

ST IVES AND DISTRICT AREA ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mrs Margaret Lumb

Vice Chairman: Mr Colin Saunderson

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Minutes

Of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 7.30 pm – at St. Ives Town Hall

Present:

Colin Saunderson	(CS)	:	Fenstanton PC
Margaret Lumb	(ML)	:	Bluntisham PC
Mike Newman	(MN)	:	Pidley-cum-Fenton PC
Dave McCandless	(DM)	:	Speedwatch Co-ordinator
Keith Sisman	(KS)	:	Upwood PC
Peter Smith	(PS)	:	St. Ives Town Council
Eda McPherson	(EM)	:	Holywell-cum-Needingworth PC
Noel Baker	(NB)	:	Wyton-on-Hill PC
Brian Burpitt	(BB)	:	Earith Speedwatch
Kate Williams	(KW)	:	Hemingford Grey PC
Owen McLaughlin	(OM)	:	Secretary

1 Welcomes & Apologies

Apologies had been received from the following members: Margaret Harlock, Andrew Street, Justo Perez , Graham Bull

2 Minutes - To approve Minutes of the meeting on 14th January 2014

The minutes of the meeting on January 14th 2014 were agreed to be an accurate record.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising which are not already on the agenda.

4 Correspondence

Hemingford Grey Donation:

OM reported on email correspondence with KW regarding a donation in July last year. OM had written to Hemingford Grey PC asking for support and the PC had agreed a donation of £100. However, although a cheque had been issued there is no record of it having been received and it had not been cashed. Hemingford Grey PC have kindly offered to cancel the cheque and re-issue it.

Potholes:

The following email received from Margaret Shardlow of Hilton re: potholes .

Dear Owen

I am concerned at the number of pot-holes countywide but especially in and around St Ives . In the town centre the road surface between Petzone and the Guided bus stop is frankly dangerous to cars and pedestrians crossing there - due to the volume of traffic no doubt. Also the surface near the Town Hall is like a third world track! Ross Hamilton of the Highways Agency recently attended a meeting of Hilton Parish Council as did I as a parishioner and at which I brought this matter up with him (not during the meeting of course) . The inevitable response is no funds even though the Agency is aware of these conditions so if possible could the RSC ponder the problem please?

Many thanks
Margaret

CS said that the government is spending £150m for emergency road maintenance.

KS observed that there is a problem with this ad hoc approach. They patch it and then have to do it again shortly afterwards.

CS agreed and said that Market Street is a case in point.

ML wondered if the RSC should write on this subject.

PS mentioned an ongoing legal case where the family of a cyclist who was killed due to poor road maintenance was taking North Yorkshire Council to court.

[Post meeting update received from Brian Murdoch]

Hi Margaret

We have been aware of the condition of these roads for some time and have been making safe but they do need major work and we can only do that through capital funding.

I have submitted most of the roads in St Ives Town Centre for a capital scheme in this upcoming financial year. The schemes have not been confirmed yet but I am confident we will be allocated funding for these roads, which will include, Market Road, Market Hill, Oliver Road, The Quadrant, Cromwell Place & Station Road.

Regards

Brian Murdoch
Local Highway Officer

Speedwatch:

The following email received from Margaret Harlock of Warboys PC re: Speedwatch

Hello Owen,

Please accept my apologies for tomorrow night. I have been asked to put forward a volunteer from Warboys to join the Speed Watch team. Jill Tavener, a fellow Parish Councillor, can be contacted at 01487 823082

Can you put her in touch with the Team leader of Speed watch please?

I have copied her into this e-mail.

Thanks,

Regards, Maggie Harlock

The contact details provided were passed on to DM.

