**Coleford Town Council**

**Highways and Public Safety Committee**

**Tuesday 19 October 2023**

**1.00pm – 3.00pm**

**Council Chamber**

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

**Nathan Choat (GCC Highways)**

**PCSO Tom Oliver (Police)**

1. No apologies received
2. No interests declared re: Items on the agenda
3. No dispensation requests were received
4. The minutes of 19 September 23 were proposed, 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 19 September 2023:

Bus shelter has been ordered – no further update from GCC Jonathan Roberts. NC to check progress with JR.

The other bus shelter seats to be replaced outside bank – chase Jonathan Roberts on this too.

Mrs Peaper (Head of St. John’s C of E School) sent in GCC enforcement route on to parents. Application has been refused though. Police do road safety talks regularly at the schools and junior wardens know what the police do. Police have asked schools to make parents aware that they are responsible for their own children’s safety and not to drop them at the roadside.

Bowens Hill Road - Does road have correct legislation to ticket people? PCSO have no authority to enforce yellow lines. Obstruction of highway – on footway they can. Dropped kerb not applied for, so FoDDC planning can’t enforce. Police will show a presence every now and then to keep an eye on things.

1. No members of the public present

**Highways**

1. **To consider roadworks issues, and make recommendations as necessary**

Meeting with utilities people has always worked better. Gigaclear yesterday sprung up. It depends on length of time (3 days advanced notice for work that is less than 3 days). Major work is on the bulletin. Less than 3 days don’t have to give much notice. Traffic sensitive area like lights on crossroads – can’t get it classified as major – comes form central government. Manually doing lights 7am-7pm – helping with flow. Cannot switch lights on and off at certain times of day/night – slot is booked for someone to come and do this.

South Road in November. Newland Street in November. Traffic coordinator will hopefully, unless emergency, not plan anything in alternative main routes while these routes are having works.

1. **To receive updates from GCC Highways, and make recommendations as necessary**

GCC flood authority to repair and reinstate. Surveying culvert down Newland Street – cancelled due to full of rainwater. Joe and flood team – Spout Lane – once modelling is complete with GCC and EA, and adopted sections – Joe looking through town at additional rainwater collection, but don’t want to put more into it while it isn’t great. Joe had a plan, but it is on hold. North Road Broadwell 35 houses planning permission, water is not coming down into Severn, is coming down other way into town. Joe is aware of new water into culvert, and is dealing with developers for attenuation ponds. We need a meeting with Joe. Had a plan – Newland St problems occurred and has changed the order of things. Once NC has a date he will be in contact. Chase a meeting with Joe Baker.

Hole and access point on Newland St is a priority. Surcharge and footway is wavy.

White lines – they’ve done bits. Contractually used levers to get them back. Yellow boxes also on this ticket. Weather dependent.

Active Travel – FODDC should have given more info. See GOFEE contract allocated or not? Results?

TRO to change existing footways to dual use £5000. Needs to meet L21 standard. Footways here don’t meet that. Need to do TRO dual use – 3 metres wide for dual use. Any that are new need to meet current guidance. Diversion should be new guidance. Existing path – can make it wider.

TRO St John Street. Sat with Hannah’s team for consideration. Consultation has ended.

2nd application on Tufthorn Ave on site – may be looking again at costing of getting that link back to lights sorted. Existing pavement there that we would like to include for cycles. Needs to be raised as part of planning.

Office to send NC grit bin maps

Poolway development – still waiting for larger application – we want to be involved in Highways alteration. Planning will come in.

Trees – 5 trees for a gateway – near Sylvan Close. Ask Sara – works in Cannop one day a week – can send via Nathan and he can let us know if there is an issue with utilities etc. Could put into containers above ground.

People don’t like tarmac by Post Office. Lots and lots of complaints. GCC Highways will not consider anything except tarmac. Not an historical feature of town. Highways doesn’t have funding to put pennant paving, resin bound footways – utilities cutting into them, then leaves a stripe. Highways are replacing kerbs as well so it is all new. All the way around to be done eventually – special care around by Crusty Loaf. Tarmac pads at crossing points – replacing brick ones. Order on the cushions as they fall in a 20mph zone. Plan to refurbish them. Design code for conservation area review. End of January is the plan for GCC refurb. January is quiet for traders. Take this back to Full Council. Snow could cancel these works.

Registered concern of nature of materials on pavements around town re: upgrading.

Betterment or improvement is responsibility of GCC. Primary concern safety and easily maintainable, rather than what it looks like. NC has no issue with design things Town Council may want to do, as long as they maintain – as a contrast. UWE students will report mid-December – may have something to report back to NC. Resin-bound footways could look nice.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed:

**Recommendation: To take to Full Council about works NC has in mind and suggest don’t do works until at least January.**

**Recommendation: To go back to Planning Policy at FODDC design code considerations for conservation area to find something that might be an alternative and get that costed.**

**Recommendation: To speak to UWE students and Chris Jones re: Mushet walk aspect – bit across market place**

**Recommendation: To explore original materials used**

Patching on Coalway Road – Thank you – working better. Pothole regen fund. Full resurfacing is expensive and is on his radar.

Gloucester Road – problems further up – sewer link on pavement has been left – back to Highways for enforcement.

