**Minutes of the Traffic & Transport Committee Meeting held on**

**7th March 2024 at Saddleworth Civic Hall at 6.00pm**

Present: Cllr B Beeley, Cllr A Marland, Cllr H Bishop

Geoff Bayley (Delph Community Association), Paul Sykes (SACG), Paul Clegg (Dobcross Village Community),

1952. Apologies: Cllr P Gaul, Cllr K Dawson, Cllr M Powell,

1953. Declarations of interest: None declared

1954. Minutes of last meeting 11th January 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed at the meeting by the Chairman.

**1955. Matters Arising**

The Site visit with the Highways Team to show them the issues was discussed. Cllr Beeley to arrange with Mr Bayley.

**1956. Public Questions – in person**

Mr Bayley advised that at the junction of Delph New Rd/Ladcastle Rd near the bridge, a sign pointing to public telephone needs removing. It was agreed the clerk would contact Open Reach to facilitate.

Mr Bayley advised the traffic lights on some of the pedestrian crossing across the Parish do not have the sensory point underneath for deaf/visually impaired users.

**SPC -request that Highways check all the pedestrian crossings in the parish and advise on how these can be installed?**

**1957. Public Questions – submitted remotely**

This item had been deferred from the last meeting. Mr Clegg shared a document prepared by Ken Smith, Footpaths Officer, PEAK, with the aim of improving access to Saddleworth School, and it was discussed.

Cllr Bishop advised this concern had already been raised before the actual build, and it had been agreed a review and assessment would take place after 12 months.

**SPC – did the 12 month review take place, and what were the recommendations?**

**It was agreed the Clerk would forward this document to Highways.**

**1958. Car Parking Provision in Uppermill/Saddleworth**

Cllr Bingley had brought this issue up at the last full council meeting and it was agreed to add to the agenda of the next Traffic & Transport meeting.

Her letter was shared, it referred to the lack of parking across the Parish, particularly in Uppermill. Restaurants, coffee shops and other businesses geared to tourism are opening up with no additional provision for parking for the influx of visitors.

It was agreed that the public are being encouraged to use public transport wherever possible and that the Rambler service was very good; but this refers mainly to residents and it doesn’t solve the issue of visitors from outside the area.

Different parking places/spaces were discussed and it was agreed that SPC would prepare a map of all the car parks with signage to put on our website and advertise across the Parish. Cllr Beeley and Cllr Al-Hamdani would action this as it links closely with the Neighbourhood Plan.

**1959. Follow on/update on new issues raised at the last meeting**

The Clerk confirmed that OMBC Highways had not yet provided an update on issues raised at the last meeting.

* Geoff Bayley shared a concern regarding the junction of Chapel Rd and Oldham Rd, Following a change to the junction, there is now a Give Way sign and a STOP sign. The old sign needs removing as it is causing confusion.

**SPC request Highways please can this be looked at? Done?**

Chapel Road Uppermill currently points between the cottages and the railway line It is very confusing. Should it point down Chapel Road?

**SPC request Please can Highways attend and amend this? Done?**

* Poor sight lines at the junction adjacent to Delph Library, particularly for traffic turning left from Grains Road into King Street, and also traffic turning right from Grains Road or Stoneswood Road into Millgate. Highways refuse to consider these problems as there have not been enough reported accidents (In the days of WRCC there were two traffic mirrors).

Danger to pedestrians crossing King Street or Millgate to access the library, due to narrow footpaths & poor sight lines.

Sight lines have recently been made worse by the enclosure of the library entrance with plywood sheets. (Due to awaiting building repairs).

**SPC request please can Highways update?**

* The garden wall outside the library entrance has frequently been demolished by passing vehicles.

A member of DCA has a proposal which could minimise such damage, *which is to replace the present stone wall with pre cast curved concrete sections.  This type of concrete edging is often used on large traffic islands. The purpose is to enable a wheel of a large vehicle to slide back onto the road.*

**SPC suggest this part of the road should be treated by the same method as the additional curbing recently installed at the top of Grains Rd where it joins Ripponden Rd. Could Highways please look into this?**

* In 2019, Parish & Borough Councillors were invited to a committee room at the Civic Centre in Oldham for a ‘presentation’ for a proposed “LORRY WATCH” scheme, as a result of HGVs ignoring weight limit signs in Delph (and other parts of the Borough).