5 Review of Active Items

Item 31	Hill Rise / Houghton Road - Maps #17 & #31
Issue	There is concern about the pedestrian crossing at Elm Drive. Lots of children use this. There is a

	<p>waiting area but there are no rails. The problems arise when too many children use it at once. NB questioned whether the traffic lights at Hill Rise/ Houghton Road junction were sequenced correctly. Drivers were jumping the red lights.</p> <p>Also there is an application to build another 200 houses on remaining holes of golf course in St. Ives. The exit from the new estate will be on High Leys. This could compound the problem described above.</p> <p>CS & JC attended a meeting at the St. Ivo school on January 21st</p>
Meeting Comment	<p>CS & JC had duly attended the meeting referred to above. But they had only discussed the safety audit. He showed a map to illustrate the road safety issues.</p> <p>The junction is very dangerous. South of the junction about 400 pupils cross daily. CS had asked for a crossing here and some safety measures to the north, plus a drop-off zone. Parents park in the road and block it. Others perform dangerous overtaking manoeuvres. Pupil discipline at the crossing is pretty good. Impatient drivers are the real problem.</p> <p>He had had an ongoing battle on Shape Your Place at the RSC's request. This had done no good at all and had gone nowhere. Funding is the main problem. Safer Routes to School funding has finished and all the 106 money has gone. Highways are in melt down. He had also observed Dews Coaches speeding and this needs to be reported.</p> <p>KS said they can lose points on their contracts for that.</p> <p>ML asked how we should proceed. Should we put this forward as part of our publicity effort? – All agreed.</p> <p>OM informed that group that Tracy Roden from the Ivo School was invited to this meeting but unfortunately couldn't make it. She might be able to come to another one later.</p> <p>PS added that a lot of schools have limited parking outside. That would solve the problem.</p> <p>CS noted that Hemingford school are getting some off street parking.</p>
Item 32	Market Street / Station Road St. Ives – Map #46
Issue	<p>The corner is very tight so that buses going round it completely block the road. Whenever a disabled driver parks outside Petzone it can bring traffic to a halt. This means virtually the whole of the one way system around the Quadrant. The new bus stop here has made problems much worse.</p> <p>There is often a problem with disabled badge holders some of whom think they can park where they want. But unless there is a physical obstruction little can be done by the police.</p> <p>Action: ML asked if AS could liaise with highways officers about this at the request of the RSC.</p>
Meeting Comment	<p>AS had sent his apologies so there was no update on the dialogue with Highways. ML would ask if there was any progress.</p> <p>PS thought that there was no loading allowed there now.</p> <p>CS confirmed that, but said it was not always being respected.</p> <p>EM said it was a ridiculous place for a bus stop anyway.</p> <p>CS said that in August there was a near miss with a pedestrian caused by someone driving over the pavement.</p> <p>PS commented on the stupidity of a bus stop outside a bus station.</p> <p>CS was told that ' safety is not the only consideration.</p> <p>ML added that the St. Ives Town Council were against it.</p> <p>PS said that they still are against it.</p>

6 Review of Remaining Items

Item 2: Pidley

MN said that this is still going on. They had a word with CCC yesterday about the third improvement plan. The worst bit is Oldhurst road going out of the village.

DM said that Speedwatch had recently had an enforcement there.

Item 4: B1040 Wheatsheaf Junction

ML said that ENVAR have been asked to put up a 4metre litter fence because this can be a safety hazard. It was approved by the PC yesterday. At the moment the site manager goes and picks up the litter. Foliage will also be cut regularly. There have also been complaints about litter from the tip as well.

Item 5: Earith High Street

ML said that excavation has started at the Lattas site with HCV traffic exiting at George Corner. BB added that there seems to be no further progress with the Relief Road. The Minnaars site is still subject to an outline application only.

Item 6: Low Road, Fenstanton.

CS said there was a serious safety issue now that there is no white line. Mike Jones has a box full of wing mirrors. CS said he was shouted down at the last Fenstanton PC when he said he'd paint the line himself. ML said that Highways have changed the width of the road requirements for white lining and so don't need to do it.

KS wondered that if there was no white line isn't the road single lane?

