

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 24th July 2023 at 7.30pm.

1. Elect a committee Chairman.
Cllr Gilbert was elected.
2. Chair's Welcome:
Chair: Cllr Gilbert.
Councillors: Cllr Martin, Cllr Bradley, Cllr McDevitt and Cllr Jenkins.
3. Apologies for Absence.
Cllr Palmer.
4. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and requests for dispensation.
Cllr Bradley works for Essex County Council Highways.
5. Public Participation session - items do not need to on the agenda.
2 members of the public.
6. Update from the Speedwatch representatives from Ford End and Great Waltham.

Great Waltham representative:

- A recruitment drive was advertised in the Parish News and a team of 5 is now in place.
- The team go out fortnightly within the hours of 08.00-09.00 or 16.00-18.00.
- There are 2 approved sites: Hatchfields/Chelmsford Road junction and South Street/Cherry Garden Road (CGR). Usually, it's a 1-hour session.
- At the Hatchfields site they get 30 to 40 vehicles travelling over 37mph in the session. On some occasions vehicles are travelling over 50mph in the 30mph zone.
- Some visual and verbal abuse has been received from drivers. Several residents of the village have been recorded speeding.
- The maximum speed recorded by the team is 55mph. At the South Street/CGR location the team gets 10-12 speeding vehicles per session.
- Overall, around 33% of the vehicles viewed are speeding.

Ford End Representative:

- The previous Speedwatch coordinator has had to step back due to other commitments.
- Vehicles enter the village at over 40mph from both ends of the village.
- The position of the Speed Indication Device (SID) by the school helps to reduce the number of speeding vehicles recorded by Speedwatch. Can an additional unit be considered for purchase? Can a permanent unit be considered?
- Speedwatch is out once a week for approximately an hour (from 09.30 or 15.00). At least 12 vehicles are found to be travelling over 36mph in the 30mph zone.
- Additional volunteers are sought for weekend monitoring.

The meeting agreed to include an agenda item at a future meeting to consider its SID strategy in Ford End and elsewhere, and the whether acquiring further units would be beneficial and cost effective.

7. Update from the Parish public transport representative.
Defer to the next meeting.
8. Discuss the public footpaths around the Parish and discuss options to improve the cutbacks potentially via a parish footpath partnership.

Great Waltham footpaths seem to be cut back towards the end of August. This leads to several paths being unusable for some of the year. Volunteers with hand-cutting tools could be deployed around the key areas of the parish. Perhaps farmers could be incentivized to cut vegetation more regularly with funding from Essex County Council.

The status of the footpath partnership was unclear. Does it still exist and what work does it organize/carry out? More information is needed.

Resolution: Cllr Bradley and the Clerk to gather data and report back to the Committee.

9. To receive updates on all open Action Tracker items (based on the Tracker document circulated with the agenda).

The tracker was reviewed, and several items closed. See the updated tracker.

10. To consider the report *Proposals to address the outstanding maintenance works on the footways alongside the B1008 through Ford End and for the introduction of enhanced traffic calming measures through Ringtail Green, Ford End* circulated with the agenda, and to agree recommended actions.

The meeting acknowledged the contents of the report and agreed that because the situation remains unsatisfactory the recommended actions cited should be pursued.

Resolution: These actions are recommended to the full council for approval:

- **To further lobby all relevant authorities and agencies for traffic calming and maintenance works as they affect the footways alongside the B1008 in Ford End and the road through Ringtail Green.**
 - **In particular, as a minimum, given the new evidence cited in this paper, to lobby for the reconsideration of all previously contemplated schemes (that is, Quiet Lane status for the lane, 'SLOW' road markings at either side of the bend, and advisory road signs at either side of the bend, e.g., maximum speed and chevrons). This would be achieved by working with its city and county council representatives to formulate submission documents for improvement schemes.**
 - **To request a meeting with Essex Highways to discuss the interpretation of ATC data and to seek its expertise on the range of traffic calming measures available for the road through Ringtail Green (notwithstanding any current absence of funding). That is, to understand what other innovative solutions it can recommend as the subject matter expert.**
 - **To seek clarification of how works previously undertaken by the Highways Rangers will be carried out in future. Even if this results in an understanding that such works will not now be completed, GWPC will be able to confirm to its parishioners that a valuable service has been withdrawn and alert them to the possible consequences.**
 - **To establish and communicate the mechanisms available for individual residents and businesses in the parish to complain about the loss of amenity (state of the footways alongside the B1008) and the hazards imposed because of increased pedestrian traffic on the road through Ringtail Green. And in addition, to draft a template wording which complainants could consider using.**
11. To receive an update on the response from National Highways concerning the request for information in relation to the designation of the B1008 as the diversionary route for the A120 (see copy of letter circulated with agenda) and agree any further recommended actions.

The alternative route B1256 is suitable apart from the section around Rayne due to the traffic calming features in place there. It was noted that National Highways does not collect data to monitor the success (or otherwise) of the diversion routes it introduces.

The meeting agreed that there is benefit in responding to National Highways and to engage Essex Highways in the process, as the rationale for the current designation of the B1008 seems significantly weakened by the absence of any empirical evidence to indicate it is actually needed in its current format.

Resolution: *The Committee to respond to National Highways' correspondence and copy in Essex Highways with its feedback and comments.*

12. Proposal for SID pole at Church end on approach the Village. – Cllr Palmer.
Defer to the next meeting.

13. Agenda item- to ask that cones are put in place by The Rose every weekend to deter vehicles from blocking paths – Cllr Palmer.
Defer to the next meeting.

Members – Cllr Gilbert, Cllr Martin, Cllr Palmer, Cllr McDevitt, Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Bradley.

Next Meetings:

Monday 31st July	Great Waltham Parish Council Finance and General Purposes @ 7.30pm
TUESDAY 22nd August	Great Waltham Parish Council Monthly Meeting at 7.30PM at FORD END

Meeting closed: 21.00
Will Adshead-Grant