

Whiteley Parish Council

Highways and Transport Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above Committee held at Meadowside Leisure Centre, Whiteley on Wednesday 17th November 2010 at 8.15pm.

Parish Council Committee members present: Kairen Goves (Chairman), Brian Hughes (Vice-Chairman), Roland Diffey, Mike Evans, Brenda Hatch, Al Menzies, Pat Thew

Parish Councillors Vivian Achwal, Colin Bielckus and David Jenkins, three members of the public, Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver

1. **To receive apologies for absence** None.
2. **To receive declarations of interest regarding agenda items** None.
3. **To adjourn meeting to allow participation by members of the public**

Councillor David Jenkins reported that the fence between roundabouts 2 and 3 are damaged. **The Chairman advised the road is unadopted so is not the responsibility of HCC.**

Resident Vic Hatch said the Parish Council had not been involved in bus pass issues. **The Chairman agreed.**

Councillor Colin Bielckus suggested that now there is parking on both sides of Parkway the case for a reduction in the speed limit could be readdressed. **The Chairman advised she would arrange to meet with HCC to discuss.**

Resident Geoff Hodges advised that the bus time tables in the bus shelters were not accurate and that the bus from Locks Heath to Fareham via Whiteley was full. **The Chairman noted the comments and will pursue if possible.**

Councillor Al Menzies asked if anything could be done about the unsociable parking of a caravan in Lovage. **Vivian Achwal to raise with Police.**

4. Meeting resumed to consider the following agenda items

- 4.1 To progress proposals within the adopted 'Safer Access to Schools' paper
 - 4.1.1 To progress surface improvements to the Gull Coppice footpath
Funding has been confirmed, HCC still to agree access with WCC, the work is likely to be completed during a school holiday in 2011.
- 4.2 To receive update on the yellow line review regarding the parking issues in Parkway and elsewhere **Ongoing.**

4.3 To receive update on proposed improvements to Whiteley bus services and associated infrastructure. To explore community transport opportunities. **The Chairman reported that use of local buses seems to be increasing. The No 26 bus to Hedge End from Botley Road will be promoted in the next Whiteley Voice, the Chairman will investigate whether the Fareham community bus could extend its services to the Winchester side of Whiteley.**

4.4 To consider issues arising from the SATURN study of relevance to this committee

4.4.1 To recommend paper for improved access/emergency access for Whiteley to Full Council for adoption. **It was agreed to recommend the paper to Full Council for adoption. The Committee will identify three top priorities to pursue. Roland Diffey was thanked for the great deal of time spent researching and drafting the paper.**

4.4.2 Update on Yew Tree Drive consultation **It is understood that local companies including Tesco are lobbying for Yew Tree Drive to be opened.**

4.5 To receive update on requests to HCC/Police Road Safety Unit including maintenance requests. **HCC has developed a new online system for reporting and recording the progress of road repairs**

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems.htm>

4.6 To receive report from HCC meeting 9th November to discuss winter weather arrangements (Chairman) **See attached report.**

4.7 To receive project proposals requiring precept funding for 2011/12 **The precept budget of £2,000 for resurfacing the Gull Coppice footpath will be required.**

5. **To identify any unmanaged risks within this committee's remit** None.
6. **Review effectiveness of communication, development of links with other community organisations and support for local democracy through making information more widely available** Continue to monitor.
7. **Recent correspondence / reports from meetings of relevance to this committee** Report from HCC's winter weather arrangements attached.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Meeting notes from Hampshire County Council's Winter Event 9th Nov 2010 by Kairen Goves

Clearing snow and ice from pavements yourself

There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Follow the snow code when clearing snow and ice safely

Meeting opened by Ken Thornber:

Last year we experienced 26 days of snow and/or ice – more than ever before.

Operation Restore launched – 62 miles of highway resurfaced or repaired in Hampshire between June/Nov this year.

Operation Resilience – this is next year's program; it will strengthen and improve drainage.

The priority one (P1) and priority 2 (P2) routes have been revised and new community routes devised that are hoped to be cleared by mini-spreaders.

Salt supply increased by 50% - 3 times more than government recommendation. We have imported our salt from Egypt straight into Southampton Docks (because we couldn't get the salt from Cheshire due to the road conditions!).

Stuart Jarvis – Director of Environment:

It was the worst winter for thirty years and became a national incident. There were salt shortages and the Government implemented a 'salt cell.' The whole situation proved the fragility of our British 'Just in Time' system.

