**Coleford Town Council**

**Highways and Public Safety Committee**

**Thursday 2 May 2024**

**9.00am – 11.00am**

**Council Chamber**

**Present: Cllrs. M Cox, S Cox, C Elsmore, M Getgood, P Kay,**

**Nathan Choat (GCC Highways), PCSO Oliver**

**Lisa Olley**

**Meeting started late at 9.15am.**

1. Apologies received from Cllr Nick Penny
2. No interests declared re: Items on the agenda
3. No dispensation requests.
4. The minutes of 11 January 24 were proposed CE, seconded MG and unanimously agreed.

**Chair, Cllr. M Cox signed a copy, as a true record**

1. **Matters arising, that were not on this agenda, from the minutes of 11 January 24:**

12. Response from Inspector Nick Cook regarding police data on shifts etc. to be followed up by the office.

10. Unclear where the water issues are maybe holding up repairs to structure: FODDC and GCC to be followed up. CE to also follow up.

1. **No members of the public present**

**Highways**

1. **To consider roadworks issues, and make recommendations as necessary.**
2. **To receive updates from GCC Highways, and make recommendations as necessary, including:**
   1. **Coalway Road surface**
   2. **Prosper Lane/New Road**
   3. **Market Place**
3. **To review Tracker, in conjunction with GCC Highways and Flood Authority updates**

7, 8, 9 Highways getting some new equipment in to help with potholes. Emergency closure to road in Perrygrove caused chaos but no notification caused upset.

**Recommendation: that the standard trees unable to be planted in Lords Hill be planted at Mile End Road on the verge by Forest Hills, subject to utilities location.**

Potholes - Different techniques being assessed

a. JCB Pothole Pro – Perrygrove and Fetter Hill

b. Bobcat is being trialled as a comparison with JCB pro to know which is better value. May have to be more emergency closures if more opportunities to be taken up to get work done.

c. Road mender similar to anti-slip. Putting sites forward including Market Place/High Street as trial for town centre. Near White and Miller.

d. Complete resurfacing depends on budget. Nothing for Coleford in the current financial year (including Coalway Road).

GCC Highways are taking sample areas, constantly monitoring, and making decisions as to which is better value. There is a high level of auditing of the recent pothole work in association with Atkins.

Electric Vehicle charging - all sites GCC proposed in Coleford are cancelled now, as no suitable locations, but welcome suggestions for different places to Steve Lowe.

FODCC to be contacted to ask for timing of new electrical vehicle chargers in car parks, given that GCC Highways chargers cannot be installed on street.

Market Place, town centre resurfacing not in plans currently but high street to White and Miller costed ready for next year?

Speed humps – cannot be changed without a TRO.

Signage – assessment of brown signs and other Coleford signs means improved/new signs included in 23/24 budget and will be carried out in near future.

1. **To consider crossing at Old Station Way/Kings Meade, and make recommendations as necessary.**

Petition sent to GCC Highways who will respond via the town council.

Petition – Kings Meade Public Safety request for post box - CTC to contact Post Office and ask if possible.

Zebra Crossing. Unless GCC Highways see benefit they will not fund any change. This is not seen as benefit. Roughly £100,000.

1. **To update re: VAS installation** **and to make recommendations as necessary.**

No update. NC to follow up if no further update after a week. CTC to chase with community speed watch.

1. **To consider recent accidents at Broadwell Bridge, and investigate possible options for improvement of junction.**

Accident at Broadwell. 2 serious accidents in two weeks. Public meeting on Monday 29th April attended by 63 people. All concerned to improve safety at the junction.

Data; NC produced up to date figures: four accidents in last four years. So not considered a hot spot for major spending (junctions where fatalities have occurred take priority).

Every accident to be reported to highways to give more data.

Speed watch data to be used – CTC to contact local residents to accompany speed watch to test speeds at appropriate by mutual arrangement over the next two weeks.

Police to attach boxes to record speeds. CTC to contact LD at community speed watch.

Cannop – 3 serious, 6 slight. Coalway crossroads – 2 slight. So Cannop will be seen as more serious at the moment.

