

**LIMPLEY STOKE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

*Held at the Village Hall on the 3rd of May 2022 at 7.00pm*

**Councillors:** Chairman – Mr Ian Barnes (IB), Francis Firmstone (FF), Jessica Sibson (JS), Elaine Curtin (EC), Lucy Poloniecka (LP), Mrs N Boulton (NB), Chimene Roberts (CR), Ms Denise Barnes (DB), Mandy Majendie (MM), Mr Johnny Kidney (JK) (County Councillor for Winsley and Westwood)

**Apologies:** None

In Attendance: Bryony Kohn (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the public:** 21

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Item	Action
<p><b>047/22 Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Parish Council</b></p> <p>NB proposed Ian Barnes to be the Chair of LSPC LP seconded the proposal The councillors voted unanimously to appoint Ian Barnes as Chair of LSPC</p> <p>JS proposed Francis Firmstone to be the Vice Chair of LSPC EC seconded the proposal The councillors voted unanimously to appoint Francis Firmstone as Vice Chair of LSPC</p> <p><b>048/22 Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>049/22 Open Forum</b></p> <p><b>a. Public address</b></p> <p>A member of the public addressed the meeting and outlined a series of road repair issues in Limpley Stoke. <b>(See Attachment 1)</b></p> <p>The member of the public was unhappy about a response that had been received from Mark McClelland at Wiltshire CC. Church Lane resurfacing and maintenance is due in 2022/23. The Crowe Hill repairs in 2019 were now in a bad state. Kerb repairs are required. Woods Hill is due to be resurfaced in 2024 when only residents now use it and the resident felt that the rest of the village was being neglected. Gullies on Crowe Hill and Crowe Lane need clearing. The need for traffic controls whilst this is undertaken was questioned by the resident. The forthcoming closure of the B3018 Winsley Road for 6 weeks is costing £250,000 for the shared Active Travel Path to be installed and will push more traffic into Limpley Stoke and Freshford. The resident said that Winsley, Westwood and Freshford have good roads but not Limpley Stoke and questioned Johnny Kidney on why Limpley Stoke was suffering for lack of road and pavement maintenance.</p> <p>JK responded to the resident. The Church Lane resurfacing had been rescheduled this year due to delays. Money had been spent on Limpley Stoke roads- naming Woods Hill as an example. Traffic was a problem in Limpley Stoke and the main aim was to keep traffic off the narrow lanes and on to the main roads. Better signalling at Dundas Viaduct was being</p>	

pursued. The local MP had been contacted. Resurfacing Church Lane could make speeding a bigger problem. JK is pursuing an extension to the 20mph limit for the whole of Church Lane. JK requested that the resident share the email received from Wiltshire CC so that he could address the concerns as he had not seen it.

IB said that the LSPC were trying to get a 20mph limit on Church Lane. Virtual pavements painted by the PC were in need of further repair on Crowe Hill and Crowe Lane. Money will be put aside in the future budgets for white painting repairs. Pedestrian numbers are low in Limpley Stoke. An average of 4 people per hour use the Crowe Hill pavement. Rubber strips on Church Lane are collecting data to establish if there is a speeding issue here. A scheme similar to the Westwood traffic monitoring scheme is being assessed.

**b. Unitary Councillor for Winsley and Westwood Report- Mr Johnny Kidney (JK)**

The council were grateful to receive an update from Councillor Johnny Kidney outlining the latest developments from Wiltshire Council. **(see Attachment 2)**  
JK outlined the main points to the meeting

**c. Police Report**

There was no police report this month

**050/22 Minutes**

The Minutes (previously distributed to Councillors for comment) of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 5th of April 2022 were approved with no comment and were signed off as an official record by the Chairman.

**051/22 Financial Items (BK)**

Approval of payment of invoices and notification of receipts.

