

## HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING WITH HIGHWAYS OFFICERS HELD ON MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018

#### **Present:**

Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Steve Boyes, Cllr Neil Clowes, Cllr Nigel Dibben (Chairman), Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Steve Mitchell, Ward Councillor Janet Clowes, Christine Knibbs (Parish Clerk), Cllr Carl Dovey (Doddington & District Parish Council), Mr Michael Gear (resident).

Highways were represented by Mr Simon Barker, Road Safety Officer, and Ms Andrea Bickerton, Senior Highways Officer (Maintenance) for Crewe & Nantwich (attended later).

Approx.13 residents were present for part of the meeting.

#### **Section 1 CE Road Safety - Responsible Officer - Simon Barker**

##### **1. A529 Audlem/Nantwich Road**

1.1 **A529 Road Safety Review** – Work to improve road markings and signage is scheduled for April/May. The signs at Hatherton bends had already been put in place because of concerns over the accident rate which is now being monitored, noting that Highways are informed of accidents only if there are injuries and the police are involved. Ward Cllr Clowes requested that a list of planned works be forwarded to the Parish Council Clerk.

1.2 **Park Lane/A529 Junction** – Traffic can enter this junction at high speed and the need for calming was recognised. The Parish Council had requested this junction receive a similar treatment to the Back Lane/Bridge Street junction in Wybunbury, and that this be included in the minor works programme. There were also poor road markings and damaged or illegible signs at this junction.

##### **2. Bridgemere Lane**

2.1 **Damage/danger caused by HGVs** – considerable damage to roadside edges and grass verges has accumulated since the permission to approve a green waste site was taken. The last estimate to restore the road was £40,000, but further damage has since been caused by increased vehicle movements. Cllr Dovey queried why there is not some sort of S106 arrangement in place to cover the costs of road repairs and why increased HGV vehicle movements were ever permitted in view of the worsening damage. HGVs are also a danger to pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists on this narrow road which is part the South Cheshire Way.

##### **3. B5071 Crewe Road**

3.1 **Speed reduction** – The Parish Council request for a 40mph limit on this road has been turned down as it is classified as a rural road. The last speed survey showed that average speeds were 40mph on the straightest section. There are no footpaths thus this road is not

safe for pedestrians and there are considerable movements of HGVs and tankers and a multitude of traffic movements in and out of Dagfields Craft Centre.

**3.2 Park Lane/Hunsterson Road junction with the B5071 Crewe Road** – It was acknowledged that there is a need to improve visibility and warning signage around this junction, a scene of three recent serious accidents. This road is also part of the National Cycle route 70.

**4. Hunsterson Road/Lodge Lane**

The current planning application 18/0069N for a wedding venue at Hatherton Lodge was causing considerable concern to residents, partly because of the increased traffic/roadside parking it would create. The Parish Council confirmed it will be objecting to the application, taking residents' views into account, and that residents can submit their own comments directly to CE Planning

Action: Simon Barker to review.

**Section2 Highways Maintenance = Responsible Officer - Andrea Bickerton**

**5. A51 London Road**

Ms Bickerton confirmed that Highways were aware that road vibration was affecting the cottages near the Boar's Head junction and that level 2 patching is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> January. Hopefully, this will ameliorate the problem in the short term. She explained that level 1 patching is a temporary repair, whereas level 2 patching treats the damaged area and the surrounding area.

**6. Flooding at the junction of B5071 Crewe Rd and Hunsterson Rd**

Here drains are blocked by tree roots and floods reach house doorsteps. Job nos 2541302 and 3307652 are in the system. A scheduled date is needed.

Action Andrea Bickerton

**7. General**

7.1 Potholes are a perennial winter concern, and to the frustration of the parish councillors the repairs only last a few days, wasting repair budgets and resources. Potholes had opened up again on the A529 Hatherton Bends after just 7 days. It was suggested to complete a high standard of repair at high traffic sites.

7.2 Highways confirmed that repairs are prioritised as urgent for A roads, B roads and urban C roads.

7.3 Flooding – Highways confirmed that any floods reported are “scored” in a flood matrix. The higher the score the higher priority it is given. Repeated reports score higher. It was noted by parish councillors that persistent floods need to be reported every time they occur.

7.4 As a help to the parish it was suggested that we create a website where a log of Highways issues can be recorded and tracked and to save duplication of reporting within the parish. Action Cllr Dibben.

- 7.5 It was pointed out that whenever Highways issues are investigated, local knowledge is invaluable and needs to be taken into account. We have a focal point with Cllr Nigel Dibben and it is requested that Highways officers make full use of this resource and local residents.
- 7.6 Potential minor road works projects are subject to a twice-yearly Cheshire East review, where the Ward Councillors attend Highways meetings and petition for their projects to be included in the list and prioritised. It would be useful for the parish council to provide input to each of these meetings for the Ward Councillor to take forward.  
Action Ward Councillor to provide meeting dates.
- 7.7 Parish Councillors are interested to see the prepared Event Highways presentation which Cheshire East Simon Davies was due to present. If that could be forwarded to the clerk, then it would be available to shown at our next Parish Council Meeting in March 2018.  
Action Clerk to Contact Mr Davies.

Thanks were given to both Andrea and Simon for their time and positive contributions to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.