DM thought the problem was being caused by speeding drivers who can't negotiate the corner. He also commented that the description of this issue on the agenda was wrong with regard to a pedestrian crossing being required. Pedestrian warning signs were what was needed.

CS said that the pending planning application will increase the danger and we should comment when it goes ahead.

Item 14: Lloyds Bank/Station Road St. Ives

ML reported that Jo Challis at Highways says nothing will be done. There is no reason to have any parking restrictions here. So should we leave this item on the list?

CS wondered if we could put a note on the door of the chemist.

PS said that he has reported it last month. Hunts Post had picked up on it and put in an article about North Road and parking. They had asked for feedback. There were a couple of letters but then it died away.

Eda asked if there was enough disabled parking along there? – It appears there is.

ML asked PS if he could bring it up at the next St. Ives Town Council meeting.

Item 23: Guided Bus Route, North Road

ML said that this issue had been mentioned in the newspaper.

PS said he had not received a definitive answer about the one-way system whether it was intended for buses only. Another problem is that a bus coming down North Road has to go over the pavement to turn.

MN added that here is a consultation on bus subsidies at the moment and routes are under consideration. He had mentioned North Road problem and they said they would look into it.

Item 29: St.Ives cycle paths

PS said that a lot of work has been done lately on the cycle paths but he is not sure where they get their priorities.

MN asked if anyone had seen a cyclist on the new cycle path along Harrison Way?

PS said there was a big problem with cyclists who don't use cycle paths where they exist.

ML said the Houghton Road cycle path will be done only when the development is done.

NB added that this would be a new one behind the hedge. He thought it very doubtful that there was any chance of a cycle path along Sawtry Way.

Item 34: Crossing Harrison Way outside Caravan Park

ML thought we should remove this item. This was agreed. It was commented that few people seem to cross here anyway.

CS disagreed. He said that quite a few people do cross the road here. Office workers, dog walkers etc.

Item 35: Marley Road/Burleigh Road

CS said that the Town Council had put in an application for flashing lights.

PS added that CCC have rejected it.

DM thought the speed limit was wrong here. It should be 30 mph.

PS believed there were two problems. The speed of the traffic and also the number of times the speed limit changes over a short distance.

Item 37: Speeding in Kings Ripton – (email report from AS).

“I have been chasing up Traffic dept re enforcement at Kings Ripton and they haven't done any yet. The reason for this is that it is a low priority for them with it not being a major route or accident hotspot. However, starting in April they are having a campaign focussing on motorcycles and rural roads. I have therefore convinced them that a high proportion of the offenders are motorcyclists hitting some very high speeds, they have therefore said that they will include enforcement in this area as part of their campaign”.

7 RSC Web-site & Publicity Discussion

BB said there were some changes to the Web site contents. More minutes and documents have been uploaded.

He also gave a brief HCV report. The group are in the process of finalizing their cost/benefit analysis which will use the data gathered during the environmental testing. The purpose is to prove the case for weight limits in the villages and to challenge the current methodology for assessing HCV impact. CCC came up with a HCV assessment process which is seriously flawed. When this method was first tested Earith scored lowest out of a number of villages even though it clearly had the most serious problems.

8 Mobile Phone Use

OM explained that this item had been added to the agenda following a report in the local newspaper of a 23% increase in drivers caught using mobile phones since 2011.

DM said that Speedwatch can record and report mobile phone use although 2 volunteers must see it in order to report it.

ML asked if we should we put something on the web-site about this.

BB agreed to add something.

KS said that the police are now taking an interest in this. There was a very bad accident recently involving mobile phone use. The driving impairment is considerable and it is a serious problem.

ML pointed out that here is a driver awareness course for mobile phone offenders.

9 Speedwatch Report

The full Speedwatch Report is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

DM thought they had not done too badly this year. Mark Greenhalgh has gone but there is now a new Inspector called Chris Savage who has taken over as the Forces Speedwatch Lead.

ML said that AS will speak to St. Ives TC about their refusal to endorse Speedwatch.

