

SWAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Swainswick Parish Council held in Swainswick School Upper Swainswick on Monday 3rd November 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Mr J Miles (Chairman): Mr G Davies: Mrs E Charrington: Mrs P Shutter: Mr R Foster: Mr R Shackell: Mr K Packer (B&NES Highways Dept (item 1 only)) & Mr R Clist (Clerk)

1. Ferndale Road / Deadmill Lane update

Mr K Packer gave a lengthy and detailed status report on this long outstanding Highways project. Two feasibility and traffic studies had taken place using different engineers and the problem was proving difficult to resolve. Accident statistics and police information had been evaluated with no evidence of major concerns except the proven traffic volume issue along unsuitable roads. Consideration was given to the widening of Deadmill Lane but land acquisition would be costly and footpath issues together with utilisation by HGV's were further complications. Restrictions on access to the Gloucester Road from the A46 was another possibility but had not been pursued with the Highways Agency. Unless access to all vehicles was denied any form of type selection would need detailed signage and regular policing, the latter being an issue with current policing resource levels.

Establishing a one way system seemed more appropriate but this also presents many challenges not least the possible increase in vehicle speeds. Solutions to this could be road cushions and or 'build outs' although the latter on a one way system may not be effective.

Currently the view held is Deadmill Lane would be one way northbound and left Ferndale Road unchanged. K Packer stated that B&NES did not want to impose solutions and community input was essential with regards routing and the installation of any 'traffic related furniture'. Trial solutions could be put in place using temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) which would need reviewing within 18 months. The establishment of a permanent TRO is a lengthy process and this would not be advisable as the first step. In concluding his report K Packer said that he had meetings planned with T Hayward and Ward Councillors in early November and proposals would then need to be developed in detail with a view to implementation in the Spring/Summer of 2015. Although the current budget covered the design work new money had to be found for any engineering tasks.

Many comments followed from SPC members:

P Shutter thought that most people favoured a one way route with Deadmill northbound and Ferndale city bound. G Davies felt that Ferndale should remain a two-way road a view held by B&NES engineers and K Packer explained that all one way routes seriously impact options. J Miles stated that to restrict the unwelcome traffic flow a one-way solution was necessary.

Widening the brief a little R Foster said that parking on the Gloucester Road was an issue and G Davies stated that if the London Road traffic could be speeded up the 'rat-run' problem would be reduced. Some solutions could be implemented at peak traffic times such as limiting pedestrian control and reducing Morrison's entrance and exit times. K Packer said that such issues can now be controlled remotely.

It was clear that many differing views, yet again, exist but doing nothing was not an option that should be considered. In conclusion J Miles asked whether the timetable outlined was achievable and questioned the budgeting likelihood for 2015. K Packer

confirmed that it was a reasonable timeframe and that regarding the allocation of funds he had the responsibility for this. J Miles thanked K Packer for his time and the information provided. The clerk was asked to formalise this in writing to K Packer.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held 1st September 2014

The meeting approved the minutes and they were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Planning

New Applications

- (a) **Ref: 14/04191/TCA** Hill House Tadwick Lane Swainswick. Various tree pruning works. SPC No objections. BANES Decision – Permit.

Previous Applications

- (a) **Ref: 14/02478/FUL** Gillan Cottage Blacksmith Lane Erection of first floor extension. SPC Objections, comments and conditions submitted. BANES Decision – Permit.
- (b) **Ref: 14/03204/FUL** The Ferns Deadmill Lane Lower Swainswick Bath. Conversion of garage/workshop outbuilding to provide self- contained dwelling. SPC objection submitted. BANES Decision – Permit.

5. Other Planning Matters

- (a) **Enforcement Ref: 14/00385/UNDEV** – Gillan Cottage Blacksmith Lane, development works and creation of an access on adjacent land. No application for development has yet been formalised and the clerk continues to monitor the status of this issue.
- (b) **BANES Enforcement – Organisation**
BANES have recently circulated a statement regarding the resourcing of the enforcement team within the Planning Department. This information had been circulated to Council members. Whilst welcoming the changes and priorities the impact of these efforts remain to be seen. G Davies noted that complaints are the driving force behind enforcement requests and the fact that Bath is a ‘World Heritage City’ probably increases the demands on enforcement.

6. Highways.

(a) **Innox Lane – Drainage issue near The Old School House**

As a result of the proposed resurfacing works along Innox Lane E Charrington had previously noted that there was concern that the poor drainage area adjacent to the Old School House would cause further problems around that property. The clerk has written to Highways and they are arranging a site visit during November 2014.

(b) **Weed Clearance – Responsibility**

The requested hedge trimming works had at last been carried out but the pavement areas still required attention. In discussing the maintenance of the beech hedge near the entrance to Tadwick Lane R Foster stated that the ideal solution would be to greatly reduce its height, perhaps by layering. This was a skilled job and cutting it much lower might be the best solution. E Charrington said that she would contact John Burgess about this and if possible obtain a quotation for the task.

It was noted that the green had been cut by J Burgess but no account had been received. P Shutter suggested that a fee of £30 per cut would be agreeable and if the Conservation Footpath was not regularly sprayed by BANES a similar fee could be paid for getting this done on a regular basis.

- (c) **Traffic Speed Sign**
The vegetation obscuring the sign has been cleared and the sign has been repositioned to monitor southbound traffic.
- 7. Finance.**
- (a) **Year End Financial Update and Audit**
The clerk circulated a report showing the current financial status.
- 8. School Governors**
R Shackell reported that the Chairman of the Governors had resigned and that the Vice-Chair would now take this responsibility. Some external works had been undertaken and one Alder tree had been removed.
- 9. Correspondence**
Letter of thanks from the PCC for the donation made.
A number of Good Councillor Guide brochures were made available.
- 10. Any Other Business**
- (b) R Foster pointed out that gulley clearance work was long overdue along Tadwick Lane and noted in particular two near Upper Westwood House and also 2 at Penny Patch. The clerk was asked to pursue this matter with BANES.
- (c) C Davies had been requested to create a proposal for 2 houses at Pitland Farm as a pre-application for BANES to consider and comment on. The details were viewed by members and a number of observations made regarding size and curtilage clarification.
- 11. Date of Next Meeting**
Monday 2nd February 2015 at 7.30pm in Swainswick School

Meeting Closed at 9.58pm

Note: Following meetings are-
Monday 6th April 2015
Monday 1st June 2015