

Great Waltham Parish Council

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The minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Transport Committee of Great Waltham Parish Council held in the Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham on Monday 13th February 2023 at **7.30pm.**

1. Chair's Welcome:
Chair: Gilbert.
Councillors: Palmer, Martin, Dunn, Lockwood, and McDevitt.

2. Apologies for Absence.
None required.

3. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and requests for dispensation.
No declaration was made.

4. Public Participation session - items do not need to on the agenda.
One member of the public present in relation to agenda item six to address the Committee.
One member of the public present in relation to agenda item eleven to address the Committee.
One member of the public raised these concerns:
 - The increase in traffic in Ford End (FE). As a resident of Main Road, FE for 14-15 years, has observed the traffic through the village getting worse. The Council and Highways used to support reducing traffic through FE, but this does not now appear to be the case.
 - The signage at Sheepcotes roundabout has changed – the advised lorry route signs at Notley have disappeared . The electronic traffic boards do not seem to be used as much to direct traffic via the junction at Notley. The NE bypass project will need signage to direct traffic to the M11 and a lorry advisory route via Notley rather than through FE.
 - The pavements in FE are not being maintained.
 - Buses – the X10 and X30 services only stop at the bus stops by the School, which are difficult to access in the dark because there is inadequate street lighting and dangerous pavements. Why is 1/3 of the street lighting elsewhere ?
 - The 20mph policy in Chelmsford and Braintree is very poor. Some signs are only on one side of the road.
 - Broomfield Road part of the B1008 is regarded as a PR1 but with a weight restriction from the hospital onwards – why can't the restriction be extended?One member of the public from FE, also a Main Road resident, raised concerns over the validity of the B1008's PR1 status. Can vehicles over 7.5 tons be diverted away from FE even if the PR1 is required? Has a traffic survey been done to collect HGV data? Has an air quality survey been undertaken in FE?

5. To review the current positions of outstanding actions on the Committee's action tracker.

The following items were closed.

Item Identifier	Resolution or description	Action completed
LCHE182051	B1008, Northern approach to Ford End - 40mph buffer	Buffer in place. Close this item
<u>22/1270</u>	To consider and agree the Highways & Transport Committee's recommendation that it contacts ECC's Highways, Maintenance and Sustainable Transport cabinet member to arrange a meeting to discuss how strategic ECC projects will influence road usage in the parish. Resolution: This recommendation was agreed.	Meeting has been held - December 2022 Close this item
<u>22/1321</u>	To note feedback from the latest 20's Plenty presentation and agree the Council's next steps Cllrs. Gilbert and Martin reported on the latest 20's Plenty presentation (webinar) as facilitated by EALC. The overarching objectives of the pressure group's campaign are persuasive in that they seek to reduce traffic speeds and reduce the hazards when motor vehicles are more likely to mix with pedestrian and cycle traffic. However, whether the proposed solution (an Essex-wide 20mph default speed limit with agreed higher exceptions) is more a reaction borne of parish councils' frustration in securing action for their specific local traffic/speeding issues, than a viable practical way forward is perhaps debatable. The webinar setting was not the opportunity for a more detailed dialogue to secure a firm assessment of how the campaign's proposals would improve road safety in the parish. Resolution: It was agreed that organisers of the 20's Plenty campaign in Essex should be invited to the Council's next Highways & Transport Committee to secure a firmer understanding of any benefits to be obtained by the Council endorsing the campaign	Cllr Kenning attended the meeting on 13/02/2023 Close this item
<u>21/1028</u>	Feedback on the bus services in the Parish The changes by First have affected several parishioners. The X10 and X30 have created a lot of confusion and drivers do not always stop at North End. Barnston is the changeover point to get to Great Dunmow. The Service is viewed as not fit for purpose and will drive more people to use cars or alternative means of transport. Resolution: Clerk & Cllr Palmer to write to the MD of FirstBus to raise concerns about the poor service.	Clerk has provided Name of Bus MD. Cllr Palmer to provide the detail for the complaint. Cllr Palmer has sent the letter to the MD. - No response Cllr Palmer to Chase up. DigiBus is working well. Close this item

6. To receive an update from Daniel Kenning (Pleshey PC) on the 20's Plenty for Essex campaign.

Daniel updated the meeting and confirmed:

- The initiative is regarded as a facilitation rather than a campaign.
- He cited an example where Pleshey Parish Council's risk register identified the danger at the entrance of the parish playground where its users and traffic meet, and a Highways solution was not readily available.
- Modern vehicles are larger, heavier and faster and the risk to pedestrians is getting worse.
- A 20mph limit would be a mitigation measure to reduce the risk of death from an accident with a vehicle, along with the improvements to the visibility of the playground already undertaken.
- Several other areas have already been able to reduce speeds in their counties.
- 20's Plenty is a charity organisation. The first webinar (facilitated by EALC) had 120 attendees. An information pack to support parish councils was made available. To date, 43 Essex Parish Councils out of 275 have signed up to support the initiative. Essex County Council have not engaged significantly in the process.
- The push is to have consistency across Essex with 20mph being the default in mixed use areas with exceptions.
- Currently the only route to make a local change is to create a Local Highways Panel request and go through the process which may take up to 5 years.
- Locations that are rural in nature with some built-up areas could reduce from 30 to 20mph with buffer zones.