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

Staunton Road, Gorse, Edenwall Road applied for cameras. Kat has taken over this now. Be mindful of where you put it. Woodgate Rd would be tricky for this. Do not put outside someone’s front door. Who has to approve the position? VAS GCC Highways approves. ANPR approved by police. VAS can move around. ANPR is fixed. Lots of ongoing costs with ANPR. VAS just re-charge battery. Battery lasts about a week. Can get solar, but still need to charge. We would have to fund solar ourselves. VAS in Staunton – need to send unit back to manufacturer to recalibrate for solar and cost is for us if we do this. ANPR records all data – hotspot times. VAS – West Dean use it a lot. Purchased their own units as well. Cost to parish for every letter to send re: speeding with ANPR. Bigger post required for solar – need to decide on day one. 1.9m to bottom of VAS over footway, VAS, and then solar panel. Approximately £2500 for a VAS unit.

1. **To review Highways Tracker, in conjunction with GCC Highways updates**

See tracker with updates

1. **To review Speedwatch results, training and make any recommendations.**

Training on 30th September. Cllrs Getgood and Parker attended. Clearwell have kit for next few weeks. 2 sites in Newland. Our sites were risk assessed a long time ago. Sue Pritchard trained Tom Oliver, Cllrs. M Cox, S Cox, C Elsmore 8/9 years ago. Woodgate Rd started at 10am and went back at school time. Lots of people braking. Reports of speeding about 7:30pm. Resident had a number plate and didn’t report to police. Book a 7:30pm session in June. Banner in 1 direction – but one car going in opposite direction was going 58mph up Sunny Bank hill out of town. Have official speed surveys been carried out? Dave Harrison in charge of this: shows pattern of times and type of vehicle. NC will check current results. CTC to consider request more when know those…

Further training in Spring time – should have cameras in place. Consider Woodgate early evening in spring/summer

**Public Safety**

1. **To receive update from Police re: community forum and progress, date of next meeting.**

Community forum links to Councillor advocacy. Cllr M Cox and Penny went to a meeting with police. Notes on this received from police only had 5 actions, and very little for the police to do. Police are looking for a follow-up meeting by end of November. PCSO Oliver apologised for the delay.

Arson in Thurstan’s Rise – high-vis foot patrol, ASB. No fresh major concerns. Doing what they can with the PCSO staff they have. Foot patrols, chat with residents, making themselves known to children. Targeted patrols. Dusk is a key time for youths hanging around. Youth workers may need to work up there. Tom to check with Dawn re: youth worker contact. Residents are happy with increased police presence. Residents need to contact police, not council. Communication is key. Residents, youth association, council and police to work together and communicate.

Petrol bombs Thurstan’s Rise – live investigation. Increasing patrols. Crime ref numbers – Tom to provide to Nathan re: patchworks on roads following incidents.

CCTV to cover Pyart Court.

Focus now on Lawdley Road. Fraud scams, particularly for elderly.

Community engagement vehicle – tomorrow. Need more notice.

Hate crime – graffiti on wall by Lidl.

1. **Make recommendations re Councillor Advocacy Scheme.**

Linking with PCC – scheme to have rep to go to regular meeting – maybe a video – waiting for this meeting to appoint someone. Rep needs to be part of this committee. Cllr Getgood was nominated.

1. **To receive further update from Police including crime statistics, detection rates, and make recommendations as necessary.**

Tom will forward on the stats when he returns. He will condense to just Coleford. Seasons of change – dark time patrols. Lawdley Road and Thurstan’s Rise are the 2 foci right now.

1. **To review and make recommendations re: Coleford Resilience Plan:** 
   1. To review status of renewed permission forms

We have something in newsletter to encourage people that we have a resilience plan – from volunteering or for in need. Form is on website. Links with Lena at FODDC – people that need help on an ongoing basis. Keep an eye on these. Lots of police work being directed to vulnerable adults right now. Food Bank reminder – don’t have to be on benefits to access this.

* 1. To consider ways to recruit: conversations, social media, newsletter, stall on Tump

Regeneration committee – looking at market idea – do a regular stall possibly?

* 1. To train, maintain, develop the group with shared understanding and purpose

At what point do we call a resilience test? Get people au fait with it.

Main Place – biggest place in town for anywhere to be evacuated to. FODDC was not keen on this for some reason.

Whole plan was updated last year. Newsletter may produce volunteers and needs. Could do test in Jan/Feb.

1. **To note Home Upgrade Grant scheme and make any recommendations**

Now available – looking at energy and installation – need to make people aware of this. Fully funded gas improvements. Warm and well Severn and Wye Energy. Put this on the website and social media. Have they covered the doctor, dentist, community people? Forward to anyone else you think it’s reasonable to tell. Housing associations.

1. **To review feedback from Community Road Safety Partnership and make any recommendations.**

Focus was on Victoria Rd junction and 40mph for statutory forest roads – going through processes and being discussed. Nathan has casualty figures – has been passed on. Waiting for next road safety group to update them. If not an injury, not reported. NC submitted animals recovered from the road. Gives an idea of unreported accidents – boar, deer and sheep that the Forestry have collected.

**Next meeting to be scheduled for 16th January 2024 at 2pm.**

**Meeting closed at 3:00pm.**