

A meeting of the **Planning, Highways and Transport Committee** was held on **6<sup>th</sup> October 2020** via Skype commencing at 19:30hrs

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr A Shearman

**Committee Members** I Mackillop, L Taylor, L Wilcock and V Higgins

**In Attendance**

**Councillors:**

P Burton, S Shepherd, M Gunn, B Hamilton and V Keitch

**Officers:** Julie Earp (Deputy Clerk) Hayley White (Town Clerk)

One member of the public

Speaker one – Spoke concerning the traffic on New Road. The speaker and family have lived in New Road for 18 months. They have concerns over the constant high speeds of vehicles up and down New Road. The limit is 30mph and it is blatantly ignored. There are children residing on this stretch of road. Last Thursday there was a minor bump on the road. Vehicles are damaged and if there are no witnesses, insurance claimants (people parked on New Road) have to pay the excess. There is a large amount of agricultural traffic including tractors that use this road which causes the windows to rattle. Is there a weight restriction? If so this should be enforced. Additional speed restrictions would be a welcome input. The speaker asked what the Town Council and local police could do.

The Chair of the Committee thanked the speaker for their comments and advised that as part of Agenda item 9 some of the points raised would be discussed.

The Chair took the meeting into formal session.

**P352 Apologies for absence**

Councillor R Swann

Councillor M James

**P353 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Agenda Item	Minute No	Nature of Interest	Type of Interest	Action
A Shearman	Agenda 11 – Planning Applications - 20/02457/LBC and 20/02457/FUL – 5 The Cross Ilminster	P362	Lives close to the property	Personal	Did not vote

**P354 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 were considered.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

**P355 Office Action plan**

The current Office Action Plan was considered.



- Item 1 – No response from SCC regarding the missing grit bin from Summerlands Park Drive. Town Clerk to chase.
- Item 2 – No change. It falls on Highways England and not within the Town Councils remit.
- Item 4 – Town Clerk to see if the Ilminster Chamber of Commerce had any suggestions. Town Clerk to update the Action List.

### **P356 Police Report**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Police to report on any matter relevant to policing in Ilminster. There was no written police report nor were any items raised.

### **P357 Silver Street Parking**

Consideration was given to the responses from the businesses in the town to the request of the removal of two parking spaces along Silver Street.

Comments were made that it would be hard to support the removal of two spaces following the valid comments and the result of the consultation with the businesses. There was not a strong enough case to support

**RESOLVED** to accept the results of the consultation with the businesses, leave the parking spaces as they are and not to take the matter any further.

### **P358 Wharf Lane Recreation ground entrance**

Consideration was given to the entrance slope to the recreation ground and the possible Health and Safety concerns.

The Chair of Open Spaces presented the draft plan of a proposed new pathway into the recreation ground. It was explained that the current paths are too steep into the recreation ground. This information was provided to the Town Council in a report commissioned by South Somerset District Council in November 2013. The report states “Most of the park is sunk from the road as can be clearly seen in each photograph and approaches via ramps. These are too steep and dangerous for wheelchair users. At the top of the ramp there are staggered gates and at the bottom a further gate preventing access by wheelchairs.” The Chair of Open Spaces went on to explain that members of the public have complained about the access. One incident involving a family who had let go of their push chair by accident and it ran into the gate at the bottom and another where a wheelchair user couldn’t get into the park.

The draft plan is very rough but drawn up by Gary Slade who is the Project Manager of the recreation ground refurbishment. He pointed out the issue when on site.

A path was considered coming into the park via the far right corner but this was thought to be too expensive and due to the utilities in the ground in this area not practical.

The current access is a right of way which runs across the park to the other access under the trees. This access is also too steep.

The access path also needs to be widened.

Councillors were concerned that the report had not been brought to their attention previously.

**RESOLVED** to look at accurate costings to put in place an access ramp to the park that meets the UK Wheelchair Ramp Regulations 1992.

### **P359 Listed Building Consent**

Consideration was given to obtaining Listed Building Consent for the phone box in the Market House to change the words on the box from Telephone to Defibrillator.

The Town Clerk confirmed the cost for each sign was around £20.30 and four would be needed.

**RESOLVED** to agree for Listed Building Consent to be obtained and for the four signs to be amended from Telephone to Defibrillator.



