

CLOPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting to discuss speed issues on local B roads held at Clopton Village Hall at 8.00pm
On Thursday 24th October 2019.

Present: Cllr Raffell - Chairman Cllr Fryatt Cllr Yallop Cllr Lye Cllr Gittoes	In Attendance: Miss K Bye (Clerk) 29 Clopton residents 11 surrounding village residents	Apologies Cllr Pitt
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<p>CPC090/19 Chairmans Welcome Cllr Raffell welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Unfortunately as already communicated via email Dr Dan Poulter was unable to attend to meeting due to parliamentary commitments. He has however asked to be updated and has said he will help where he can.</p> <p>It was introduced that the CPC is trying to carry out activities within the village. One such activity has been the recent litter pick. The meeting called today is also part of that push. The intention was initially to discuss the issues faced at the Shop Road junction of the B1078 with speeding traffic, but having received feedback in advance of the meeting from residents it is clear that there is a bigger issue that includes the whole stretch of the B1078 and B1079 through Clopton and surrounding villages.</p> <p>CPC are concerned that should Sizewell C go ahead the traffic problem will escalate massively as the B1078/9 are the roads that vehicles under 4 tonnes will be directed along to join the construction park and ride in Hacheston. It has been estimated that up to 1000 additional vehicles a day will use these roads.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting in an attempt to obtain actual current road use data the Clerk has been in touch with the safety camera team. They have agreed to install a speed detection radar to gather a week's data regarding the actual numbers of vehicles and their speeds. We can then obtain that data by issuing a freedom of information request. This however may not happen for a number of weeks due to the level of demand.</p> <p>A quick headcount was carried out and there were in the region of 11 attendees from surrounding villages and 29 from Clopton itself.</p>	
<p>CPC091/19 Apologies Apologies received from Cllr Pitt</p>	
<p>CPC092/19 Declaration of Interests/Dispensation Applications Received There were no declarations of interest and no dispensation applications to consider in relation to this agenda.</p>	

CPC093/19 Public Forum/Open Session

The meeting was opened to the public to share their experiences of the roads and also any ideas or opinions that they have regarding this issue.

Various villagers from Clopton and surrounding villages spoke. A summary of the main points is listed below.

It was agreed that the Shop Road and Manor Road junctions are dangerous and need a speed limit. There is a large amount of vehicles that join the B1078 at this junction and it is a dangerous junction to negotiate due to the lack of visibility and speed of oncoming traffic. There is a bus stop on the opposite side of the B1078 from Shop Road that school children have to use as well as the playing field access.

However, the issue is not limited to this area. The whole stretch of both the B1078 and B1079 in Clopton and surrounding villages have danger hot spots, numerous accidents and near misses have occurred on a regular basis due to excess speed and the unsuitability of the road for fast traffic.

Residents in Clopton, Otley and Burgh have already independently pushed for many years for speed limits in danger hot spots but have had no success regardless of a large history of reported accidents. Highways and SCC have not been willing to budge from their position that these hot spots do not qualify for a speed limit based on their criteria for speed limits.

A previous council member reported the lengthy and thorough process that Clopton Parish Council went through in previous years to try to impose a limit to the Shop Road junction, and despite much effort the result was unsuccessful, the junction did not meet the speed limit criteria.

Enforcement was listed as an issue, even if a limit were imposed it is unlikely that police would be able to adequately enforce such a limit based on the experiences of neighbouring villages who do have a speed limit. Lack of funding has been one of the major problems that villagers have faced in surrounding villages for enforcement.

There were concerns that by limiting one area it would create more speeding in the areas before and following any speed limited areas.

The general feeling was that a blanket speed limit would be the safest and best solution for the B1078 and B1079 in Clopton and neighbouring villages.

It was suggested that it be reported that the existing signage is inadequate and that the slow sign on the road itself has eroded.

There was a lot of feedback that suggested that it is unlikely that any success will come of a push for a speed limit. However it was decided that it is worth a try and that the best approach would be as a joint venture between Clopton and the surrounding villages. Therefore CPC will make contact with neighbouring Clerks to ask if they have any residents who would be interested in joining a team. There were volunteers from the attendees present.

<p>Locals should be encouraged to log accidents. Only accidents that have been reported to the police are counted by Highways Association therefore accidents should be reported.</p>	
<p>CPC094/19 Dates of future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 21st Nov 2019, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Parish Council Meeting. • Thursday 16th Jan 2020, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Parish Council Meeting. • Thursday 19th Mar 2020, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Parish Council Meeting. 	
<p><i>Meeting closed at 9.00pm</i></p>	
<p>Chairman: Date:</p>	

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