GCC Highways will be installing advanced warning sign on North Road imminently. Further works to increase the size of the existing give way sign and other related works are anticipated soon. A new stop sign would need a TRO process which could take up to a year and will cost approximately £10k. Not this year, fully committed. If a stop was wanted then the TRO could be started. NB cost.

NC will take investigation of this junction back to highways. Noted 2013 research would need purchase of privately owned land to effect roundabout but still need to check that option. Traffic lights unlikely to affect solution and also moving problem to small roads.

Vehicle Warning Signs will not make a difference as not appropriate to the problem.

Possible area for negotiation is the nature of the fence on the affected property?

MC Reminded that North Road 35 houses phase 2 will be expected with an opportunity to claim section 106 money for crossing for children. Was not agreed by FODDC in phase.

**Recommendation.**

1. **Go back to Broadwell people - are there people who are willing to train and in which case PCSO Oliver will train in 30 minutes by mutual arrangement.**
2. **Coleford Speed Watch will undertake a session at an agreed time in the next 2 weeks.**
3. **To review Speedwatch data, links with neighbouring groups, and programme for 2024 and make any recommendations, noting particularly:**
   1. **Poolway Road**
   2. **South Road, Broadwell**

Deferred to next meeting

**Public Safety**

1. **To receive update from Police re: ASB, and community forum and progress, date of next meeting**
2. **17. To receive further update from Police including crime statistics, detection rates, and make recommendations as necessary**

See statistics provided on crime rates and detection. No drastic differences.generally in Coleford, but gone up 74 to 101 including assaults. This could be due to several assaults in 1 incident.

Shoplifting a concern, but offender now sentenced (22 incidents solved). MC commented on lack of feeling safe by community when seen as general trend to violence increasing. Concern re mental health and resources to support Police with major part of work.

NP and MC attended ASB meeting with community approach and stake holders – CTC intending extra provision for youth, FVAF services to strengthen relations. Police to set up more regular meetings agreed twice a year.

South Forest Community Forum (initiated by PCC) met. MG attended initial meeting and made links.

1. **To receive update from Councillor Advocacy Scheme meeting**

Nothing to report

1. **To note and take up training re: Fuel Poverty** [**https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warm-amp-well-17718577870**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warm-amp-well-17718577870)

Members to notify CTC office if wish to take up training.

1. **To consider Fire Service consultation, and make recommendations as necessary**

* Coleford object to cutting costs, wishing to maintain key station status for the forest. NB this station has the largest footprint in South forest. Coleford has space for upgrading. There could be an opportunity to link together ambulance and fire on the Tufthorn lights allocated site, which would mean key status in Coleford for all 3 emergency services. Retained staff may apply to Cinderford, weakening staffing in Coleford, possibly later closing Coleford Station.
* More efficiency - we support this, but the manner of doing it needs to be altered.
* Any cuts in place should not come from rural parts of Gloucestershire, where they are already thinly serviced.

**Recommendations: a. To call a public safety meeting in an evening at the end of May to encourage residents to make comment to the Fire Service before the deadline. Invite Fire Service to attend.**

**b. Obtain specific data from Fire Service to clarify locations of incidents in the Forest/Wye Valley especially given AONB and climbing-related accidents.**

1. **To consider resident comments re: Ambulance service, and make recommendations as necessary**

Noted concerns and NP taken forward to Mark Harper MP. Initial response but no detail on any ambulance reorganisation at this point.

*15 minutes extra proposed to continue meeting.*

1. **To review and adopt the revised Coleford Resilience Plan, to include:**
   1. **Map of defibrillators**
   2. **Grab bag to include bleed control kits**
   3. **Volunteer recruitment**

**Recommendation: Amend date on Community Resilience plan and put forward for adoption.**

**SC leaves the meeting 11.17am**

1. **To review feedback from Road Safety Liaison Group and make any recommendations**

40mph speed limit in wooded forest area. Has been proposed and is being discussed internally. Signs for wild animals and sheep are in place and have been checked at all boundaries.

Raves: Anybody noticing such like activity to immediately inform police as easier to disperse before it starts than when all there.

15th May 2pm for next meeting of Road Safety Liaison at Coleford Fire Station

**Meeting closed at 11.25 am.**