

Minutes of the Husborne Crawley Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 in The Reading Room, Husborne Crawley starting at 8pm.

Present: Councillors – T Hopper - Chairman, G Lang, J Murphy, S Pearston, B O'Rourke & Lyn Lyman (Clerk). 1 resident.

In attendance: CB Cllr J Baker.

1719. To accept Apologies:

No apologies received.

1720 Co-option of new Councillors:

The 2 Parish Cllrs vacancies were discussed again. Both Cllr Hopper and the Clerk have spoken to 2 residents. **Action: TH/LL**

1721. Declaration of Members' Interests:

a) Declaration of members interest of a non-pecuniary nature:

(Having membership of a club, charity etc or a close relationship). Cllr Pearston – Charity and Reading Room Committee and Speedwatch, Cllr Murphy – Reading Room Committee,

b) Declaration of members interest of a pecuniary nature:

(Having a financial bearing on a member or their spouse/partner). None.

1722. Open Forum:

Residents will have the chance to raise anything relevant to Parish Council business but they will not be able to discuss the subject more than once. A maximum of 2 minutes per subject will be allowed:

The resident present spoke about the traffic situation on Turnpike Road and width of the footpath. He spoke of the various meetings and e.mail exchanges he has had with the Police. Following a meeting Ian Delgarno said he would get signs painted on the roads etc but this hasn't happened. Cyclists should not be riding on the footpaths.

Width of path is poor in places along Turnpike Road. Abusive cyclists do occasionally ride along the footpath which doesn't help. Young children are walking to school too.

There are also problems in School Lane with overgrown grass verges.

Delivery drivers park on the footpaths. Electric cycles are also extremely quiet causing further problems. It is dangerous for emergency vehicles too. Police cars come through on training sessions. The 7.5ton regulations are being flouted and the HGV mirrors often clip pedestrians. The footpath is narrower in some places due to overgrown hedges which has been reported.

It is understood that cyclists riding 2 abreast, shout at drivers. And cars do occasionally overtake on the bend in Turnpike Road. Young children are walking to school.

The resident said he has been speaking to the Police about the situation for 6 months now.

CB Cllr Baker was asked to confirm what the minimum width of footpaths should be. He

was asked what the Councils stance is where the road has been surface dressed thus altering the height of the kerbs. *Action: JB*

The hedge at 19, (privately owned) has been cut back well, the hedge at 17 (privately owned) is not good. Letters are to be sent. Where properties are owned by Bedford Estate, Bedford Estate should be cutting them back. Enforcement needs to come from Bedford Estates and CBC in order to regain footpath width. *Action: LL*

CB Cllr Baker was asked to ask CBC whether we can have more monitoring tubes which he agreed to. Also to ask CBC if the Highways Department could get the hedges cut back. *Action: JB*

When M1 Junction 11 was built, we were told that the HGV's would be taken away from our village but this has not happened.

CB Cllr Baker said there are some exceptions regarding 7.5 gross vehicle weight limits, over weight vehicles should not be in the area unless learner driving / calling at properties in the village. CBC do not have any powers to stop HGV's. PCC commissioner will not attend CBC meetings where Enforcement of traffic acts could be discussed as this would come under PCC.

Where hedges are desperately over the footpath, the residents are to be asked to cut back not just trim them. The Clerk had already contacted Karen Rance at Bedford Estates but has not received a response.

The surface on Horsepool Lane appears to be bald and there are deep ruts at the sides. This has been noted by CBC.

1723. To accept Minutes of previous Meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 22nd November 2023 be signed as a true record of events.

1724. To consider Matters arising:

1700 CB Cllr Baker had previously asked for speed checks. Once these have been carried out the data needs to be collated by CBC. Nothing further has been heard re the checks/data. *Action: JB*

1702c Cllr Hopper had spoken to Peter George: and it was agreed that first aid training on both the defibrillator and general was too expensive. Maybe Peter George could look into the keyring method circulated to all residents as in Blakesley. *Action: TH*

1702d Cllr Hopper agreed to speak to Peter George to see if the cost of the renovation of the blue church sign by Ed Durdey could be taken from the donation from the Parish Council. Peter George agreed, maybe PC could pay. Cllr Hopper agreed to ask Peter to get a quote from Ed Durby. *Action: TH*

The sheep field situation in Aspley Guise was discussed. It was agreed as a Parish Council we would not enter into discussions. Individuals could do as they pleased.

Wicksteed Leisure have been asked if they could make repairs to some of the play equipment (which they supplied a number of years ago). They have asked for photos and asked if we could measure the bolt. Cllr Hopper agreed to look at the report to check what is required. *Action: TH*

1722: Hedges along Turnpike Road still require cutting back as does the hedge round the phone box. 14 Horsepool round to 15 + 16 Turnpike. 17 is privately owned.

1725. **To accept reports:**

Ward Cllr Baker:

Schools: review of school situation. Fulbrook extended secondary until 2026. The decision on the future of Ridgmont Lower School is to be made in April.

Nothing currently on other lower schools. There is money in the budget to do something. Government wants primary and secondary schools. The Sheep field planning should consider the lower schools situation which could re-organise solution in one go.

Circular walk on A421 to Husborne Crawley, pedestrians can actually get to Husborne Crawley but the cycle path doesn't go anywhere when it gets to M1 Junction 13.

St James Church: The Carol Service took place and was well attended. The Wreath making session took place and was also well attended. Now have better heating.

Discussion about the feasibility of re-siting the porta loo are about to take place between Cllr Hopper and Pater George. **Action TH / PG**

Ian Delgarno, the Deputy PCC, has expressed an interest in attending parish council meetings around the area occasionally. He has asked for a copy of the safety report regarding the footpath/hedge situation to be forwarded to him. Cllr Pearston is to be asked if she can forward a copy to him. **Action: SP**

Speedwatch: Due to health issues, holidays and weather conditions, this months Speedwatch session has been cancelled. Two PC's came to look at tractors/muck trailers but they stopped coming through.

1726. **To accept accounts:**

Approx balance as at 2nd October 2023 £20,927.17. (November)

Expenditure:

Husborne Crawley Fireworks Donation	150.00
Peter George (Partytent) Replacement roof to marquee	224.46
Bedford Estates Annual Licence	1.00
CBC Uncontested byelection charge	54.56
Mrs Lyman WFH allowance (May – Nov)	130.00
Mrs Lyman Salary May – Nov	571.60
	1,131.62

Regarding the payment to St James PCC (£200) for possible refurbishment of the blue noticeboard at St James, don't pay it yet as there needs to be more discussion. Cllr Hopper to speak to Peter George. **Action: TH / PG**

1727. To accept correspondence / planning:

None.

1728. **Date of next meetings:**

Tuesday 19th March 2024 starting at 8pm.

Meeting closed: 9.28 pm

T Hopper
Chairman