**P360 New Road**

Consideration was given to the issues raised by residents on New Road regarding the speed and type vehicles using the stretch of road.

There is a 30mph speed limit on this road. Any speed issues are a police matter as drivers are breaking the law if going over 30mph. The Town Council are aware that the police are looking at Community Speed Watches in the area and providing training for volunteers. There is a possibility of putting up a speed indicator device (SID). The equipment can be costly and would need to be calibrated and have the permission of Somerset County Council Highways. The council considered speed humps but this would be costly and probably would cause more issues for the residents. It was noted that there has been an increase in traffic, and this is generally across the parish.

The Traffic Management and Road Safety engineer at Somerset County Council had provided an email and reference to this email was made during the discussion. He had advised that the B3168 is not subject to a weight restriction Traffic Regulation Order. The freight strategy seeks to use the most appropriate routes and avoid a situation where HGV bans or restrictions in one community will impact others. Diverting HGV traffic from Ilminster would increase HGV movement through other areas, potentially increasing the number of HGVs using more unsuitable routes. The B3168 is a strategic route and any limit would have a severe impact on the wider area so therefore Somerset County Council are not willing to consider a weight restriction.

The Councillors were in agreement that it was very difficult to get the right outcome for the residents.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Town Clerk to look into the costs of a SID device, the calibration of such a device, whether it can be moved around, what permissions are needed, the maintenance of such a device and whether this is a viable option for New Road.

**P361 Traffic Calming Measures**

Consideration was given to traffic calming measures in the centre of town. Residents have raised issues with the safety on Silver Street following the two accidents involving cars on Silver Street recently. It has been established that the two accidents were not speed related but down to people not looking. The current speed limit along this road is 20mph. The signage for the speed limits are as you approach through North Street and East Street.

Consideration was given to the impact along the street due to the Covid 19 pandemic. There are signs up in the town reminding people to watch for pedestrians and for pedestrians to watch for cars whilst they are social distancing.

Consideration was given to looking at closing the road to vehicles but taking into account the results of minute number P357 this wouldn't be welcomed. There would be the impact on not just businesses but residents, the Church and the problem would just be moved to another area of the town.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Highways Department if an additional 20mph sign could be painted onto the floor as you enter Silver Street or an extra 20mph sign on a post as you enter Silver Street.



**P362 Planning Applications**

The Committee considered the following applications:

**20/02160/OUT – Land adj 1 Greenway Dowlish Ford**

Application for Outline planning including access and layout for the erection of 2 No. dwellings (Revised scheme)

This has been presented to the Town Council previously. Many improvements have been made to the plans for this outline permission. No objections were discussed about the outline permission in front of them.

**RESOLVED** to accept the development subject to the South Somerset District Council's Highways consultant requirements and their concerns in the outline permission being addressed.

**20/02616/TPO/ - Gooch & Housego PLC Greenway Dowlish Ford Ilminster**

Application to fell No. 2 Tress as shown with the South Somerset District (ILM1) 1995 Tree Preservation Order.

No detail could be located as to why these trees need to be felled. Are they in a dangerous condition? Are there plans to plant two other trees and if so where?

**RESOLVED** to go to Gooch & Housego to establish with them the reason the trees need to be felled before providing Ilminster Town Councils decision.

**20/02458/LBC and 20/02457/FUL – 5 The Cross Ilminster TA19 0EH**

Listed Building and Full Consent - The erection of a garage with a room in the roof and new associated entrance/access.

A considerable amount of groundwork and tidying has already been completed on this property and the area in question is a blank canvass. Parking is at a premium in this area and people end up parking on the pavements as access is so tight. This does cause problems for the residents and waste collection and emergency vehicles. Taking cars off the road will help this area. The property has a gate onto the property but can hardly ever be used as generally there is a car parked in front of it so stopping access for the residents. The Town Council think this is a perfectly reasonable planning request.

**RESOLVED** to accept the plans and provide no objections.

**P363 Planning Appeals**

No planning appeals.

**P364 Planning Decisions made by SSDC**

Decisions made by South Somerset District Council are reported for information. For more details please see South Somerset District Council website: <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planningsearch>

The meeting closed at: 20:55

Chair's signature:

Date: