

## **Report of the Highways and Amenities Committee**

The Committee met at 8.15 pm on **16<sup>th</sup> February 2009** in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Councillor A Sosin chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors A Sosin, K Ronaldson, Mrs J Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs M Miller, T Miller and Mrs A Martin.

In attendance: The Administrative Assistant  
Cllr W Richardson

### **582/08 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **583/08 Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interests.

### **584/08 Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

### **585/08 Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008 were signed as a true record. Proposed for acceptance by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson.

The meeting agreed to bring forward the matter of the consideration of a seat in the Goodwin Close/Watson Vale area on Item 7 of the Agenda. This was done so that Cllr W Richardson, who was in attendance, could hear the Committee's decision on the matter.

### **586/08 To consider proposed street furniture**

Seat in Goodwin Close/Watson Vale area - Cllr W Richardson had previously raised concerns that the provision of a bench in the area of Goodwin Close and Watson Vale could have a negative impact on nearby residents by providing an area for youths to congregate. Cllr Richardson stressed that if the Council were minded to agree to the provision of a new bench, its location would need to be carefully considered and nearby residents consulted. Cllr K Ronaldson recommended that enquiries should be made in the locality to see if there is a demand for a bench in this area. It was agreed that Cllr W Richardson and Cllr A Sosin would visit the site to investigate whether there is an area in the locality where a bench could be suitably sited.

It was also noted that there is often quite a lot of litter on the footpath near Watson Vale and Loftin Way. Cllr A Sosin suggested that the litter picker's schedule should be reviewed to make sure that this area is sufficiently patrolled.

Cllr W Richardson left the meeting at 8.30pm.

### **587/08 Clerk's Report**

There was no written report as the Clerk was absent due to sickness but the Chairman raised the following matters:

- With regard to the matter of the lights in Jeffrey Road and Sawkins Avenue, the Administrative Assistant reported that she was not aware of whether the Clerk had managed to make any further progress, and the matter will be chased upon her return. Cllr A Sosin told the meeting about the possibility of using solar powered lights in this location and asked for enquiries to be made.

- Cllr A Sosin reported to the meeting that several holes have appeared in the footpaths near 242 Meadgate Avenue and between Loftin Way and Avenue Road, and asked whether some of the pile of road planings at the Vicarage Lane Allotment car park could be donated to fill the holes in. The meeting decided that it would be more suitable for the holes to be reported to the Highways Authority instead.
- Cllr A Sosin told the meeting that he had received a report that the footpaths along Sandford Mill Road are in a bad condition and possibly unsafe, as a result of the recent flooding. Cllr Sosin will report the matter to the Highways Authority.
- Cllr A Sosin asked about the progress of the new bus shelter outside the Beehive Pub on Baddow Road. The Administrative Assistant advised the meeting that following a site visit from an officer of Essex County Council and correspondence with the bus shelter manufacturer, the matter is progressing. Although an exact date is yet to be confirmed, the Administrative Assistant had been advised that the installation would take place soon, as part of Essex County Council's bus stop program.
- Cllr A Sosin asked whether there had been any progress made with regards to the installation of a fingerpost opposite St Mary's Church, Great Baddow. The Administrative Assistant will chase the matter and Cllr Sosin asked that as the next Highways and Amenities meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009, the matter be reported back to an appropriate meeting before this date.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller told the meeting that there had been no further progress on the installation of pedestrian crossings in the village, in relation to S106 monies from the Marconi development.
- With regard to the bus shelter outside 418 Baddow Road that was knocked down, the Administrative Assistant reported to the meeting that the matter is progressing and a quote had recently been received for a replacement shelter. However, contact will need to be made with the manufacturer to discuss certain aspects of the quote in further detail.
- Further to a previous query discussed under item 372/08, about traffic signage at the Army and Navy it was agreed that there was nothing more that the Parish Council could do at present to progress the matter further.
- Further to the issue of parking on Vicarage Lane, discussed under item 376/08, due to the absence of the Clerk it was not known whether the matter had been progressed.
- In relation to the requests for dog bins in various locations, discussed under item 377/08, due to the absence of the Clerk it was not known if the matter had been progressed.
- In relation to the requests for street furniture discussed under item 378/08, it was not known whether Chelmer Housing Partnership had been approached about the installation of a notice board at Hereford Court. Also Cllr A Sosin asked whether monies had been included in the budget for a new seat and bin in Tabors Hill and a bus shelter outside the Doctor's Surgery in Longmead Avenue. The Administrative Assistant will check this upon the Clerks return.
- Cllr T Miller reported to the meeting that the repairs to the slip road into Great Baddow from the Baddow Bypass were ongoing as was the Maldon Road/Molrams Lane Highways Project.

