

Minutes of a Meeting of the Traffic Management, Parking & Pedestrian Safety Committee of the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 10:30am, Gardiner Pavilion

Members Present:

Chair Cllr Sonia Lofthouse (SL)
Members Cllr Robin Williamson (RW)
 Cllr Jeremy Hutchins (JH)

Officers Present:

Assistant Clerk Mike Harper (MH)

Public and Press:

Two MoPs

MoP1 drew the Committee's attention to a recent accident involving two cars at the junction of Mill Rd and Wallingford Rd. This was a dangerous junction as visibility for vehicles leaving Mill Rd was poor and traffic on Wallingford Rd often exceeded the 20mph speed limit. A warning sign or reminder of the speed limit would help reduce the risk of accidents. SL said that new speed signs to replace the existing school warning signs were planned, subject to Full Council agreement to the expenditure. This should meet their concerns.

MoP2 Reminded the Committee that MIGGS's principal concern was pedestrian safety on Gatehampton Rd crossing by the Railway Station. The junction of the Wallingford Rd and the High Street at the Railway Bridge was dangerous for pedestrians as vehicles often needed to mount the pavement to make the turn into the High Street. A diagram showing a re-alignment of lane markings to widen the lane going into the village was presented as a partial solution.

It was proposed to invite OCC Highways to a site visit with Councillors to suggest options.

Action: Assistant Clerk to arrange.

Meeting Started at 10:30

23.30.1. To receive apologies for absence. (LGA 1972 s85(1))

None received.

23.30.2. Declarations of Interests (LA 2011 s31)

Cllr S Lofthouse
Chair

19th December 2023

None

23.30.3. To consider requests for Dispensations (LA 2011 s33)

None

23.30.4 To approve the minutes of previous committee meetings [LA 1972 Sch 12. Para41(1)]

23.30.4.1. Meeting held on 17th October 2023

It was agreed the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed.

23.30.5. To review the Action List and agree further actions Action List

The Action List was updated.

23.30.6. Traffic calming High Street – to identify costs of installing the speedbump and agree actions.

OCC Highways had been contacted for an up-to-date estimate for a new tabletop speed bump in the High Street (between the Railway Bridge and the Social Club) but had not responded. The Assistant Clerk provided an estimate based on quotations for the design work and consultation required, OCC's charge for carrying out the consultation and an estimate of construction costs formed by inflating the costs of the existing speedbump by Government indices of construction cost inflation. The total came to £76,640.

In discussion the Committee felt that a pedestrian zebra crossing could be another option and might be a cheaper alternative and the Assistant Clerk was asked to investigate the costs of that option. **Action: Assistant Clerk.**

23.30.7. To consider and approve updated proposals for speed indicator signs in the Village.

The Committee considered Appendix A with further options for locations to provide improved visibility and including details of the size of sign appropriate for each location. It was decided to approve option 7A (Manor Rd); to retain option 5, rather than 5A (Cleeve Rd), and ask the landowner to trim the hedge to improve visibility or otherwise consider a gantry.

It was agreed that, in accordance with OCC Highways advice, that speed surveys should be carried out at the Elvendon Rd, Cleeve Rd and Manor Rd locations before installing speed signs. It was further agreed that additional speed surveys could also be carried out at the High Street, after the Railway Bridge; on the Wallingford Rd, before the junction with Mill Rd; and on the High Street, by the Pierrepont café.

23.30.8. To consider and approve request for a mirror at the High Street/Red Cross Road junction.

SL noted the OCC Highways policy is not to permit mirrors on the Highway, she did not consider this was a matter for the Parish Council and might incur a liability. Siting a mirror on private property could similarly imply a liability for the property owner. If OCC Highways came to a site visit to see the Wallingford Rd/High Street junction, they could consider what could be done here also.

23.30.9. To consider collaboration with Goring Heath PC on forming a speed Watch Group

The Committee asked if permission from the Police was needed to operate a speed watch. That could be clarified by Goring Heath PC. A similar request had been made by a Goring resident in the past, and the Assistant Clerk was asked to follow up on these points. **Action: Assistant Clerk**

23.30.10. To receive an update on the Parish Transport Representatives meeting and agree actions.

JH attended the meeting on 14th November. A community-rail partnership had been formed with a focus on improving stations and encouraging green travel. There is a £1m grant scheme available and JH will explore possibilities for using funds from the scheme.

23.30.11. To determine budget for financial year 2024-25.

The following items should be put forward for inclusion in the budget for 2024-25:

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| • Purchase of speed signs | £31,200 |
| • Speed surveys | £ 1,200 |
| • Speed hump/zebra crossing design and consultation | £10,000 |
| • Path/Pedestrian Priority Lane, Sheepcot | £ 5,000 |
| • Car Park marking, Sheepcot | £ 1,000 |

23.30.12. To consider correspondence received.

None

23.30.13. Matters for future discussion.

None

23.30.14. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

23.30.14.1 To consider quotations for supplying speed signs and place order.

Two quotations for the supply of vehicle activated speed signs had been received from Westcotec and Messagemaker. The difference in price between the former, higher and the latter, lower quotation was mostly accounted for by the price of the two school signs. These signs had the advantage of showing an illuminated school sign during school pick up and drop off times, at other times and during school holidays they would show a vehicle activated 20mph reminder. They were considered less visually intrusive when not activated than those from the other company. In view of the representations about the Mill Rd/Wallingford Rd junction, there was an added advantage in having a vehicle activated speed reminder on the approaches to that junction which they would provide.

Resolved: Approved unanimously that, subject to Full Council agreement to the expenditure, to place the order for Speed Signs with Westcotec on the basis that signs for locations 1 (High Street, Miller of Mansfield), 2 and 3 (Wallingford Rd by the school) and 4 (High Street, Social Club) would be needed initially, the acquisition of signs for the remaining sites to await the outcome of speed surveys.

23.30.14.2 To consider quotations for marking car parking bays and pedestrian lane and place order.

Four quotations had been received. The Committee now wished to consider the alternative of a separate path alongside the access road to Sheepcote Field and so asked for a the costs of the Pedestrian Priority Lane to be separated out from the price for marking parking bays to provide a comparison. It was also decided to increase the number of Disabled bays to two. **Action: Assistant Clerk to obtain revised quotes on that basis.**

23.30.15. To confirm the date of the next meeting: 19th December 2023.

Confirmed

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 12.15.