**Coleford Town Council**

**Highways and Public Safety Committee**

**Tuesday 23 May 2023**

**2.00pm – 4.00pm**

**Council Chamber**

**Present: Cllrs. M Cox, S Cox, Elsmore, Parker & Getgood**

**Nathan Choat (GCC Highways)**

**MC was nominated and unanimously agreed as temporary chair for this meeting**

1. Apologies received from Tom Oliver and Dawn Teague, PCSOs
2. No interests declared re: Items on the agenda
3. No dispensation requests were received
4. The minutes of 7 March 23 were proposed, and unanimously agreed.

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

1. There were no matters arising, that were not on this agenda, from the minutes of 7 March 2023
2. No members of the public were present

**Highways**

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

**Re: road painting** - Lines truck booked for early July for nights in Coleford to do all line work.

**Re: Active Travel strategy** – costs are going up and up with inflation. As far as GCC are concerned, focus on active travel around Cheltenham and Gloucester. There will not be any budget for this year for Coleford. GCC may be able to help with section 106 money. Still S106 money to be decided at Tufthorn Avenue.

NC to check whether path from town up west side of Old Station Way can be a joint pedestrian/cycle usage to traffic lights at Tufthorn Avenue.It is a wide path anyway. NC to investigate if TRO change is required, and cost of path from Lights to Tufthorn Ave.

**Re: TRO St John Street** – current TRO going through for amendment to parking restrictions – harmonised timings with rest of town. MC enquired re timescales as TRO manager had altered southern loading bay (halved in size) – Nathan to clarify. MC to check GCC website. Teams call with TRO manager required.

No suggestion to alter TRO has been received from traders – there is a cost to apply (whether or not successful). Meeting with TRO manager could clarify status of “no stopping at all times” which would be relevant to case.

CTC do not have budget allocated this year.

Could the parking spaces in that section be rented? GCC say no.

**Re: Telephone exchange** – would land at the back be available for sale? CTC office to enquire.

**Re: Spirit of the Forest** – too expensive and not progressing further

**Re: Roadworks and continuous works :** when works are being done, can they coincide so it is all done at once? Programmer will allocate sequential and specified times for similar section to minimise disruption. Utilities do not like to act synchronously as should reinstatement be queried, difficult to know who is responsible and will restore. Companies work differently, but their methods may involve numbers of teams to dig/ do work/ restore. That is their prerogative, however if they overrun they must ask for extension. If they do not ask for extension they are fined per day.Also pay an initial fee.

**Re: The Spout: culvert being looked at by GCC Highways and Flood Authority – NB** Joe Baker 8th June meeting with NC and others – been further collapse of roof of culvert in unadopted road – GCC may carry out repairs, but will not be adopting and not taking responsibility for it onwards. Safety issues noted and may cause problems if left. Notably re flood potential. CE may attend.

**Re: Trees – Gateway enhancement -** Planters dug down and found utilities that were not on plans so they couldn’t plant the trees. GCC have funding for trees in Coleford, so can still plant them elsewhere. **Environment committee** to consider which species and where (semi-mature trees). It will be Autumn/Winter before planting 3-4 trees now. **Trees in Towns** –funding has disappeared now. Go back and re-visit sites with SP - potential for Highways trees planned for gateways to go in these spaces instead or Coalway Road by Coalway School layby. potential site needs landowner permission. Coalway land is Highways – NC will check for utilities under there before 6th June (next Environment Committee meeting).

**Re: PRO and sign at Angus Buchanan** – That pole can be used –Jeff Wheeler authorisation. CTC office to check this through with CWWW & JW

**Re: Electricity charging points in Gloucester Road** – these points are for residential areas with no off-street parking. Gloucester Rd is also in a conservation area – we don’t think this location will work. They can’t be put in a car park – not destination chargers but 7KW overnight chargers. Contact Chris at GCC [electricvehicles@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:electricvehicles@gloucestershire.gov.uk) and invite him here for discussion about alternative sites.

**Re: Cameras** – Mathew Parker. Speedwatch is separate to Highways. NC will chase.

**Re: Roadworks** – utility company is responsible for reinstatement of road space so they cannot synchronise as they need to ensure they leave the road in suitable state that they themselves take responsibility for. No mechanism to fine the company if they overrun with an extension. GCC may be asked for extension and they have power to say no, but Utility will then book road space for weeks later. If they overrun and haven’t booked extension then they’re fined daily. CTC could set up system to check event dates and copy in GCC Highways to report conflicts: could make them more efficient. 2 Gloucester Road – why haven’t they filled in the hole? – NC to investigate.

**Re: Rock Lane** – cannot enforce certain vehicle limiting measures as is a Class 5 highway. Motorcyclists have a legal right to use that road. GCC will change sign to show it is unsuitable for motors in next 2 weeks.

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

Discussed in relation to above points in matters arising.

CTC to send NC list for additional grit bins.

*South Road, Broadwell* roadworks are scheduled this budget year – very provisional date 13th November – can move before then. Coalway Road is not on the list at all.

The trench effect produced when two lanes are not enmeshed can be corrected by specific liquid treatment. If it is a safety issue could be quicker, but safety inspector will assess whether safety defect meets criteria.

Verge cutting – NC will send schedule to Office.

Wales and West have submitted a long term request to replace gas mains around Town Centre. CTC asked specifically that that not be in the lead up to Christmas: would affect businesses for second/third successive year.

Bakers Hill – Gigaclear have to return it to original state, how they found it. Work planned finishes use at 31st May as of right now. CTC concerned it is a local green space and want it restored.

1. **To consider roadworks issues and make recommendations including re compensation as needed.**

Discussed above. NC thanked for works at Whitecliff: no fault found, just bricks, reinstated.

1. **To update re: VAS camera installation,and review Speedwatch arrangements in that context, and to make recommendations as necessary.**

Still awaiting response from Mathew Parker (GCC)

1. **To review Speedwatch schedule and confirm training arrangements, with recommendations for dates for volunteers/new councillors.**

We have had 2 volunteers who want to be trained. PCSO Tom Oliver is willing to train them. We need dates from Tom Oliver. Office to coordinate with councillors, police and volunteers. Shelved speedwatch sessions could be used for training/after.

*NC left the meeting.*

**Public Safety**

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

Pattern of statistics doesn’t seem to be shifting downwards. Ask Police for update.

1. **To receive update from Police re: additional patrols following incident in Coalway, and make recommendations as necessary.**

LJS updated that Police are continuing investigations and will report back as necessary.

1. **To review and make recommendations re participation in Resilience Plan: GDPR and renew permission forms**

We need to check volunteer permission forms and check whether dates are within a year. NB due to GDPR, update if necessary.

1. **To advise/appoint attendee(s) for Community Forum and Road Safety Partnership.**

Write to FODDC and enquire who is doing admin for road safety partnership and when the next meeting is. Wait for notification from Chris Brown (FVAF) re Community Forum and send to all councillors.

Next meeting planned for 18th July – to be confirmed.

**Meeting closed at 3.48pm.**