Chris Lait – Head of Highways South and East

- Maintenance

12,000 tonnes of salt now increased to 18,000 tonnes. A typical distribution is 1,000 tonnes per day.

New salt barn is being built at Micheldever.- currently in temporary storage.

Re-stocking trigger levels enhanced; we used to reorder when levels reached 75% - this is now 85%.

We have sourced out salt stocks from Egypt.

P1 and P2 routes have been reviewed.

New Community routes: to schools, Doctors, Health Centres etc. Nine new mini-gritters have been requested and these are awaiting Government approval at the end of this month.

There has been a full process review; salt suppliers/servicing etc to improve 'at risk' areas.

The priority salting routes can now be viewed online.

- Grit-bins

The restocking telephone number is in the lid of the new big bins.

The requests were all assessed and 1250 are being rolled out in phase one.

Delivery began this month (November) and Parish Clerks have been informed where the new bins are going.

Can Parish Councils maintain stock? Bin monitors?

- Winter maintenance review

Now there will be a district liaison ie FBC, WCC, GBS etc and Parish Council engagement. Requests went out for farmers to contribute. Many requests received and they are now paid a small retainer, paid by the hour for work done and provided with a plough attachment.

Snow-code launched for 'self-help'.

Collaboration with the Highways Agency e.g. Whiteley Way from J9 to R1 should now be kept clear by HA.

- Communications

2-way radio is now being used; too many mobile 'blackspots' in adverse weather conditions.

Currently developing a plan to have regular web and email updates.

Peter Eade – Highway Manager Basingstoke

Icelert stations are installed. These are road and atmosphere temperature sensors.

Everyday at midday and email is received with weather forecast from the designated provider. At this time it is decided whether status is: Green (Okay – do nothing), Amber (Wait and see) or Red (Pre-salt at specific time at specific coverage rate).

Next forecast update is at 1800hrs. Status is decided yet again.... And so on every six hours.

It takes 3hrs to salt the whole P1 route and this cannot be done throughout the rush hour time-slot.

You cannot salt when it has just rained or due to rain because the salt run-off is environmentally damaging and can upset the ecological system so making the call for salting is a tough decision to make and not easy for these reasons.

The Hampshire region is also divided into two weather bands – north and south. The south zone is least susceptible to frost/ice because of the coast.

Chris Morris – Amey Service Director

The region had 30cm of snow and temperatures were -3degc on average.

They used 20,000 tonnes of salt, 30,000 man hours and 63 discreet salt runs.

Winter key issues: Process / Communications / Equipment / Salt supply

What did Amey do well? / not do well? / What could they do differently? / What may stop them? i.e. economics.

- Processes

Gritting routes revised: three routes removed and twelve amended (to include the removed plus extra).

New Masternaut system, measures roads i.e. salted/gritted and whether salt on/off.

- Communications

Using radios as alternative for mobile phones.

- Rehearsal

On 28th September 2010 they performed a dummy run to make sure that the routes could be completed within the timescale.

Key Points from table discussions:

- What are the P1 and P2 routes?
- Where are the proposed Community routes?
- Where are the tractor routes?
- Procedure for Nowtime = when the snow actually falls.
- How we can contact HCC in an emergency when the lines are busy and emails not answered?
- The HCC nominated contact method is through the Hantsweb Call Centre
- Self-help = Publish and circulate SNOWCODE to dispel the myth/rumour circulating last year that you could be sued if you clear snow/ice yourself.
- Every Parish should have a 'Parish Emergency Plan' detailing where salt-bins are, who their monitors are and detailing your P1, P2 and Community routes. Designated meeting place and contact details for businesses local stakeholders ie schools etc. There is a 'Community Guidance Plan' issued by HCC apparently to help with this Action Plan = first I've heard of it!
- There will be special edition of 'Inroads'
- This winter event is hoped to be annual.

WPC Actions

- HCC want a nominated contact/s: suggest Clerk and/or Highways Chairman. This needs to be emailed to chris.lait@hants.gov.uk
- WPC needs to allocate Grit Bin Monitors.
- Grit bin allocation: letter has been sent to Parish Clerks – check with Nicki
- End of November Cabinet meeting for the decision for community spreaders – keep ear out for progress.
- Check with Alison re: Whiteley's emergency signs for bus gate.
- We have supposed to have been told about "TEXTGATE" and asked to collate mobile numbers for Whiteley businesses and stakeholders so that a text can be sent on mass by HCC when the bus-gate is open or closed.