

## **BEECH ROAD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING HELD AT 19:30 ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**1. Attendees:**

Charles Cockburn (CC)  
Nick Ward (NW)  
Malcolm Ward-Close (MWC)  
Ian Gibson (IG)

Apologies for absence: David Walker (DW), Roger Ison (RI), Brian Wagstaff (BW).

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August were reviewed and approved unanimously. Approval was proposed by Ian Gibson, seconded by Malcolm Ward-Close and signed off “virtually” by the Chairman, Charles Cockburn. Charles will formally sign off in front of the meeting next time we are able to meet in person. This is the sixth set of Minutes requiring this approach. There were no matters arising from this review.
3. **Declaration of Interest** – (in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils Model Code of Conduct adopted July 2018) Councillors and Working Group members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.  
**No interests were declarable at this time.**

**4. Driver Awareness Signs – progress update**

**MW-C**

Malcolm reported that everything was set up to place the order prior to his recent vacation. The Parish Council had reconfirmed its approval of the design and expenditure; a revised quote had been received from the supplier and, after a bit of clarification, was accepted. However Malcolm has not had confirmation as to whether the order has actually been placed. **Action: CC to check with Graham as to the current status.**

Charles also confirmed that the overgrown hedge, that would have obstructed one of the signs, has now been trimmed back

**5. Workstream Update Reports and Next Steps**

**WORKSTREAM 1. Pathways**

The Team met during August and marked out what was assessed as the most appropriate route for a pathway through Seong Gi’s land and Forestry/Highways land to Bushy Leaze parking area. The intention was to keep the route as level as possible and to avoid the need to remove mature trees.

The Team agreed to complete this work for the remainder of the wooded area adjacent to Medstead Road this Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. **Action: CC/IG/MW-C/NW**

## COMMENTS ON EMAIL DISCUSSION AROUND CLEARING PROPOSED MARKED PATHWAY:

The Meeting discussed the email correspondence with Daniel Gordon, Seong-Gi, Charles Cockburn and Graham Webb regarding the suggested immediate creation of a cleared way based on the proposed pathway route through Seong-Gi's land. The BRSWG are happy to support such activity but would request it does not start until a meeting has taken place with Ian Janes from Hampshire Highways (which is planned within the next two weeks subject to his availability). The rationale being that, at some points, the pathway may cut across Highways land and the last thing we wish to do at this stage is to upset this vital stakeholder by not engaging with him beforehand. The Team do not envisage any problem with Highways on this issue but feel it is necessary and correct to at least inform them of our intentions.

The Team had one other comment on the proposal from Daniel:

Please be aware that the pathway cannot reach Bushy Leaze parking area without crossing Highways land and/or Forestry England land. Whilst we believe Highways to be sympathetic to our objectives (as above) their narrow strip of land is full of trees and a hedgerow in this area so cannot realistically be cleared without heavy machinery. We also know that Forestry England has so far denied our request to put any pathway over its land. HOWEVER there is already an unofficial, "natural" pathway that runs from Seong-Gi's land boundary through the Forestry woods exiting at the paved track next to the Bushy-Leaze parking area. This could be used as a temporary solution without requiring any permissions as no clearance is required other than removal of a few small overhanging branches in one section.

## WORKSTREAM 2. Highway development

The Group understands that, in South Perrott, there have been no accidents or incidents on the shared pathway stretch since it was built that were as a result of the design. There has been one incident between a tractor and a cyclist but this was due to the tractor pulling out from a side road without looking carefully enough.

The report back from the Chair of the local Parish Council also made it clear that the shared pathway design does make pedestrians feel safer when walking along the road and that, whilst average road speeds have not changed significantly, the vehicular traffic does keep out of the pedestrian marked area. His view is that no residents would want to return to the old road design.

Ian Gibson has produced a marked up map of Beech village with the preferred option for improving road safety detailed. This is a key document to share with Hampshire Highways to get their comments and move towards gaining their approval. The only other document required prior to meeting Hampshire Highways is a drawing of a cross section of the road and shared path option to describe the construction.

**Action: IG**

## NEXT STEPS:

Whilst positive informal discussions have been held with Ian Janes of Hampshire Highways we are now in a position to invite him to a more formal meeting to explore our options and obtain guidance on how Highways would view any such proposals.

Action – create an email invitation proposing a meeting and outline agenda to be held as soon as possible. Circulate draft for input and send out in Charles' name. **Action: NW**

#### **WORKSTREAM 3/4. Speed Control / Enforcement / Campaigning** **CC**

Charles updated the Group on the recent meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August with Chief Inspector Reading of Hampshire police specifically in relation to the discussions on rural policing and speed enforcement specifically. The draft minutes and briefing note are attached for reference.

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October**. It is still expected to be an online meeting – using the Village Hall Zoom software if this is still available. Nick to confirm or propose alternative.

N J Ward