
WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

Walton-in-Gordano - Walton Down - Walton Bay

Clerk: Donald Hill

18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 e-mail: clerk@waltoningordanopc.org.uk

website: waltoningordanopc.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting on Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Mike Ralston, Rachel Dickinson, Nigel Wyliman

In Attendance: Colin Medus (NSC Liaison), Don Hill (Clerk),

Public Attendance: 1

4106 APOLOGIES - Cllr Nigel Ashton

4107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Cllr Dickinson re village gateway and traffic issues on the B3124, at the village entry from Portishead - where her property entrance is located.

4108 LAST MEETING MINUTES - (Oct 9th) were agreed and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

4109 MATTERS ARISING - none

4110 EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Police: No reported incidents during the month.

Speed Limits: NSC's confirmation of the draft Walton Street 20mph speed limit order is to hand. Cllr Ralston suggested that, at some future date, a 20mph speed limit on the B3124 between Plumtree Cottage and Manor Drive might be put in place. Moor Lane/B3124 30mph speed limit re-positioning, to accord with present practice, is not currently under consideration.

Roadwork Signage: in Moor Lane now removed.

B3124 - Heavy Lorries: With some 200 HGVs passing along the B3124 every 24 hours, Colin Medus provided some background to the issues raised at the October Minute 4100. The company Elgin, working through its offshoot roadworks.org, provides core information on all forms of traffic disruption. Superior sat-navs, and most traffic managers, will have contingency routes programmed for planned road closures. These should also kick in if an unscheduled road closure occurs. However, many folk do not have sophisticated kit, many 'trust to luck' in travelling beyond the signed diversions, and many simply have to find their way into the resultant congested zone because that is where they are going. A key problem for North Somerset is the lack of cross-links between the M5, the A38 and the A370. The South Bristol Link road is an example of how things can be improved. A link between a new M5 Junction 21A and the A38 via the proposed Banwell by-pass will also provide significant relief. However, this and other projects are part of North Somerset plans to the mid 2030s and beyond, not immediate panaceas. Effectively, with the sea on one side and the closure-ridden M5 on the other, the Gordano valley can be effectively 'locked in' during an unscheduled closure and, with the police having absolute control over post-incident road closures, there is little, beyond the Elgin information flows and long term driver education, that highway authorities can do to ameliorate the problems caused. Cllr Wilyman suggested that may be police investigative strategies must be changed, to minimise the appalling and increasing disruption these unscheduled road closures cause to through-travellers, locals and the economy. Members thanked Colin for his detailed and frank input into their attempts to grasp the complexity of of the unscheduled road-closure issue.

Village Gateways: - Cllr Dickinson briefed members per the attached report. Clerk contacted Miles Estate re possible removal of telephone box - Cllr Cannell will follow up. Recycled Plastic easy-maintenance gates 1m-1.5m are £500-£700 each - excl. attached signage.

4110 PLANNING

New: 17/P2579/F Castle View, Coast Rd., New single story side extension. **No objections.**

Decision Due: 17/P/1339/F Lorraine Field. New Site-levels drawings + plot 1 plans.

Colin Medus left the meeting

4111 PARISH MAINTENANCE

Gully Behind Home Farm Cottage: In hand via Area Engineer.

Arodene Footpath: New gateway is freely opening and does not present a PROW issue.

Walton Brook: Walton St open section clearance in hand via Area Engineer. **Clerk to chase Miles Estate re regular clearance of Moor Lane open section, and NSC re silt build-up in the under-road gullies at Rivendell.**

Village Maintenance: 2 days of work done last week.

4112 OTHER MATTERS

Broadband: No further updates.

4113 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Cannell: Moor Lane ash tree close to wires. **Clerk to report to Western Power.**

Cllr Wilyman: Verge from Portishead entry into village could be cut back to improve visibility and visual amenity (possibly part of the village gateway project?). Dog poo-bag litter all over the golf course walks areas. Cllr Wilyman will write a complaint to the press. Possibly anti-litter warning signs could be erected, but probably at cost the the parish - no immediate follow-up was proposed. Carpet fly-tipped on left towards Moor Lane bridge. **Clerk to report.**

4114 FINANCE

2017-18: Accounts were pre-circulated with meeting papers, reviewed and noted.