The meeting noted that Essex County Council's current Functional Route Hierarchy Review followed by the Essex Speed Management Strategy review could propose similar changes to the initiative. The Committee understands parish councils will be consulted when these documents are redrafted.

7. To discuss and agree a recommended stance in relation to the 20's Plenty for Essex campaign.

Currently just under 50 of the parish/town councils in Essex have supported the campaign.

There are some roads in the parish which would be in scope.

Lower speed limits would reduce average speeds, even when the actual limit is not strictly adhered to.

There is merit in showing solidarity with other councils for whom the scheme would be more impactful.

Resolution: Recommend that the Parish Council Supports the 20's Plenty for Essex campaign and drafts a letter for Essex County Council to confirm its stance.

8. To discuss the priority issues to be raised with the ECC Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport cabinet member at the meeting with him on 22nd December 2022. (Cllr. Gilbert)

Covered in item 9 as the meeting has taken place.

9. To provide an update on the meeting with the ECC Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport cabinet member at the meeting with him on 22nd December 2022.

The meeting with the cabinet member (Cllr. Scott) was very useful and issues discussed included:

- Cllr. Scott emphasised that the funding issues which affect all local government are no less a reality in his area. Highways would be able to draft an article for the Parish News to highlight the issue and constraints experienced by the County Council in the provision of its services.
 - Average speed cameras for Ford End proposal – the 50% funding offer is being reviewed to ensure it is still available.
 - Cllr. Scott agreed to discuss a proposal to remove the PR1 designation for Ford End with the Department for Transport.
 - Cllr. Scott was hopeful that new powers would assist in requiring satnav companies to reallocate the preferred route statuses of particular roads (important for the parish as the B1008 is often still shown on the satellite navigation systems as a preferred route).
 - Digigo is regarded as a successful pilot scheme, particularly popular with the young and more elderly (60+), especially for trips to/from hospital visits.
 - Commercial traffic (especially for deliveries) is increasing with work from home and more purchases being made online.
 - The autumn review of the Functional Route Hierarchy was deferred and now should be available for consultation in Spring 2023.
 - ECC's Highways Rangers function is to be terminated.
 - Enforcement officers are being increased to 5.
10. To discuss and agree a recommended strategy for the future use of the Council's SID (Speed Indicator Device) vehicle activated speed sign.

Resolution: Continue to use the SID in the current format.

11. To review the Speed Watch reports for Ford End and Great Waltham.

- The meeting received an update from a member of the Ford End Speed Watch group.
- There are 4 members of the group in Ford End. Additional volunteers would be welcomed.
- Data from the weekly checks was shared with the Committee.
- While it was noted that PSV and HGV slow down the traffic, there are still plenty of high-speed drivers. Anyone travelling in excess of 36 mph is recorded.
- There are four designated recording locations. Traffic travelling in both directions is recorded. The time of the checks is random but tend to be early morning (9.00-10.00am) or late afternoon. A reported driver will receive a warning from Essex Police.

Resolution: Standing invitation to Committee meetings for the parish's Speed Watch co-ordinators.

12. To review progress on the Essex Council members pothole repair scheme.

The meeting received and noted written update report from Essex County Cllr. Mike Steel on submissions he has made for reported potholes in his overall area. The table below now provides an update on submissions made in the parish.

