

Melbourne Parish Council

Mrs J Storer - Parish Clerk, 2 Mansfields Croft, Etwall, Derbyshire DE65 6NJ



Highway Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Highways Committee held at 8.30pm Monday 10th February 2014 at the Shone Room, Melbourne Assembly Rooms, Melbourne

Present – Cllr Carroll (Chairman) Stockill, Hicklin and Jackson

In attendance: Clerk

109. Apologies: apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Earp, Parker and Sharp.
110. Co-option of Members: Cllr Hicklin and Cllr Jackson were co-opted onto the Committee for this meeting only.
111. Minutes of the previous Highways Committee meeting held 13th January 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
112. The Clerk reported that an electrician has advised that the checking of the lighting circuit is best undertaken towards the end of the year; as problems could appear after the check is completed if it was conducted earlier.
The manual about the erection and operation of the Christmas lights is an ongoing project.
113. The tenders for the grass mowing were considered at the Parish Council meeting held on 4th February 2014. The successful contractor has visited the village again and has located the Japanese Knotweed. Arrangements have been made to have it removed. The first mowing of the verges will commence in mid March; the mild weather has meant that the verges are already in need of a cut. The first mow will be subject to weather and the suitability of the ground.
114. One way system – the meeting with Traffic Consultant was arranged for 11th March 2014. The arrangements for the meeting were confirmed after the deadline for submission of articles for the Village Voice and the opportunity to publicise the meeting has passed. Cllr Jackson proposed that the meeting of 11th March is vacated and re-arranged to allow for proper advertising of the meeting to take place.
AGREED: to postpone the meeting of 11th March 2014. Cllr Jackson will contact Mrs G Kerr with the suggestion to rearrange the meeting to a later date, so that sufficient publicity can be given to the meeting.
115. Fire Station – A meeting of the Fire Authority will take place on 13th February 2014; this meeting is to receive the conclusions reached from the consultation process.

Outstanding Actions

116. Washpit – overgrown trees – Cllr Hicklin thought that this tree had some fungal growth. AGREED: to advise DCC of the possible fungal growth and to enquire when the basal growth will be cut back.
117. The light at the end of the twitchel between Derby Road and Packhorse Road which is blocked by an overhanging tree has been reported but no action appears

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to have been taken. Cllr Stockill will check if the light is still being obscured by the tree.

118. The Japanese Knotweed has been identified and the contractor will remove it as a matter of priority.
119. The two potholes on Victoria Street which were reported to DCC prior to Christmas still remain, with no work being carried out.
120. The leaning lamppost on Cockshut Lane was reported in January and no action has been taken on this matter. The Clerk will write again **(Action: Clerk)**
121. The section of pavement outside the Indian Restaurant continues to pool in wet weather. The matter has been reported and a letter has acknowledged receipt of the complaint; nothing further has occurred. This continues to be a problem and once again the Clerk will chase DCC. **(Action: Clerk)**
122. Thomas Cooke Close continues to be very dark. An application to the Safer Neighbourhood Board for funding towards the installation of lighting has been drafted and is with Cllr Earp for checking, prior to submission. **(Action: Clerk & Cllr Earp)**
123. An application to the Safer Neighbourhood Board for lighting in the jitty between Cockshut Lane and George Street has been drafted. The application is with Cllr Earp to check prior to its submission. **(Action: Clerk & Cllr Earp)**
124. A conifer blocking a street light at Church Mews/Victoria Mews has been reported but no action has been taken. The Clerk will pursue the matter. **(Action: Clerk)**
125. SDDC has previously reported that the repair of the bench at Jubilee Close is to be undertaken by the developers of the estate (Wimpey). The Clerk followed the matter up with SDDC and is now awaiting for a response from Zoe Sewter (SDDC).
126. DCC has confirmed that an order has been raised to trim the trees to specified height on Robinson Hill. No time scale has been offered as to when the work will be carried out.
127. DCC in their letter of 26.09.13, has noted the problem on the footway at Woodhouses and has submitted for works to be done to raise the length of the kerb and footway. This is to be included in the future footway budget.
128. The poor condition of the road surface at Nettlefold Crescent was reported to Cllr Chilton and this matter has been resolved.
129. Broken and loose kerb stones and brick steps at Potter Street were reported to DCC after the January Highways Committee meeting. No work has been undertaken on this matter. A discussion took place as to whether the relocation of the directional signs and the subsequent re-routing of traffic will make any difference. The reason for the continual breakages occurring at this location was

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considered to be due to inconsiderate parking rather than lorries mounting the pavement when exiting and entering Potter Street.

130. The Clerk reported that DCC has agreed to repair the leaning directional sign outside Blatch's but was informed that DCC has no budget for the painting of the rails. The Clerk asked for the matter to be reconsidered, even offering for the Parish Council to undertake the painting and to recharge DCC, but the response remained the same; there is no budget to paint the railings.
AGREED: to ask the Probation Service to paint these railings when they paint the play equipment.
131. The noticeboard on Potter Street belongs to the Parish Council but contains a number of adverts and leaflets relating to the Assembly Rooms. Permission has not been sought to place these notices in the Noticeboard.
AGREED: to advise MARS to refrain from placing notices in this noticeboard. Notices can be placed on the Kings Newton noticeboard.
132. The verges at the entrance to Queensway are in a poor condition, with deep ruts and holes. Concern was expressed that an injury may occur to a pedestrian crossing the verges. The matter will be reported to DCC (**Action: Clerk**).
133. Cllr Stockill informed that a family wished to site a bench within Melbourne in memory of Simon Collins. Funds have been raised and a site identified. The owner of the land has no objection to the bench and the Planning Dept has provided advice on planning regulations surrounding the siting of the memorial bench. The Clerk expressed some reservations which related to who will fund the ongoing maintenance and associated liabilities.
AGREED: The Committee had no objection to the siting of the bench, but this is not to set a precedent; any future memorials will each been assessed on their individual circumstances. Maintenance and liability is to remain with the family and will not transfer to the Parish Council.

Date of next meeting: to be advised at the Parish Council meeting on 10th March 2014.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Highways Committee - Cllr W Earp – Chairman