St Paul's Church: Put a cogent application for a Churchyard maintenance grant. This was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The meeting reluctantly agreed that their response must be same as that to the Social Committee in October, at Minute 4105. **Clerk to so inform the Church Wardens.**

Future Meetings: Meetings (confirmed Dec-March) will be as below, on the 2nd Monday Monthly. The May meeting will start at 7pm and be followed at 8pm by the Annual Parish Meeting. **Clerk to book the village hall accordingly.**

2017	Dec 11th	2018	Aug No Meeting
2018	Jan 8th		Sept 10th
	Feb 12th		Oct 8th
	March 12th		Nov 12th
	April 9th		Dec 10th
	May 14th @7pm	2019	Jan 14th
	June 11th		Feb 11th
	July 9th		Mar 11th

Cheques: 749 Hall Hire £12.00

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Report to Walton in Gordano Parish Council

Road Safety points for the Parish.

Meeting with Rachel Dickinson (Parish Councillor) and David Bailey (NSC)

Walton Bay

The speed limits in Walton Bay were discussed. The Parish Council should ask the Clerk to write to NSC to review the speed limits especially in light of the 13 new park homes due to be built in the Bay and the higher numbers of accesses onto the road. It was agreed that Walton Bay should be treated separately from Walton in Gordano, even though they are both the same Parish.

Walton in Gordano

20 MPH Speed Limit

The 20mph on Walton Street between the B3124 and Taggart was approved and was to be implemented during the current financial year.

Gateway Structures

In principle the Council is supportive of gateway structures at the entrances to villages to remind drivers that they are entering a village. The Council will require to approve any proposals before they are implemented. To facilitate the installation of structures the hedge at each location would need to be cut back the standard 2m. Planters and other features would also be considered.

Moor Lane

Visibility is poor leaving Moor Lane at the junction with the B3124. Due to the location of the buildings and the minimum required road width there was no further signage which could be installed to increase visibility. It was recommended that a mirror be installed opposite the end of Moor Lane, on private land, so drivers could see more clearly especially traffic coming from Portishead along the B3124.

The Tree at Cross Tree

It was noted that the extent of the highway stopped at the boundary stones around the Cross Tree. NSC are not responsible inside the stones. NSC are in principle supportive of the Village having planters and other decorative features included within the boundary of the tree, subject to confirmation of approval by NSC of the specific items. A bench seat would not be appropriate. NSC is supportive of villages installing such features to remind drivers of their location and the need to reduce speed.

Flashing Speed Signs

The mobile flashing speed sign was available to all villages and would be circulated between those who have signed up to the scheme. It was agreed that Walton in Gordano would be added onto the scheme so that the village would have its own turn at having the sign in the village. It was noted that to purchase the village its own sign this would cost approximately £4-5K.

Specific Properties

Manor House

It was noted that it was unsafe to turn right out of the Manor House Drive especially in the summer months due to lack of visibility and the sheer volume of traffic. As the wall of the neighbouring property was the main cause of the visibility issues nothing could be done to increase visibility on the Manor House side. In the short term NSC would not be averse to a mirror being installed opposite the end of the drive, on private land, to allow drivers a better view.

In the long term it was noted that the Village Hall was hoping to use the land opposite the Manor House drive for a car park. This would require some restructuring of the visibility splay on the Village Hall side and as a result the bend in the road may be adapted as part of the project to both facilitate access to and egress from the new car park and egress from the Manor House drive.

Cross Tree Farm

It was noted during the visit how many drivers cut the corner round past the Cross Tree into Walton Street thus making it almost impossible for the owners of Cross Tree Farm to leave their property. Similarly making it more dangerous for those walking down the Somerset Stones in Walton Street. NSC would recommend extending the pavement from its current location on the B3124 further towards Walton Street. This would need to adapt the current drainage arrangement. The end of the pavement would need to slope as it does now but nearer to the driveway of Cross Tree Farm. The total extent would not be further than the existing white lines but would encourage drivers to drive the correct wider route to make it safer for other road users and prevent the current driving within the lines.

It was noted that although this was the ideal solution there was not any current funding to carry out such work.

Hackswood House

It was noted that visibility leaving the Hackswood House drive was poor. It was also noted that the hedge on either side of the drive was only 0.5 metres back from the highway rather than the standard 2m required. If the hedge could be cut back for the extent from the Hackswood House to the bend in the road near the village this would increase visibility leaving the Hackswood House drive and for drivers leaving the village. If the hedge was to be cut back highways would be able to locate a 30mph repeater sign at the crown of the bend.

It was also noted that if the hedge was cut back to the required 2m from the highway on the side following Hackswood House it would enable the proposed gateway features to be installed on both sides accessing the village from Portishead.

It was noted that there would be sufficient hedge remaining if the required 2m was cut back.