After the presentation, a representative from Highways announced that a Lorry Watch scheme could not yet be implemented in Delph because the 7.5 ton weight limit signs were obsolete and therefore not enforceable, but advised no funding was available.

**SPC ask Is this still to be implemented? Highways please update?**

* The 20 mph scheme in DELPH village has been well received by most residents.

However, there does not appear to have been any attempt to enforce the 20mph limit.

Some signs are incorrectly positioned or absent. Two roads have been omitted from the scheme. There are no 20mph roundels. The scheme appears to be badly designed or implemented.

**Highways response - There will be a bid in next years highways capital programme to make the Delph 20mph scheme permanent. Including traffic calming features.**

**SPC - Please can you advise what traffic calming features being considered? SPC hope the signage will be made permanent.**

* Parts of Stoneswood Road & Thurston Clough Road have trees and other vegetation obstructing the roadway (Possibly growing on the road surface).

**Highways - Passed on to the highway's inspectors, will update once inspected.**

**SPC -Thank you, we look forward to their response.**

* Road safety concern in Dobcross, Sugar Lane opposite the Navigation. The dry stone wall is completely overgrown with vegetation extending well into the road, so cars are pulling out into the middle of the road to avoid damaging their cars. It is a blind bend, there is a single pathway and it is making it very dangerous for pedestrians.

**SPC again request Highways to inspect this and take action where possible.**

* **C**oncern about the Tame Water Bridge at Dobcross. This issue has been raised before, lots of investigative work has been carried out by Highways engineers but nothing has been done yet to make it safer. It is too narrow for vehicles to pass and extremely dangerous for pedestrians, so many near misses! It was a suggested an option would be to make it a give way and also barrier off the pathway. Jayne is going to email Ward Councillor Pam Byrne with this, as well as the issue being included in these minutes.

**SPC are aware that schemes were discussed and trialled during Covid, but because of the safety issues of the children we request OMBC look at this as a matter of urgency.**

**Highways - We have looked at various options at this location and there is no simple answer. Both signalising the junctions and putting give/take system in place have been considered, however the road layout/geometry doesn’t lend itself to either option. The Traffic Team will look at options for improving signing and lining on the approaches to the bridge when funding becomes available in the next financial year.**

**SPC -Can we suggest:-**

**1, a separate footpath/footbridge (as has been done at Delph Bridge). Is there any accessible land to do this?**

**Or 2, can there be a double width pathway on the school side of the bridge instead of 2 single ones? Disabled access will need to be considered.**

* Vehicle Installation signage report- tranches noted with those present agreeing to monitor progress, and think of ideas for additional sites. Queries concerning several sites -Oldham Rd, Lydgate, facing which way? Huddersfield Rd/Field Rd – is this in Diggle? Ripponden Rd approaching Ship Lane – which direction and exactly where? Oldham Rd Grasscroft, exactly where? Wall Hill Rd, where exactly?

**SPC request an update ASAP**

**Highways - Andy Marsh will send a separate update on VAS scheme**

**SPC – note most of these are now operational, please advise which are still to be activated?**

* Lower Turf Lane- Concerns about decision to be made one way going up to Huddersfield Road. Comments from consultation and those present suggested one way going down might be preferable. Also plans to create a footpath in place of one of the lanes.

Concerns were expressed about the increased traffic on Heywood Lane.

A mini consultation was undertaken in September 2023, asking for comments from over 100 properties. Around 15 comments were received where 2/3rds opposed the proposed one way. Highways are reviewing the feedback and looking at further options.

**SPC -we understand the survey took place 24 Jan 24. Cllr Marland to request further information on the results.**

* Carr Lane, Uppermill – advised this is not on current programme of works -we will monitor issues.

**Highways - The project Manager has been updating all stakeholders on the progress of the scheme. We have finalised the new budgets for the scheme, and we currently have provisions in place to resurface the works kerb to kerb along the full extents if required.**

**SPC - thankyou, can we please be given a timescale for when this work will be done? Cllr Bishop to speak to Highways for an update.**

* Friezland Lane – some vegetation cleared already, we will continue to monitor.