site name	site_name	enquiry number	enquiry_desc	enq_status_name
1	BARRACK LANE	2799166	Title=A series of potholes.I have had an interchange with Member Enquiries who have now confirmed that this is part of the highway and ECC highways are responsible for its maintenance. their last message was as follows: "Technically this defect is P3 priority on a local road so is out of scope in the Maintenance Matrix/Strategy document. I recommend that Cllr Steel add this location/defect to his next submission in the Member Led pothole reduction scheme. Once it's on the Members Led list we can produce a job for to fill the holes in the layby. However the defect photos suggest this layby is a unmade/homemade gravel surface so we would most likely fill/compact the holes using road planings here. We would not surface/resurface the entire layby." As can be seen from the photo, there are several holes along a stretch of passing place.	made safe. Completed 16 Jan 23
2	BURY LANE	2785822	Title=A series of potholes,A number of holes at the edge of the carriageway - the road is narrow and one of the residents parks on the road outside his house, so vehicles (and some trucks) get round by going to the edge of the road, where it has worn away and created some big holes. Existing defect ref 2780985	works completed
8	CHURCH LANE	2785816	Title=A single pothole,A short strip where the surface has lifted then cracked.	works completed
12	LARKS LANE	2802206	Title=A series of potholes,The passing place/layby is in a bit of s state. It looks to have been tarmac at one point but is now full of holes and ruts. I think I have enquired as to its official status and been told it is part of the highway	works completed
14	LITTLE GREEN ROAD	2785942	Title=A single pothole,In middle of south bound carriageway - quite a wide pothole on the narrow bit of Little Green Road	works completed
21	MASHBURY ROAD	2785891	Title=A single pothole,Edge of road crumbled away leaving hole	works completed
21	MASHBURY ROAD	2802215	Title=A series of potholes,Fire hydrant cover – for cyclists this is highly dangerous, at the base of a gentle descent and positioned a 'cyclists distance' from the edge of the road 2 deep potholes encroaching into the road positioned in a narrow section on the outer curve of the bend where oncoming traffic is hidden from view because of the hedge opposite until the last minute – forcing drivers out into the road as a result.	works completed
40	Chelmsford Rd GW	2812774	Drain cover	Submitted
47	Great Waltham (outside shop)	2818943	What3words - regretted.intelligible.pulsing Entrance to Brook Mead off Barack Lane. Large hole right at the junction	Submitted
49	Pleshey Road	2821429	I have been contacted by Lodge's coaches - they are concerned about the the many potholes on the section of road between Walthambury Farm and Pleshey Great Stone junction which is to the west of Pleshey. Perhaps the Lodges school buses contribute to damage in some of the areas but it seems to be agricultural vehicles driving on and destroying the sodden verges that in turn weaken the edge of the carriageway is the main problem. See attached map for location Numerous holes. Some have been reported previously via the member Led scheme and reported as fixed - 2785795, 2785789, 2785792 - but these have deteriorated again and additional holes opened up.	Submitted
51	Howe Street, Bridge Croft		Scheme now closed so couldn't get this one in. Lee Scott said he would continue to use the funds and would select the worst ones not addressed? Any chance it could be added to his list? Location is What3words - measure.extremely.correct It is a bunch of holes at the entrance to Bridge Croft, Hope Street, Chelmsford	Asked Cllr Scott to include David Forkin says can't be done. Existing Track it 3678749 Escalated via ME who said put in another one 2823304 Inspection being arranged

13. To review the impact of the National Highways A120 diversion route and its impact on the B1008.

Currently no significant impact noted to the B1008. The original A120 (pre 2008 upgrade) was recommended by the Parish Council, and it's assumed that this has been used instead of the designated, signed diversion (dropping down and going through Ford End).

14. To review progress on the Local Highways Panel planned work for Great Waltham Parish.

The meeting noted the contents of the latest LHP status report for schemes in the parish, including the addition of a new scheme for signage improvements adjacent to Great Waltham Primary School.

Cost Code	Status	Scheme	Description	Scheme stage	Budget
LCHE182051	Funded	B1008, Northern approach to Ford End - 40mph buffer	40mph buffer	Total scheme	£10,500.00
LCHE182010	Awaiting Funding	B1008 Ford End - Footway improvements	Width of footway through Village	Validation	N/A
LCHE182009	Funded	B1008 Ford End - Kerbing improvements	Height of kerbs through Village - Raised kerbs at six bus stops thro	Total scheme	£48,000.00
LCHE203002	Completed	Barrack Lane j/w Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham - Footway Improvements	Footway improvements	Design	£6,500.00
LCHE192028	Awaiting Funding	Ford End - Average speed cameras	Average speed cameras	Implementation	£60,460.00
LCHE202036	Funded	Little Park Cottages, Little Park Lane, Hartford End - Road markings	SLOW road markings for existing bend warning signs	Total scheme	£10,800.00
LCHE212013	Archived	Ringtail Green, Great Waltham - Traffic management improvements	Request for speed reduction 60mph to 40mph and Quiet Lane stat	Validation	TBC
LCHE222014	Awaiting Funding	Ringtail Green, Great Waltham - Gateway signs	Signage to identify the hamlet	Total scheme	£13,000.00
LCHE203002	Awaiting Funding	Barrack Lane j/w Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham - Footway Improvements	Footway improvements	Implementation	£9,500.00
LCHE223011	Awaiting Funding	Great Waltham Primary School, South Street, Great Waltham - Signage improvements	Sign to show School not School Crossing Patrol	Total scheme	£6,500.00

15. To consider future requests to the Local Highways Panel.

The meeting identified the value of maintaining a log of potential schemes which would be evaluated by the Committee with a view to making recommendations to the Council for it to agree its preferred prioritisation and onward submission for consideration.

Resolution: Items should be passed to the Clerk for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

Resolution: List of potential schemes to be created for the next meeting.

16. Discuss the poor condition of the footway between Bennett's Lane and Parsonage Lane on the B1008 on the North End side.

Resolution: Add to the list of LHP requests for discussion.

17. To consider the installation of deer signs around the village due to the increased levels of deer.

The meeting agreed that with more information a request for new signs could be offered for consideration.

Resolution: Add to the list of LHP requests for discussion should further information be forthcoming.

18. To agree whether to recommend that the council responds to the Chelmer Village Park and Ride expansion – Public online consultation survey.

Resolution: The Committee recommends no action on this consultation.

Members:

Cllrs - Dunn, McDevitt, Lockwood, Palmer, Gilbert, and Martin

Meeting Closed 21:37
W.Adshead-Grant
Clerk to the Council.