

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 8.40pm Monday 9th December 2013 at the Shone Room, Melbourne

Present – Cllr Earp (Chairman), Carroll, Parker, Stockill,
In attendance: Clerk

61. Apologies: apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sharp
62. Minutes of the previous Highways Committee meeting held 11th November 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
63. The Christmas lights are up and are very good. The Clerk was requested to check the timing that the lights are on and to ensure that all the strings of lights across the roads are working.
64. The request from the DCC Rights of Way Officer is still outstanding. The Clerk will seek assistance. **(Action: Clerk)**. The Clerk reported that Bloomtime has advised that they will not be tendering for the mowing contract for 2014 onwards.
65. Washpit – overgrown trees – DCC has submitted an order for a small branch to be cut back and for the property services dept to cut the basal growth. No work has yet been carried out on this tree, and a request made to DCC for the work to be undertaken as a matter of urgency has generated confirmation that an order has been placed for the removal of the basal growth.
66. Lime tree and Beech Tree at the Old Burial Ground – At the Parish Council meeting held 3rd December 2013 it was agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary planning applications for removal and pruning works to occur. **(Action: Clerk)**.
67. Cllr Carroll reported that she had spoken to Tony Burdett about the imposition of TPOs in trees on Jubilee Close and was informed that the residents can apply for permission to cut down the trees and if permission is refused, there is a process to apply for permission from the Planning Inspector. This is an ongoing matter, and Cllr Carroll informed that she will report back on any progress.
68. One way system – At the Parish Council meeting held 3rd December 2013, the proposal made by this Committee not to pursue the one way system was ratified. Consideration was then given to the generation of additional passing places but it was felt this would generate parking problems. Consideration was also given to altering the signage on routes into the village, eg, imposition of restrictions on delivery times or prioritising traffic. The Committee concluded that it was unable to generate any alternative which would make a significant difference to the traffic problem, but Cllr Stockill will make some suggestions as to how the current signage could be amended and the Clerk will forward these to the Highways Dept. **(Action: Cllr Stockill & Clerk)**.
69. The meeting then went on to report some confusions caused by the diversion signs

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at the Late Night Shopping event. It was considered that the signage was not effective nor complete; this will be mentioned at the organisation meeting for the 2014 Late Night Shopping event. Plus at this year's event there was some lack of communication and support from the police service. The Clerk was requested to make a formal complaint to the police, about both their lack of promised support and communication. **(Action: Clerk).**

70. Fire Station – The meeting was well attended and a draft response has been circulated to all Cllrs. The Clerk enquired whether in light of the information obtained from the meeting with SDDC on 18th November, whether it was still appropriate to apply to have the Fire Station listed as a Community Asset. The Clerk had mentioned that if the Station was listed it would not prevent the service from being withdrawn; but could result in a building being left to deteriorate as any disposal could be delayed. **AGREED: not to make an application for Community Listing.**
71. The light at the end of the twitchel between Derby Road and Packhorse Road is blocked by an overhanging tree. The Clerk will request that the tree is pruned or removed. **(Action: Clerk)**
72. A report made at the Parish Council meeting on 3rd December, about Japanese Knotweed was referred to this committee for action to be taken. Committee members were requested to visit the area reportedly infected with the weed and if it is on land maintained by the Parish Council, to advise the Clerk who will make arrangements with a contractor for the weed to be treated. **(Action: Clerk)**
73. Cllr Stockill reported that there are two potholes on Victoria Street. The Clerk will report these to the Highways Dept. **(Action: Clerk)**
74. A request has been received for the installation of a mirror at the top of Chapel Street; which will assist with visibility at the junction. The request was considered but refused.
75. Cllr Parker reported that a telegraph pole was swaying at an acute angle during the storm on 5th December. The Clerk will report this to the Highways Dept. **(Action: Clerk).**
76. Budget – the budget for 2014/2015 was previously circulated. The budget was considered in depth and amendments agreed. The revised budget will be taken to the Finance Committee on 16th December for approval.

Actions from the last meeting

77. Section of pavement outside the Indian Restaurant .DCC has informed that the footway was inspected in heavy rain and no actionable ponding on the footway was noted. The footway was reported as being in a safe condition. **AGREED** that the pavement is not in a good condition and if photographic evidence can be obtained, the Clerk will write again to the Highway Dept **(Action: Clerk).**

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78. Cllr Stockill reported that Thomas Cooke Close is very dark. An application to DCC for street lighting has been refused; an application is to be made to the Safer Neighbourhood Board for funding towards the installation of lighting.
79. A request for lighting in the jitty between Cockshut Lane and George Street has been refused; an application is to be made to the Safer Neighbourhood Board for the lighting to be installed.
80. A conifer reported as blocking a street light at Church Mews/Victoria Mews is to be reported to SDDC.
81. SDDC has advised that the repair of the bench at Jubilee Close is to be undertaken by the developers of the estate (Wimpey).
82. 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.
83. 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.
84. The poor condition of the road surface at Nettlefold Crescent was reported to Cllr Chilton but no update has yet been received. No update has been received from Cllr Chiltern.
85. The complaint about the broken and loose kerb stones and brick steps at Potter Street has been forwarded to the Streetworks Centre (DCC), for attention and Cllr Chilton agreed to pursue the matter.

Date of next meeting: to be advised at the Parish Council meeting on 13th January 2014.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:10pm.

Highways Committee - Cllr W Earp – Chairman