**1. DD249-N Boulton – Jubilee printing/flowers: £104.90**

**Decision:** Approved

**2. DD250- WALC- Annual Subscription: £233.14**

**Decision:** Approved

**3. DD251- Candy Harrison- Information Boards: £30**

**Decision:** Approved

**4. DD252- Pandora Technologies -Speed Camera: £3054**

**Decision:** Approved

**5. DD253- Idverde- Playpark Litterbin emptying March/ April: £36.50**

**Decision:** Approved

**7. DD254- I Barnes- APM community gifts: £80.85**

**Decision:** Approved

**8. DD255- N Boulton- Jubilee flags/bunting: £63.60**

**Decision:** Approved

**9. DD256- B Kohn- APM community gifts/food: £105**

**Decision:** Approved

**10. SO150- B Kohn- Clerk Salary:**

**Decision:** Approved

**052/21 Planning (FF, JS)**

**PL/2022/02252** -Knowle House, 9 Church Lane, Freshford, BA2 7WD

**Proposal:** Detached garage with home office/studio at first floor, and extended driveway

FF proposed no comment to the application

JS seconded the proposal.

**Decision:** The councillors voted unanimously - No comment

**053/22 Date of Next Meeting.** - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.00pm.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.25pm

Signed (Chair).....

**It is a question but it will take a while to reach as background is important.**

**I will read you the Cabinet Minister for Wiltshire Mark McClelland's miserable email of excuses dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.**

Church Lane is on the provisional list for major maintenance work in 2022/23, although it remains dependent on the available budget and our consultants Atkins are currently working on costings, along with the other identified priorities for the Bradford on Avon community area. Whilst there are no plans at this stage for similar works on Crowe Hill, the council did undertake several sections of reactive patching repairs in 2019, and the footways were resurfaced the same year. **The job was only  $\frac{3}{4}$  finished and left in bad state at the bottom.**

The council has also carried out a large kerbing program on Crowe Lane in order to stabilise the bank. **Has the bank been stabilized, I have not noticed, in fact it is slipping badly and the kerb is incomplete. A couple of days ago, a lady sustained injuries falling on the road. There is nothing on the maintenance programme at all for Crowe Lane, the worst lane in the village.**

**Interestingly Woods Hill is on the maintenance programme for resurfacing 2024 when it is closed except to residents,**

I believe the parish council is currently seeking funding to refresh on-carriageway footways in both Crowe Lane and Church Lane, however the Church Lane footway would be delivered as part of the proposed major maintenance work, if funding is secured.

**I checked the minutes and there is nothing in the Parish minutes. The pavement at the bottom of Crowe Hill was never completed, it was started 2 years ago.**

The parish council has requested the gullies on Crowe Hill and Crowe Lane are cleared. Unfortunately our contractor is stating traffic management concerns

Due to the restricted carriageway width and we are working with them to overcome these. I remain hopeful the work will take place in due course. **Wessex Water clean their drains without traffic control and never before has this been a problem.**

**The residents of Woods Hill are delighted I know that their road has been closed. Sheena Broadhead worked very hard putting their point of view in the Village News at the expense of the rest of the village. The rest of the village has had no road maintenance for many years apart from a few painted lines, patches of tarmac and signs everywhere. Most of us are in high council tax bands but the parish council, the county councillor and cabinet minister only make excuses and spend no money.**

**Is the B3108 is closed for 6 weeks for a cycle track when the previous one was not successful, cyclists used the road not the path during Covid and it made the road dangerous for all of us . Is it true that £250,000 is earmarked to make a mess of a perfectly good road while no money is found for our dreadful lanes. I presume the traffic will be diverted to Freshford and Limpley Stoke. I had a look at the maintenance for Wiltshire and our need for a renovated virtual pavement is not mentioned 2022 2024 although Wiltshire is aware of the dangers to pedestrians.**

**My question is parish councils and County councilors have in the past have worked hard to keep our roads in good order so when will spend their money here instead of Bradford on Avon and Winsley. Winsley, Westwood and Freshford have good roads why are we suffering so much especially in winter as we edge our way along the virtual pavement in Crowe Lane and bump our cars down Church Lane.**

**cc. Johnny Kidney, Mark McClelland, Michelle Donelan**

### Limley Stoke Parish Council – Johnny Kidney Unitary Councillor’s Report- May 2022

#### **B3018 Winsley Road – 6 week closure during school holidays**

The B3108 Winsley Road will be closed for a six week period during the school summer holidays. The closure will be in place from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 until 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 and is needed to allow for the construction of a new Active Travel shared path, as well as the resurfacing of the road, replacement of drains etc. This will of course bring very significant disruption for our communities in terms of access to Bradford-on-Avon. I have pressed Wiltshire Highways to see if there is any way of delivering this scheme without the need for a full road closure, but sadly following a review, it is simply not possible.