DM thought it was unfortunate that Speedwatch had now been made into a political entity.

PS added that St. Ives Town Council have a meeting tomorrow and hoped he could attend

10 Reports from Members

ML, Bluntisham PC: On BBC website there is talk of the CCC control room being merged with Herts & Beds. It will probably be based at Huntingdon.

KW, Hemingford Grey PC: Last night's PC meeting decided to look at Road Safety on London Road. They want safer routes into Hemingford Grey for the children. They are looking for funding. They will also try to reduce the speed limit along that stretch.
(DM added that 2 children were blown off their bikes by a HGV on that road).

BB, Earith Speedwatch: There is an ongoing consultation on increasing permitted weights and speeds for tractors and trailers. They also want to introduce an MOT for tractors which is being opposed by the NFU.
(**Action:** OM to include information with the minutes. Also put on agenda for the next meeting).

EM, Holywell: Offroad bikes are using local lanes. Are they allowed to? (ML wondered if there was there a club involved. She would ask AS if he had any information on this) Also concerns about cars jumping the lights on Harrison Way. She was worried about the traffic implications when the new Morrisons open.

PS, St. Ives TC: There is a problem with cyclists with no lights on the road, also an issue with light jumping at the busway as well. The Pelican crossings in St.Ives are also being criticized. People think that pressing the button has no effect. (ML advised that the Council Clerk should contact highways).

CS, Fenstanton PC: Once Hemingford decide on the London Rd speed limit I'd like to get support for the proposal from Fenstanton.

KS, Upwood PC: There have been three recent accidents in our village, 2 needing ambulance attendance. We can't get any help with this although individuals can try and record poor or dangerous driving. For £25 you can get a camera on Ebay for your car which plugs into the ignition. The film can be downloaded into a PC.

11 AOB

Action: OM to put together a report for the local newspaper containing the following items; Problems with potholes, Hill Rise safety issues and cuts in road safety funding.

12 Next 3 RSC Meeting Dates

Tuesday May 13th

Tuesday July 10th

Tuesday September 9th

Appendix A - Speedwatch Report for RSC Meeting on 11 Mar 14
Stats 2014 to 10 Mar 14

ST IVES & RAMSEY SECTOR - SPEEDWATCH RESULTS 01 JAN 14 - 10 MAR 14

Location	(a) Visits Clicked	(b) Clicked	(c) Clocked	(d) %	(e) 15+*	(f) Max MPH	(g) Speed Limit	(h) Vans	(i) HGVs
ABBOTS RIPTON	4	634	88	14	0	44	30	19	
COLNE	5	701	183	26	12	54	30	16	
EARITH	5	1055	115	11	2	46	30	24	4
FENSTANTON	1	281	36	13	0	41	30	2	
FENTON	5	814	155	19	1	45	30	11	
HEMINGFORD GREY	5	791	83	10	1	47	30	7	
HILTON	13	1891	330	17	32	55	30	22	1
HUNTINGDON	1	75	25	33	2	48	30	4	1
KINGS RIPTON	3	478	83	17	0	44	30	7	
OLDHURST	3	282	48	17	2	46	30	5	
PIDLEY	10	1209	253	21	12	52	30	31	4
RAMSEY	4	282	56	20	2	46	30	11	4
RAMSEY FORTY FOOT	4	374	49	13	2	52	30	9	2
RAMSEY ST MARYS	1	280	35	12	0	44	30	10	2
SOMERSHAM	6	852	124	15	5	49	30	22	5
WISTOW	3	290	25	9	2	49	30	2	
	73	10289	1688	16	75	55		202	23

Councils Please Remember that you are now supposed to take ownership of persistent speeding problems in your Town/Parish and work with Coord to address any issues you may have or persistent speeding, not joy-riding that is solely a Police matter..

