

DERWENT AND HOPE WOODLANDS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 2022 AT THE LADYBOWER INN, SNAKE ROAD

Present: R Cottrill (Chair), G Woodhead (Vice Chair), A Robinson (RFO), J Gascoigne (Clerk), W Middleton (website)

Julian Gould Director of Highways DCC; Cllr Nigel Gourlay DCC; Cllr Charlotte Farrell HPBC;

Keeley Hancock Police; seven parishioners

14/22 Apologies – Robert Largan MP; Sarah Helliwell; Andrew Skelton; Margaret Wheatley

15/22 No declarations

16/22 Minutes of the previous meeting approved and signed

The agenda was suspended to allow Julian Gould to speak about the landslips on the A57 and take questions.

There have been three main slips – below Gillott Hey, Alport and below Wood Cottage. There has also been damage to the surface of the road and the edges of the road and walls have collapsed where water has flowed across the carriageway in several places; repairs are on-going and will be completed before the road re-opens. Predictive monitoring equipment was installed two years ago to check movement in the road and this will give a guide to a long term solution. A full repair to the areas that have slipped will cost millions of pounds and will require central government funding. DCC will have to formulate a scheme, submit it and then lobby central government for funding. Two way traffic flow at Alport is therefore at least two years away.

It will be possible to open the road with three sets of traffic lights, speed restrictions and a vehicle weight restriction of 7.5 tons (apart from HGV's with legitimate business, requiring access to premises and service vehicles). Speed restrictions of 20mph will only apply where there are traffic lights. The existing cracks will be smoothed and filled with bitumen. However, currently, the road is still moving and will have to stabilise before it can be opened and this is being checked twice a week. Therefore, it will not be opening on 22nd March. At least another week of closure will be applied for and if the road keeps on moving, further weeks will be applied for.

Investigations will begin on a more comprehensive repair to the affected areas. However, it is possible that the results of such an investigation may give solutions that are not economically possible. This happened at the Mam Tor road which was subsequently closed. The increase in torrential rain for example is having an adverse effect on road movement and there are several roads closed in Derbyshire due to landslips.

DCC has already spent a large amount of money on temporary repairs but Mr. Gould said that these had been cost effective. Once Mr. Gould has firm proposals for repairs, he will return to speak to residents.

Councillors were concerned that when the road slipped this time, there was no one to ring to inform of the immediate danger and to get the road closed. Councillor Gascoigne resorted to tweeting DCC in the hope that the message would be picked up before the road collapsed. The Parish Council will be given an emergency number to phone if the road slips again and there is imminent danger.

Councillor Cottrill asked for Alport Bridge to be checked because the wall has collapsed and there is a crack in the stone work. Mr. Gould confirmed that all bridges are checked every two years.

Keeley Hancock Derbyshire Police took questions from residents. Increased police presence was requested around Derwent and the Snake Road to deal with speeding and visitor behaviour. PC Hancock was informed that most speeding on Snake Road occurred mostly at weekends early mornings and around tea time. Therefore, there was no point in having speed cameras during weekdays and during the day. Despite the PSPO banning open fires and bbqs, there were many of both last summer and we don't

expect it to be much different this year. There have already been moorland fires. PC Hancock recommended that residents dial 999 if they see such incidents even though residents are reluctant to use this service unless there is a life threatening emergency. However, it is important that the police are notified as much as possible because this ensures a greater police presence in our area. The police are working from Buxton and more police are currently being recruited.

Agenda resumed.

17/22 No matters arising that are not covered by the agenda

18/22 Correspondence

Residents would like the X57 bus service reinstated. The bus service was introduced in October 2020 at the height of the pandemic and the beginning of winter. It was therefore not surprising that it was underused. Now that life is almost back to normal and the use of public transport is reaching previous levels, residents would like the decision to axe it reconsidered. Email Cllr Gourlay.

The Fibre Broadband Project is progressing albeit slowly. Most residents who signed up to the scheme have now pledged online and the voucher target value has been achieved. A contract is being prepared for the Parish Council Chair to sign.

19/22 A57 Link Roads Project. The latest report states that A57 traffic numbers will only increase by a small percentage similarly accident numbers. Average speed cameras will solve the current rate of accidents. It was noted that cars and motorbikes which drive to the Snake specifically to speed, turn around part way along and drive back and forth several times. Speed cameras would not stop this.

Email Cllr Gourlay to apply for funds to cover the cost of the Jubilee tree.

Re: project to join up footpaths and trails and upgrade. Landowners and farmers have misgivings about this project because they have found that once PROWs are upgraded, cyclists use the footpaths and motorised vehicles use the bridleways giving them access to open moorland.

STW are now charging all carpark users including disabled badge holders and motorbikes at their visitor centres. Email to ask if STW are keeping the extra carpark charges at Fairholmes in house and ring fencing them.

20/22 Planning. Noted

21/22 Green Spaces event. There was no support from the Community for this large event due to high numbers of participants and confusion about how they would be transported and managed whilst at Fairholmes and complicated logistical arrangements such as closing Derwent Lane. STW therefore withdrew permission.

22/22 Freedom of Information. Nothing further to report. Keep this on the agenda for the next meeting.

23/22 No reports from meetings.

24/22 Finance.

Payments

Electricity	d/d	£33.68
Fire Equipment check		£49.20
Electricity	d/d	£33.50

Balance at 4th March £5,092.10

25/22 Items for the next agenda.

Hire rates for St Henry's Hall

26/22 AGM 4th May 2022. Annual Parish Meetings 13th April 2022

Meeting closed at 9.15pm