In the absence of any public announcement or publicity from Wiltshire Council as yet, I put together some Frequently Asked Questions which have been published on my Facebook page which hopefully will be helpful for residents. As soon as I have further information on various elements, such as the planned bus service between Winsley and Bath (via Limley Stoke) and the Winsley to Bradford-on-Avon shuttle service to replace the D1 during the closure, I will provide further updates.

FAQs from Facebook copied below:

#### **WINSLEY ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

As you will have no doubt noticed, there's quite a bit of discussion flying around social media about the Winsley Active Travel scheme being delivered this summer. Some of it is accurate and helpful, some of it, sadly, less so.

To try to help keep things clear, I've compiled some responses to questions that frequently arise on this project based on the information I currently have. Hopefully this will be helpful as the community prepares to pull together to support each other through what will undoubtedly be a challenging period in the summer holidays when the B3108 closes between the roundabout east of Winsley and Downs View in Bradford-on-Avon, as work is carried out to deliver once-in-a-generation investment into active travel infrastructure for the community.

I will pin this to the top of my page so that it is visible to as many people as possible. I will also add information as I receive it, as of course arrangements to mitigate the impacts are ongoing.

#### ***What work is taking place?***

The project will see the removal of the existing narrow pavement on the north side of the B3108 between the Winsley roundabout and Downs View, Bradford-on-Avon. A new wider segregated path will be constructed as a shared space for active travel.

This will create a safe shared path, elevated from the neighbouring carriageway with a kerb, to enable more vulnerable road users such as young people who wish to walk or cycle from the village to St Laurence School, families with young kids on bikes or scooters, mobility scooter users, older people etc the opportunity of a safe route.

The path will extend from Ashley Lane in Winsley to the roundabout where a new crossing point will be established with an improved island on the northern arm and then on to Downs View.

The road itself will also be reconstructed with resurfacing, levelling of drains – many of which are currently sunken and have to be swerved around by drivers and cyclists, and the incorporation of cycle-friendly drain covers for those confident road cyclists who currently use the route and may find it more appropriate to continue to cycle in the road due to their speeds (as is entirely their right).

***When is this happening?***

This is taking place in the school summer holidays in the summer of 2022. It will, unfortunately, include the closure of a stretch of the B3108 between the roundabout on the eastern side of Winsley and Downs View in Bradford-on-Avon from 25th July until 2nd September.

***What is the background to all of this?***

For a number of years now, parents in the village have been contacting me and Winsley Parish Council saying they would like to allow their children and teenagers to walk or cycle from the village to St Laurence School but are reluctant to do so as they felt the road was too fast and dangerous and the path too narrow. Indeed, the Winsley Parish Council set it as a priority to explore opportunities to improve walking and cycling along the route.

When the pandemic struck, the Government made funding available to establish active travel routes that facilitated social distancing. I felt that there was an opportunity to secure some of this funding for our community to trial an active travel route. This resulted in the active travel scheme that was established as a temporary, trial measure. Of course, as a temporary arrangement, its design was less than ideal. However, it proved popular with young people and other vulnerable road users (if perhaps less so with motorists due to the bollards which some found intimidating, aligned with the poor road surface condition). Alongside the scheme, I successfully lobbied Wiltshire Council for a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph (30 would have been preferable, but anything was better than the previous unacceptable speeds seen on the road!).

While the temporary scheme was in place, a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) consultation was run by Wiltshire Highways, whereby members of the public could submit comments on the scheme. This was publicised extensively. Subsequently, a general survey on the Covid active travel schemes was run by Wiltshire Council. Of the schemes, Winsley's proved one of the most popular, with two to one of those commenting on it supporting the implementation of a permanent scheme. This survey was publicised widely by Wiltshire Council, in the local press, BBC Wiltshire, on their social media platforms, by Winsley Parish Council in the Winsley Weaver and myself on here. As a result of both the TRO consultation and survey, Wiltshire Council took the decision to invest in a permanent active travel facility to link Winsley with Bradford-on-Avon.