**588/08 To consider the responses received from the article in the Great Baddow Times**

a report had been compiled of the responses received from the Highways Priorities survey published in the Winter 2008/09 edition of the Great Baddow Times. It was noted that the three highest scoring proposed improvements were as follows:

1. Pedestrian Crossing from the Causeway to Maldon Road.
2. Traffic Calming in Dorset Avenue near Larkrise School
3. Causeway (near New Road) safety refuge.

It was agreed that the results of the survey would be included in the consideration of item 9 of the agenda, and that the additional comments received on the survey would be considered at the next Highways and Amenities Committee meeting.

**589/08 To consider proposed street furniture**

- Letter from Miss Wren regarding dog fouling in the Meadgate Area – A response will be sent to Miss Wren asking for more details about where a dog bin might be placed. It will also be noted in the response that the matter of CCTV along footpaths would need to be directed to Chelmsford Borough Council. Cllr Mrs M Miller showed the meeting an article from The Guardian newspaper dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 about dog fouling being the subject most often complained about to MP's and Councillors.
- Letter from Ms Welsh regarding dog fouling between Colley Road/Vicarage Lane – A response will be sent to Ms Welsh advising that the area is unsuitable for a dog bin due to access restraints. However, the complaint will be forwarded on to the Dog Warden.

**590/08 To consider requests for traffic related improvement schemes**

- Letter from Mrs Faulker regarding the Beehive Lane/Baddow Road junction – A response will be sent to Mrs Faulker advising that the Parish Council recognizes the problem at the Beehive Lane/Baddow Road junction and supports the complaint, and that the matter has been referred to the Highways Authority. With regards to the litter problem described a letter will be sent to the local garage detailing the complaint. The litter pickers schedule will also be reviewed to ensure that this area is sufficiently patrolled.
- Letter from Ms Green regarding the pedestrian measures in Maldon Road and lighting in Jeffrey Road – Cllr Mrs M Miller has contacted the Highways department to chase up the progress of the proposed safety refuge in Maldon Road near Jeffrey Road. Cllr A Sosin told the meeting that he believed that the delay was a result of problems relating to EDF and because of this the work is still ongoing. A response will also be included about the proposed zebra crossing between the Vineyards and New Road, and the requests for better lighting in Jeffrey Road.

**591/08 Priority List**

It was proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs M Miller to accept the three highest scoring Highways improvements from the Highways Priorities survey listed under item 587/08, and forward these on to Essex County Council's Highways department.

**592/08 Matters for Information**

- Cllr Mrs C Shaw told the meeting that she had forwarded a complaint to the Highways department about the footpath between Hampton Road and Foxholes Road being overgrown and slippery and wondered if the situation had been improved. Cllr Mrs M Miller will look at the footpath again and speak to the Highways authority if the problem has not been resolved.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller informed the meeting that the traffic lights at the Army and Navy roundabout are now in use and a trial closure of the flyover was put in

place. This was done to carry out a safety assessment and to record incidents of traffic violations caused by drivers using the flyover when it is closed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05pm.

Signed.....Chairman..... Date