

Great Waltham Parish Council

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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 25th November 2024 at 7.00pm.

1. Chair's Welcome:
Chair: Gilbert.
Councillors: Jenkins, Martin and Bradley.
 2. Apologies for Absence.
Cllrs Palmer and Cllr McDevitt.
 3. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda and requests for dispensation.
There were no declarations made.
 4. Public Participation session - items do not need to on the agenda.
One member of the public attended.
It was highlighted that at Ford End there were a variety of traffic monitoring actions in place at the same time outside the school – concerns about a lack of coordination between the three measures and how recorded data could be influenced by these concurrent activities:
 - The Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device was running between 5th November and 17th of November inclusive.
 - Essex County Council had an automatic speed count (paid for the Parish Council) at the school running between 12th November and 19th November inclusive.
 - The Ford End Community Speed Watch team had arranged a session at 9.00am Thursday 18th November.
 - It was also stated that the Ford End 20mph wig-wag signs were either not working or were not working at the correct times.
 5. Update from representatives of the Speed Watch groups in Ford End and Great Waltham.
 - Great Waltham Community Speed Watch – additional volunteers are needed for the team.
 - Ford End Community Speed Watch – Team of 7 with two new volunteers added to the team. One has completed the training and is ready to deploy, the second volunteer still needs to be trained. The winter evening light levels make the available sessions a little bit limited. The team runs a session most weeks.
 6. To receive updates on all open Action Tracker items (based on the Tracker document circulated with the agenda).
The tracker was reviewed and updated. Several items were closed after updates.
 7. To consider the current position in relation to approved Local Highways Panel schemes.
Two schemes outstanding – both on the tracker.
 - LHP scheme: LCHE223011
 - Great Waltham Primary School, South Street, Great Waltham - Signage improvements
 - LHP scheme: LCHE203002
 - Barrack Lane j/w Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham - Footway Improvements
- Resolution: Clerk to request an update from Essex County Councillor Steel.**
8. To receive an update on the results of the recent Essex Highways automatic traffic count on the B1008 at Ford End.

- Data from Essex Highways to be received by the Parish Council at the end of this week (25/11 to 30/11).
 - This count was paid for by the Parish Council.
9. To consider the merits of engaging the various services of Maldon District Council Community Engagement Team including the TruCAM System in relation to additional enforcement action to target speeding motorists in the parish.
- The Committee watched a video on YouTube to understand the unit and its application.
 - The Committee had several questions that need clarification from the Maldon D.C. team, including: Who can run the system? Are speed camera signs required? How were the enforcement statistics indicated created?

Resolution: Clerk to organise a meeting with the TruCAM team and the Committee in the Pavilion.

10. To consider a resident's request for support in relation to a pedestrian road safety issue at South Street, Great Waltham (see information in briefing paper circulated prior to the meeting).
- A resident has raised concerns about the lack of footways between the public footpath 74, public footpath 73 and the Highways-maintained footway network.
 - It was noted that several of the current roadside warning signs have faded.
 - The Committee acknowledged concerns about the apparent increases in both parked vehicles on South Street and the surrounding area, and the volumes of traffic using the route (most likely as part of a rat-run to avoid routine congestion elsewhere for motorists travelling into Chelmsford). Both factors make pedestrian movement along the stretch of South Street without a footway more hazardous, especially during the morning and afternoon periods when parents/guardians accompany children to and from the school.
 - Further comments on apparent lack of adherence to Highway Code rules were noted. The Committee also recognised that the Council itself has no highways enforcement powers.

Resolution: Investigate the potential to extend FP73 across the green area adjacent to Duffries Close to join the footway network.

Resolution: Cllr Bradley to report the condition of the faded South Street pedestrian signs.

Resolution: Requests that the hedges around adjacent properties are cut back to improve visibility and ease of pedestrian movement.

Resolution: Cllr Gilbert to request the Community Police Team attend the location during a peak time to observe the situation.

11. Discuss and agree the best way to elevate long standing Highways issues in the Parish, including the missing speed and school warning signs in Ford End village. A variety of traffic signs are missing or faded and need to be reinstated.
- Pleshey Road – 30mph speed sign. One of the signs is in the Ford End recreation ground car park. It just needs reinstating. This has been reported.
 - There are currently twenty-six reported sign defects along the B1008 between North End and Appletrees corner.

Resolution: Clerk to request the number of highways defects in Great Waltham Parish from Essex County Councillor Steel.

Resolution: Clerk to request a meeting between Committee representatives and Highways Liaison to discuss current positions on all highways issues.

12. Update on footway clearance in Great Waltham village and Howe Street and future plans.

2 Saturday sessions (Oct and Nov) have been held. 10 volunteers on both occasions. Potential for a December session to complete the cricket ground area. 2 tonnes of soil have been removed.

13. Discuss an investigation of pedestrian access from the Great Waltham Recreation ground car park to the footway network.

Covered under item 10.

14. Discuss the South Street/Breeds and Fanners Green pedestrian warning signs and speed limit location.

Discussion paper covering the faded highways warning signs and the location of the 30mph signs was reviewed.

Resolution: The faded signs to be reported on Essex County Council's 'Tell Us' website

Resolution: Discuss the speed limit locations with Highways Liaison at the meeting to be arranged (see resolution under item 11).

15. Discuss the '20s plenty' and Great Waltham school.

Resolution: Discuss with Highways Liaison at the meeting to be arranged (see resolution under item 11).

16. Update on the Public Rights of Way in the Parish.

Trial on some waymark posts to be arranged via the collaboration with the Parish Paths Partnership.

Resolution: The Committee supports Cllr Bradley's initiative.

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

The meeting closed at 21:02.
Will Adshead-Grant.
Clerk to the Council.