

Burwell Parish Council

Notes of the Safety Group Meeting – 17th January 2023 7.30 pm at the Jubilee Reading Room

Present: Paul Webb (Chair), Liz Swift, Jim Perry, Gill Miller, Brenda Wilson, Geraldine Tate, and Lea Dodds.

Apologies

An apology for absence had been received from Ian Woodroffe.

The minutes of the previous record were signed as a true record.

1.Safety Campaign

We are now on the final quarter of the Safety Campaign which finishes at the end of March 2023. A further 4-page leaflet has been submitted to Clunch for inclusion in the February/March edition. The leaflet includes information on personal safety, some of which has been duplicated on the Parish Council website. The website will be updated as more information on scams is received. The final quarter will focus on the pedestrian, cyclists, and equestrian element of the campaign.

Gill Miller reported that the school is willing to send out Safety Campaign information using Parent-Mail if we would like.

There is still nearly £3.5k of funding left and some of this money could be used to purchase resources such as Hi-Viz items to promote road safety. Gill Miller to look to see what the CCC Road Safety Team has available. These need to be available to be handed out at the Community Safety Update Meeting now due to be held on 1st March 2023. There was some discussion on the types of safety items to have available. It would be useful to have a stand at the Co-op again. Items could be distributed through the school, cycle club and walking groups. Paul Webb, Gill Miller and Yvonne Rix to arrange a meeting to look at promotional safety items.

There has been positive feedback on the Slow Down in Burwell signs. A further 10 to be purchased and a larger size costed.

Gill Miller reported that the school has not appeared to be keen in taking part in the STARS or the Junior Travel Ambassador scheme. Gill Miller to forward a letter of praise from the CCC Road Safety Officer to the Clerk. She continued to suggest other activities that the school may be interested in such as making a collage for the younger children, which could be put up on display at the Gardiner Memorial Hall or role play activities for the slightly older children.

A tri-fold leaflet could be done for the third and fourth section if felt needed.

Distribution Plan and letter for bin stickers

Two thousand stickers have been purchased for the bins funded by the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership. Brenda Wilson and Leah Dodds to compile an accompanying letter. The letter and sticker to be posted through letterboxes. Ideally, they should be delivered by the end of January.

Distribution Plan:

High Street – Brenda Wilson

Swaffham Road – Paul Webb and Gill Miller

Newmarket Road – Jim Perry

Ness Road – Geraldine Tate and Lea Dodds

The Causeway – Liz Swift

Any leftover can be delivered to North Street, Toyse Lane, Buntings Path, Silver Street and Isaacson Road.

Parking

There has been little response from residents regarding parking issues in the village. If there are consistent parking issues, then they can be raised with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Buffer Zone Markers

The Group discussed the option to pay for the countdown markers for the Buffer Zones. The likely cost is in the region of £2000. There is £1436.87 left in the buffer zone budget, and it was agreed that the balance could be paid out of the Safety Campaign funds. Yvonne Rix to request a proper quotation from Highways.

MVAS and Speedwatch Update

The MVAS batteries were changed on 16th January 2022. Paul Webb still needs to provide the office with a location rota for the signs. Data downloading has still not been achieved.

The aim is to have three Speedwatch Teams up and running by the end of March. Stephen the Speedwatch Coordinator is hoping to have equipment available for collection by the end of the week. Locations within the buffer zones need to be checked for safety and appropriateness prior to being used. Jim Perry to arrange the three teams. Paul Webb and Jim Perry to get together to discuss the need for more volunteers.

LHI 20 mph Update

No further information has been received from Highways regarding the implementation of 20 mph zones in the county. It would be useful to have regular meetings with Highways again.

Burwell to Exning Cycleway Update

The project is still awaiting the release of funding from the two developments. The project is being led by Suffolk County Council, who are looking at ways to fund the land acquisition so that this does not delay the project once funding from the developers has been received. There will be no solar lighting. Yvonne Rix to look for the plans for the proposed cycleway for Lea Dodds.

Hedge School Path

Lea Dodds had raised concern about the hedge running along the footpath into the school. If the hedge could be cut back more, the path would be wider reducing the need for children to walk so close to the school driveway. Yvonne Rix reminded the group that the Parish Council has no power to enforce the cutting of hedges. She continued to say that she had spoken to the caretaker who had pointed out that the surface under the hedge was in a poor condition and would create a trip hazard, but would speak to his Groundsman. Yvonne Rix agreed to email the school about the situation.

The issue with the recently tarmacked Swan Alley footpath where it joins the neighbouring property was also discussed. There is a sharp drop of a couple of inches between the two levels and there is concern that this could be a trip hazard. The householder has clearly stated that they do not wish

anyone to do anything on their property, and Highways will not do anything for this reason and that it is not part of the highway. It was suggested that a letter should be sent to the householder asking for them to do something to reduce the risk. However, the Parish Council has no powers to deal with this and therefore particularly in the current financial climate where Highways has carried out work to the path and have created the risk, to expect the resident to carry out work to lessen the risk is not an option. It is also not known where the Council would stand if they were to alert the resident of the risk and possible liability for any injuries caused. The Clerk to try and find out about possible liability for the Parish Council.

Jim Perry reported that the bushes at 133 North Street were still overhanging the road.

The next scheduled Safety Meeting will be held on 21st March 2023

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed

Dated