Cllr Bishop advised that heavy flooding at the bottom of Friezland Lane recently. Highways were called out and promptly cleared the grids. But there are concerns about a pipe from Syke’s land -water torrenting out from there straight onto the road causing more flooding.

**Highways - The flooding in question occurred during Storm Babet. Highways Operations did an outstanding job on that particular day trying to keep everything working during exceptionally heavy rainfall. I am unaware of a pipe discharging onto the highway at this location. I shall investigate. With regards to the legality of allowing water to flow from higher elevation land onto lower elevation land (even if that lower land is adopted public highway), this is perfectly legal as long as the water has not been artificially channelled. However, if the allegation about a piped outfall is correct, then this would be an offence under the Highways Act. In such circumstances, informal agreements to rectify the situation would be sought. If those informal approaches fail then technically, legal notice could be served by the Highway Authority. [Steve Bird, LLFA].**

**SPC – issues are ongoing – we would like to request a site visit with a member of Highways Team. Cllr Bishop to contact and arrange a visit with Steve Bird and Robert Scott.**

* Problems with school children crossing near roundabout on Wool Rd, Dobcross- update is still required.

**Highways - the location doesn’t fit the criteria for a formalised crossing, however with some localised carriageway widening a 2m wide pedestrian island may be possible. Bid for funding to be included in next year’s capital programme.**

**The PV2 calculation is used to ascertain the suitability of a location for a formal crossing. However we are investigating various options for improving pedestrian safety at this location.**

**SPC – express concern for children’s safety and believe this should be dealt with urgently and would like to arrange a site visit with Highways.**

* Petition to reduce speed between Delph and Denshaw- past Slackcotes.

**Highways - Bid to be included in next years capital programme to include reduced speed limit, improved signing/lining and improvements to visibility in Slackcote dip. Bid also to include hard standing and access to bus stop. - STET**

**SPC – please advise date for the work to commence?**

* Flooding issue on Roebuck Lane- The site is still flooding, there is a need to pursue a camera to investigate the site, as has been previously agreed, we will monitor.

**Highways - Update to Follow**

**SPC request this is treated as an urgent priority and await the update.**

* Stamford Road/Huddersfield Road junction changes- Agreed to monitor the impact.

**Cllr Bishop is concerned that the double yellow lines on Stamford Rd as you exit onto Huddersfield Rd are not long enough. If these were extended it would greatly improve visibility (cars currently park right up to the top and restrict visibility)**

**Highways - Forwarded to the Traffic Team to look at the location.**

**SPC – we understand TRO report due 14/3/24. Cllr Marland to follow up.**

* Bottom of Church Rd, Uppermill

Can the team please look into the implications of this road being made one way right up to where it meets New Street? Car park would then only be accessible from High Street.

**Please can Highways update us on this? Cllr Beeley has sent this information to Alister Storey twice and is still awaiting a response.**

**Highways - This will be looked at by the traffic team when funding becomes available in the new financial year.**

**SPC - thankyou, please keep us updated.**

* Oaklands Rd junction with Oldham Rd – improve safety.

**Cllr Bishop following this up**.

* Cllr Beeley explained that at the junction of Denhill Drive and Carrhouse Rd, it is difficult to see oncoming traffic due to parked cars. Double yellow lines have been requested previously.

**SPC - Highways, please can you inspect and report on this?**

**1960. Community Issues**

Mr Sykes advised the porch of a house on Heywood Lane had been hit a few times by buses and large vehicles as the Lane is too narrow.

**SPC – suggested a one-way system be considered and Cllr Marland will follow this up.**

Mr Sykes also asked about the progress of siting a waste bin at Dawson’s Field. Cllr Beeley advised it is in hand and that as soon as the disabled access is completed, a new smaller bin, to be emptied by OMBC, will be installed.

Cllr Bishop expressed concern regarding the customer parking at Alexandra Mill Business Park, with issues on Mill Street and access blocked at times.

**SPC - request Highways please look at this?**

Cllr Bishop advised the resident of Wade Hill Farm had contacted her with concerns over the poor condition of the road, broken pipes, flooding.

**SPC - request that Highways please assess this and advise.**

**Next meeting: Thursday 9th May 2024 at 5.30pm.**