New Force Speedwatch Lead. Insp Chris Savage (ex-South Cambs) has taken over at Police HQ as the 'Force Speedwatch Lead' (and 'Keeper of the Golden Rulebook' – our Guidelines). I met with him last week and he reiterated the Constabulary's appreciation and support for Speedwatch to the extent of its resources.

Speedwatch Locations are at: www.Hunts-Traders.com/Speedwatch/Locations - could Parishes please check these and make sure they are happy with Speedwatch operating at them. If not, please let me know.

Road Safety Partnership Meeting on 6 March. I asked for guidance on how to deal with:

- **St Ives TC refusal to support Speedwatch** and the Police's refusal to change the Guideline wording that insists that we have local Town/Parish support before we can operate. Thus a combination of intransigent stances continues to deny the town of that additional level of road safety. The RSP will consider options.
- **Fenstanton PC's view** that additional signs (including Speedwatch signs) at Low Rd, River View - to enhance road safety along this deadly stretch - were not cost effective and a distraction to drivers and therefore a road safety hazard in their own right. RSP declared that the CCC decided on the safety of street furniture and that the fitting of Speedwatch signs could proceed if the costs can be met from other sources.
- **Lack of Camera Van Visits to Rural Hotspots** – I complained that there seemed a distinct lack of camera vans at non-KSI RURAL sites since the RPU came into existence at Stevenage in Apr 13. The RSP Rep informed me that that it's nothing to do with collaboration and the vans are still here and it's not because of lack of CCC funding but lack of operator resources. KSI sites are supposed to get 85% of what's available and Rural sites 15%. I did point out that 15% of something should still result in something. The RPU will re-examine the situation/allocation and I will supply them with Speedwatch identified – traffic-survey-justified hard-standing location via Insp Chris Savage. If anyone sees a Rural Camera Van please report Date/Time/Place to me.

Local Police Support 2014.

- **Kerbside Enforcement/Combined Sessions** – Two were planned for Feb and one carried out in Oldhurst but the other, an early morning one in Somersham, had to be cancelled because of illness. More are scheduled for March: in Somersham on 18th with PC Dean Drage and in Hilton on 22nd with our very own Andy Street. I might even be able to squeeze a 3rd out of PC Dean Drage in the last week of the month now that I have his shift rota. PS Andy Street still trying to work out how to get Laser-toting Specials kerbside to further enhance enforcement in the area..
- **Hand Delivered Letters** – Useful and much appreciated feedbacks keeping streaming our way from PS Andy Street who spends a great deal of time taking the message to speeders on their doorstep.

New Speedwatch Signs – are now up in Abbots Ripton, Somersham, Pidley, Fenton, Hemingford Grey, Kings Ripton, all active Ramsey locations and Old Hurst with 3 instead of 4 in Earith being imminent. The signs seem to be working. To get signs for your village, please make sure your completed Application Form (obtained from me) is with Peter Taylor asap (cc'd to the CSW Coord as the CCC won't process it until they are happy that I am happy as these are not traffic calming signs but Speedwatch signs and there to suit Speedwatch purposes.

Advantage of the New Fixed Signs – These are meant to take the place of the large mobile signs we have to deploy ahead of the detector when setting up a session. But now, having them fixed ahead of the detector (within 1km along that same road) at some locations, we do not need to carry the heavy mobile signs, they don't blow over, they can't be knocked over by disgruntled pedestrians who think they are too far out and, more importantly, they are clearly seen at the side of the road without blocking footpaths.

Wheelie Bin Stickers – with the new signs up it's quite important to remind drivers that the Limit is 30/40 and that Speedwatch is about. A new supplier has been found who will do 250 at 99p each, though I still have some at £1 each. Any takers? Maybe a new slogan to 'SPEED KILLS' ... something like '30 PLEASE' or 'THINK CHILD'.

Speedwatch Flyers – I can supply Parish Clerks/CSW Volunteers with up to 50 double-sided A4 B/W Speedwatch flyers to ask for Volunteers along speed-affected stretches. Email: speedwatch@hunts-traders.com

