

Report of the Highways and Amenities Committee

The Committee met at 8.13pm on **Monday 16th October 2017** in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Councillor K Liley chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors K Liley, A Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs J Sosin, Mrs M Miller, T Miller, Mrs V Chiswell and J Fuller

In attendance: The Clerk of the Council

418/17 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence as all members of the committee were present.

419/17 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Registered Non Pecuniary Interests

420/17 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th June 2017 were proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Chiswell, with the following amendments:

Item 158/17, changed to "158a/17";

Item 158/17, changed to "158b/17"

Item 158b/17, 1., first line, the word "able" inserted after "not yet been"

The minutes were agreed unanimously.

421/17 Public Question Time

There were two members of the public present, who had both come to speak about the installation of a Pelican crossing in Church Street. They both spoke about the speeding problems in Church Street and the problems encountered by all residents but particularly school children and disabled people, when trying to cross the road. They said that it was a very vulnerable spot and hence the need for a crossing. It was confirmed that Cllr Jenny Chandler has been contacted and the application form to send to the Chelmsford Local Highways Panel has been obtained.

Cllr Mrs J Sosin told the meeting that one of the reasons why the chicane in Church Street had been installed was to try and help reduce the speeding.

422/17 Highways issues raised by residents for consideration

With the agreement of the meeting, this item was brought forward for consideration.

1. Mr Knight – A further e.mail had been received from Mr Knight shortly before the meeting. The Clerk reported that she has been in contact with Essex Police and had been told that they are trying to find information on speed checks that were carried out in Church Street a little while ago. The Clerk had been informed that if the information proves impossible to find, further checks will be carried out. The police have confirmed that they would not be willing to take any action relating to drivers coming off the slip road from the by-pass. It was also confirmed that the Parish Council Highways & Amenities Committee has not made a recent request for the extension of the 30-mph speed limit.

The Clerk told the meeting that she had been unable to find prices for SIDS/VAS. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would need the permission of ECC Highways to erect speed indicator devices.

It was agreed that a proposal would be put forward in the budget when that item is considered. Cllr Mrs C Shaw told the meeting that she had found out that there is now no minimum number of volunteers required for the Speed Watch scheme.

2. C Horsley – Cllr K Liley opened the discussion by saying that the request for a crossing was a valid one. There is now more housing in the area, meaning more residents trying to cross the road and Essex County Council has been unable to find a replacement for the school crossing patrol person. There was then further discussion about the application.

Cllr Mrs J Sosin asked where the crossing is required and was told that the application will state that it is needed near Seabrook Road. It was noted that the installation of a crossing has the support of all three local schools. It was also noted that the Busgate proposals in Baddow Road are likely to increase the volume of traffic in Church Street.

The Clerk sought clarification about who is going to submit the application and it was confirmed that Mrs Horsley will be doing this.

Cllr A Sosin reminded the meeting that the pavements in Church Street are very narrow. He also said that the Parish Council had recently submitted an application for drop kerbs to be installed in the Church Street/Vicarage Lane/Galleywood Road area.

It was proposed by Cllr J Fuller and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Chiswell that the Parish Council would support the application proposing the installation of a ~~(Pelican)~~ crossing in Church Street. This was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Mrs J Sosin reminded those present that the installation of a crossing does not guarantee complete safety. Cllr A Sosin also told the meeting that he would be helping Mrs Horsley with the application.

The committee thanked Mrs Horsley for attending the meeting.

423/17 Clerk's Report

1. **Parish Council Membership of the CLHP**

The Clerk told the meeting that she had not written the letter concerning parish council representation on the panel but had noticed that in the minutes of the last meeting it had been noted that the panel has recently adopted a new policy, which did not allow for this representation. It was also noted that a recent request from Danbury Parish Council for representation had been turned down on that ground.

2. **Street Lights**

The lamp post in Maldon Road, next to the off licence, was cut off in January 2016, after it was found to be dangerous. It was noted that a new pole has recently been installed but the pole has no lamp head and is not connected.

424/17 Update Reports on outstanding issues:

1. **Street Lighting in Park View Crescent and Sawkins Avenue**

Cllr K Liley told the meeting that he and Cllr A Sosin had visited two sites in the Braintree area to look at solar street lights and photographs were circulated. It was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw that the installation of a solar light in Sawkins Avenue should proceed, providing that the technical information confirms that the lights are suitable and once a consultation with the residents has been carried out. This was agreed unanimously. The Clerk told the meeting that she has recently learned that it may be possible to establish an unmetered electricity supply by completing an online form. It was agreed that a form will be submitted.