***But I hardly ever see anyone cycling along there so surely it's not needed?***

Well, that might be the case as of now, but that is entirely the point of the project. Many parents have contacted me and the Parish Council over the years saying they would like to allow their children to walk or cycle to St Laurence but are reluctant to do so as they felt the road was too fast and dangerous and the path too narrow. This project is not necessarily about catering for the confident road cyclists who do use the route, but the very many more vulnerable users who would like to but don't.

***I'm a super-confident and experienced road cyclist and don't need this path.***

That may well be the case, and it is likely therefore that it isn't really for you. It's probably more appropriate that you continue to use the road if you wish, particularly on the downhill run towards Bradford-on-Avon where you're likely to attain speeds not far off the newly reduced speed limit. For this reason, the road is being completely resurfaced and the drains are being rebuilt to make them flush with the carriageway and the covers replaced with cycle-friendly drain-covers. It is absolutely your right to continue to use the road and I have urged Wiltshire Council to start a communications campaign to remind motorists that

cyclists have just as much right to use the road and that they are under no obligation to use active travel paths which in the case of fast, experienced road cyclists may not be appropriate.

***Won't the road be too narrow as a result?***

The road will remain between 5.5 and 5.9m wide. 5.5m is the minimum width for a new two-way carriageway with centre line as set out by the Department for Transport. Indeed, the road gets narrower as one continues into Bradford-on-Avon, and also the other way, between Limpley Stoke Railway Bridge and the A36. However, the road will be narrower and it is a change, which is why the lower speed limit is so important.

***But the B3108 is going to be closed for 6 weeks in the summer to build this scheme. Why does this have to happen?***

Wiltshire Highways will construct the active travel path and resurface the B3108 during the school summer holidays. As a result they are closing the road from the 25th of July until 2nd September. Like many, I was horrified when it was confirmed to me that the road would have to be closed for six weeks in the school summer holidays to build the scheme. It genuinely resulted in sleepless nights with worry as to how on earth we could possibly cope with this.

My initial move was to go back to Highways at the highest level and demand that they rethink this and come up with an alternative plan that would enable them to keep the road at least partially open during the works. They did instigate a review on the back of this request but sadly the result was that there was no practical way of delivering this project without the full closure of the road. This is why it is scheduled for the school summer holidays when traffic flows are significantly reduced.

With it becoming clear that there was no avoiding the road closure, I then made a number of requests to highways:

(1) that every effort and measure be taken to ensure that all through traffic is directed away from Winsley altogether for the duration of the works, with access for residents and businesses only. Alongside this, every effort must be taken to protect the network of lanes around the village, especially through Ashley and Turleigh with signage to discourage any diverted traffic other than for access and proactive monitoring of traffic movements through the lanes. Similarly, villages such as Westwood and Limpley Stoke must be protected from the impacts of diverted traffic.

(2) that provision be maintained to ensure that vulnerable residents have access to D1 bus services to Bath and Bradford-on-Avon/Trowbridge.

(3) that Wiltshire Highways make early and proactive contact with local businesses and organisations to work collaboratively with them to ensure that the impact of the works on their operation is kept to a minimum.

These have all been taken on board and I have been assured by Highways that work is ongoing to ensure that these provisions are made. I will continue to keep pressure on Wiltshire Highways until all these outstanding matters are resolved and mitigations confirmed, and I will provide additional details of bus provision as soon as I have the necessary information.

***Why didn't you try to stop the road closure?***

I absolutely did! Like many, I was horrified when it was confirmed to me that the road would have to be closed for six weeks in the school summer holidays to build the scheme. It genuinely resulted in sleepless nights with worry as to how on earth we could possibly cope with this. My initial move was to go back to Highways at the highest level and demand that they rethink this and come up with an alternative plan that would enable them to keep the



road at least partially open during the works. They did instigate a review on the back of this request but sadly the result was that there was no practical way of delivering this project for Winsley without the full closure of the road. This is why it is scheduled for the school summer holidays when traffic flows are significantly reduced.

