified Roads**

NOTED

**337. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)**

NOTED

**338. Communications**

The Members asked that as this meeting had dealt with mostly speeding and traffic issues a press release should be put together to incorporate all of these issues and to let the community know that there are limitations to what is achievable. Although the Town Council can only act as a reference point, it will do all that it can to help the community.

**Meeting ended at 8.20 pm**