

Burwell Parish Council

Safety Group Meeting – 22nd August 2023 7.30 pm at the Jubilee Reading Room

Minutes

Present: Paul Webb (Chair), Lea Dodds, Jim Perry, Liz Swift, Geraldine Tate, Brenda Wilson, Ian Woodroofe, and Chris O’Neill.

1. Apologies

An apology had been received from Helen McMenamin-Smith.

2. Approval of draft minutes of the meeting held on 20.6.2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2023 were signed as a true record.

3. Safety Campaign – Final Report and consideration of carrying out a further Traffic Survey similar to the one carried out in 2018.

The first draft of the final report for the Safety Campaign had been circulated to members. Members of the group were asked to email the Clerk with any additions/changes that they would like to be made to the report. The next draft to be shared with the group prior to being put to Full Council. Paul Webb informed the group that he was aware that the Nitrate data had not been available but hoped that Westcotec would allow the Council to have the facility for a further year.

Jim Perry reported that a member of public working at one of the units off Heath Road had raised concerns about the speed of vehicles travelling along Heath Road. They had also asked why Heath Road had not been included in the 40-mph buffer zone scheme.

Paul Webb suggested that a second village wide survey, similar to the one done in 2018, should be carried out whilst we have the subscription with Survey Monkey. Liz swift spoke of how she fails to understand why another survey is needed and what purposed would the survey serve. She also raised concerns about over loading parishioners with surveys. Geraldine Tate agreed and continued to say that in comparison to some villages, traffic volume, other than at peak times, is not that high. Liz Swift raised concern about the lack of data from the MVAS units and that the issue with the signs needs to be sorted, and as soon as data has been collected, it should be shared with residents. Six months’ worth of data should be shared & this was generally agreed.

Paul Webb responded by saying that any survey would not be carried out until at least Spring next year. Many questions form the 2017/18 survey could be repeated, so that we can check to see if the previous issues are still the same. This would give us background evidence when we apply for highways LHI funding in the future. Ian Woodroofe informed those present that getting out on to Ness Road from Toyse Lane during peak times is difficult and Paul Webb expressed the view that not all issues are covered by the data collected by the MVAS machines. Jim Perry also commented that a lot of lorries travel through the village first thing in the mornings to avoid the A142/A14 junction, again, an issue not collected by MVAS.

It was agreed that the MVAS signs do need to be working, data collected and published and that the group/council must be realistic what can be afforded through the LHI scheme where Highways contribute part of the amount (up to around £15,000) with the Council funding the rest. Should the Council have to decide between several projects to put forward for an LHI application, survey results could provide up to date relevant the information to make that decision easier.

Paul Webb stated that he would raise survey ideas again on a future agenda, when MVAS was working / data collected and published on website.

Emergency Safety Plan

At a previous Climate Change Forum meeting the matter of the Parish Council having an Emergency Safety Plan had been raised. The Safety Group had been asked to consider drafting a possible plan. Ian Woodroffe, Jim Perry, and Lea Dodds have carried out some initial work on how the Council could create the plan. East Cambs District Council has a plan for the district which already covers many aspects. They also have a template which parish councils can use to base their own plans on. However even using the ECDC template as a starting point, investigations showed that putting together a plan would be very complicated. Considering the contents of the ECDC plan, a decision would need to be made about how much depth a parish plan would need to include. It is likely that any document would be ongoing, with information changing regularly. Due to data protection the document would probably need to be kept as an internal document, with information only being shared should an emergency arise.

Deciding on a possible scenario and drawing up the plan accordingly is the most likely way forward. It was suggested that taking the lessons learnt during the Covid pandemic would be useful. Being able to use the Parish Council phone line as an emergency line is one option. Collecting residents email addresses (with their permission) could be thought about.

The Group agreed that the plan would need to be built on overtime. Group members were asked to email the Clerk with suggestions and the item would be discussed again at another meeting. Ian Woodroffe to find out what input ECDC would look to have and also how many parishes already have a plan.

4. 20 mph/Bypass – Survey Update and 20mph Speed Application

There have so far been 293 responses to the survey. 54% are in favour of having all or part of the village with a 20 mile per hour speed limit. (All 19% Part 35%) 46% would not like to see changes to the speed limit in the village. 61% of those who have responded to the survey would like to see the Parish Council initiate a campaign for a Burwell Bypass. It was agreed that the survey should continue. The Burwell Environment Group to be asked if they were able to promote the 20 mile per hour limit in any way. When using the results of the survey to support applications etc. the outcome of the pledge and ribbon signing should also be noted. Lea Dodds to speak with the 20's Plenty organisation to see if they can offer any support. Having a QR code to the survey could be beneficial.

5. Email Security

The Group considered the need for a statement to be added to all incoming emails to make recipients aware whether the email has originated from outside the Council or not. The Clerk to contact Spencer Nunn regarding options available. This will need to go to Council for final approval.

6. Winter Gritting

Those interested in helping with the winter gritting if needed should let the Clerk know. This item to also be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

7. E-Bike Trial Update

It was noted that the Combined Authority who are responsible for the E Bike Trial would consider Burwell should the trial be widened to rural areas in the future.

8. Correspondence – One way system North Street

A resident had written in and asked if a one-way system for North Street is still being looked into. The Group agreed that a question about this could be included in the traffic survey should it go ahead to see if there is any support for this.

9. Burwell to Exning Cycleway – Update

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Claire Dickson who had informed her that they are still waiting to receive the S106 funding from the Cambridgeshire agents and once received, they can start addressing some of the land issues for the bridleway creation.

10. Parking on the Causeway/Causeway Issues

Parking on the Causeway adjacent to where vehicles have to join the Causeway, such as The Leys and also parking to close to the junction of Newnham Lane and The Causeway to visit the coffee shop is often bad. Group members to send photos of cars parked irresponsibly to the Clerk. These can then be forward to the Police or used to demonstrate issues with Highways when we next meet.

11. Meeting with Highways

Paul Webb reported that Bob Rossiter (Highways Supervisor responsible for Burwell) has now moved to cover another area. It is not known who will take over from him yet, but we'll continue to press for a meeting as soon as we know.

Group members to make use of the Highways Reporting System for faults, potholes etc. taking photos to support the reports if possible.

12. MVAS and Speedwatch Update

It was agreed that two sessions should be arranged for September this will allow Chris O'Neill and Ian Woodroofe the opportunity to see Speedwatch in action. Ian Woodroofe asked for a clear written plan with dates to be made available. Jim Perry to draft this and will include a list of locations. The locations could be made public. Ideally the first sessions will be in Ness Road and Toyse Lane and happen during the 1st week in September.

Paul Webb reported that he had been in contact with Westcotec and was due to go back to them next week to arrange some dates for training and taking the signs back for repair. It is likely that all three signs will need to go back.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting to be held on 17th October 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Signed

Dated