***I've heard rumours that the road from BoA to Turleigh will be closed for six months, including this period. Is that true?***

No. There is construction work taking place in Newtown to work on a retaining wall. As a result, at times the road may have a width restriction during the six month period advertised but it won't be shut. However, concerns about this have been flagged to Wiltshire Council to aid planning of these construction activities.

***There's a petition going round saying that there will be no bus service for six weeks. Is this true?***

I can fully understand people's objections to the road closure. It will be hugely inconvenient. However, I was a little disappointed in the wording of the petition, as I had been in email contact with the person who started it prior to its launch in which I made it clear that work was ongoing to ensure that there would be provision for bus users throughout the works. The information we have so far is that the emerging plan is for a bus to run between Winsley and Bath, via the B3108 Limpley Stoke, with a smaller mini-bus providing a shuttle service between Winsley and BoA. I've been promised a meeting over the coming weeks to discuss this as more details emerge and will keep the community posted.

***The petition also claims that the scheme is unwanted?***

As to the assertion that the project isn't wanted, the outcomes of both the TRO consultation and active travel survey would suggest that this is not the case.

***Some people on social media are saying that there will be no access for emergency services to Winsley during the closure. Surely this can't be true?***

There will of course be access for emergency services throughout the closure.

***I have further questions about the active travel scheme. How do I contact Wiltshire Highways?***

I will refresh these FAQs with further information as it is forthcoming. Wiltshire Highways will also be launching a dedicated webpage with information on the Active Travel scheme and the planned works and I will continue to press for this to be launched as soon as possible. However, any questions about the scheme can be sent to the Integrated Transport team at Wiltshire Council at [integrated.transport@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:integrated.transport@wiltshire.gov.uk).

***So despite all the inconvenience, you think this project should go ahead?***

I do. The closure will be hugely inconvenient for us all, and I wish to the bottom of my heart that it didn't have to happen. I am dreading it both as a resident who will be directly affected by it, and as a local representative.

However, I do think the long term benefits outweigh the inconvenience. Whilst young people of secondary school age will undoubtedly benefit from this scheme, it will also have broader appeal to encourage people of all ages to get out and be active, with the ability to use this route to walk, run, cycle, scoot etc between Winsley and Bradford-on-Avon in comfort and safety.

Whilst the last few years have been truly awful for us all with the pandemic, undoubtedly it has been especially bad for our young people. They have seen unprecedented disruption to their education, and the affect this will have on their futures is untold. I really hope and believe that we are strong and resilient enough as a community to come together and work our way through six weeks of disruption to provide once-in-a-generation investment in a safer route to school for our young people, as part of an active travel scheme that will benefit all vulnerable users, young and old.

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## Welcoming Ukrainian Refugees to Wiltshire – update

Further to last month's update, latest figures show more than 280 Wiltshire households have been matched with Ukrainian refugees as people fleeing the war-torn country start arriving in the county.

Approximately 1,500 households registered for the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Wiltshire. Currently 288 homes have been matched with 794 individuals and 307 visas have been issued.

There have also been 57 school applications, 40 primary and 17 secondary, with three already started school and more expected to join classes after Easter.

Wiltshire is one of the highest unitary authorities in the country to receive visa applications and has drafted in additional support to help carry out the necessary checks including accommodation and welfare and suitability checks.

The council has put in place caseworkers and is working on payment mechanisms for sponsors and emergency support for new arrivals. Officers are working alongside partners to provide sufficient school places, as well as working closely with the NHS, Department for Work and Pensions and town and parish councils.

Sponsors providing homes for refugees are being advised they don't need to contact the council when a match has been made as the government provides the information so DBS and accommodation checks can be carried out. **However**, once the guests have arrived the council is asking for sponsors to email [refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk) so support can begin straightaway.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND A WELCOME PACK CAN BE FOUND HERE:

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6167/Wiltshire-stands-with-Ukraine](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6167/Wiltshire-stands-with-Ukraine)

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