2. Litter Picking Routes

The Clerk told the meeting that she still needs to speak with the Grounds Supervisor about the litter picking routes. It was noted that one of the litter pickers is still away from work on sick leave. Cllr A Sosin said that he would like the remaining litter picker to be allocated to work in the roads around the Vineyards on alternate weeks. The Clerk said that she would ask the Grounds Supervisor to organise this. It was also noted that the Council does not litter pick the Vineyards itself because it is private property.

3. Installation of Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk told the meeting that this matter has still not been progressed but that she will be speaking to the Grounds Supervisor and that the matter will be treated as a priority. Chelmsford City Council will need to be contacted.

4. Dropped Kerbs in Great Baddow

No update had been received about the submitted schemes LCHE162180 and LCHE162181 and the Clerk said that she will try and find out what progress has been made. It was also agreed that the Clerk should request a copy of the CHLP schemes list.

5. 30 MPH Signs/VAS and SIDS

It was noted that the Clerk had told the meeting at item 422/17(1) that she had been unable to find prices for these devices.

6. Loftin Way Verges

Cllr Mrs C Shaw reported that she had been online to see the results of the quarterly monitoring of the verges in Loftin Way. The report said that the verges did not currently need any work on them.

425/17 Chelmsford Local Highways Panel

The minutes of two meetings of the Panel held on 21st June and 26th September 2017 had been circulated and were noted. It was noted that the Cycle Route had not been discussed at the meetings. It was agreed to request further information about scheme LCHE168008. The committee noted that there is a meeting of the Panel due to be held on 20th December 2017.

426/17 Highways Schemes Priorities

Cllr A Sosin reported that the list had not yet been updated. Cllrs K Liley and A Sosin will update and then look at the list to see if there are any schemes that the Parish Council may wish to resubmit.

427/17 Items for Consideration in the Budget

It was noted by the committee that a bus shelter outside the Manor Farm shop is to be installed by Essex County Council using S106 monies. A metal bus shelter outside 77 Maldon Road would cost in the region of £4000.00 and it was agreed that this should be considered in the budget.

428/17 Budget

1. To review the Budget Spending for 2017/2018

The Clerk introduced a review of the budget spending to date for 2017/2018 and confirmed that there were no areas of immediate concern. It was agreed that the expenditure was running in line with the budget and was noted.

2. To consider the draft Budget for 2018/2019

The Clerk introduced the draft budget, and outlined where the budget has been increased in line with inflation.

The following projects were discussed for inclusion in the 2018/2019 budget:

- Bus Shelter outside 77 Maldon Road - £4000.00
- Purchase and installation of a SID or VAS - £8000.00

It was proposed by Cllr K Liley and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw that the budget, with the addition of the projects outlined above, should go forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in November 2017 as the recommendation of the Highways & Amenities Committee. This was agreed unanimously.

429/17 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs M Miller reported that the roadworks have started in Longmead Avenue and wondered if there had been any problems with people accessing the doctors' surgery and with the buses. It was confirmed that that the roadworks will be moving along the road and that in fact the first part at the junction with Maldon Road have already been completed.
- Cllr J Fuller confirmed that the crossing patrol vacancy is still being advertised by Essex County Council.
- The Clerk reported that she had contacted Essex County Council about the Heras fencing erected outside the Parish Hall, following the road traffic accident on 3rd August 2017. A reply had been received saying that someone had been out to check and replace the sandbags. The Clerk said that whilst the sandbags may have been checked, they had not been replaced. The reply had also made it clear that any problems caused on the pavement by the debris from the accident would be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

9.52pm – Cllr T Miller left the meeting and returned at 9.55pm

- The Clerk reported to the meeting that she had met with Malcolm Lees from the Open Spaces Society. He has made suggestions about getting some paths that currently are not PROW, adopted as PROW. It was agreed that as this committee will not be meeting again until February 2018, the matter can be placed before a Planning committee meeting.
- Cllr K Liley reported that the advertising sign outside the Premier shop was reported to the City Council enforcement officer and it has now been moved.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.00pm.

Signed.....*J P Sin*.....Chairman.....*13/11 November 2017*.....Date