

Minutes of the meeting of Ackworth Parish Council's Road Safety Committee held at the Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, on Monday 7 November 2022 at 6pm

Present: Cllr S Balfour in the Chair
Cllrs M Galvin, S Parker and M Roberts
SELRAG Representative; D Vaux
1 member of the public

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Hollyhead and T Hollyhead.

2. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None to receive.

3. To note the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2022

3.1. The minutes were noted.

4. To receive matters arising from the minutes of 5 September 2022

4.1. A628 High Ackworth to Pontefract Safety Improvements.

It was reported that there has been no update from Wakefield Council on the proposed improvements on A628 south of the water tower however a 30mph limit has now been installed where the street lights starts.

It was agreed that a letter is sent to Wakefield Council to verify whether this would open up that stretch of road to housing.

4.2. Park and Stride

It was reported Mill Dam School will use Bell Lane car park for this.

4.3. Reduced Speed Limit on Station Road

It was reported no update had been received from Wakefield Council and a chase request had been sent.

5. To discuss the proposed Puffin Crossing for Wakefield Road and decide a course of action.

5.1. It was reported that an update from Wakefield Council had been requested but not received.

A resident contacted the Parish Council to advise that the work would commence on 31 October to install the crossing between Quarry Street and Heaton Street.

It was reported the installation had been put on hold until Wakefield Council carry out a consultation.

6:25pm Cllr Roberts arrived.

It was agreed to find out the timescales for the consultation.

It was further agreed to recommend that the Parish Council carries out its own consultation. The detail of the consultation would be delegated to the Road Safety Committee.

The Parish Council has already shown support for a crossing, the question is its location.

Cllr Roberts chaired the meeting from this point.

6. To discuss and decide on how the consultation of the draft Road Safety Plan will work

6.1. It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council the following actions:

- that the consultation will go to residents of Ackworth and District Councillors. This will be by means of a letter drop to each household, an electronic survey and door knocking.
- Posters and flyers to be displayed around the village in noticeboards, shops, churches, pubs etc
- An annual subscription to Survey Monkey is purchased, circa £300

6.2. It was further agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that the drawing up of the consultation is delegated to the Road Safety Committee.

7. South Featherstone Link Road

7.1. To receive feedback from the Stage 2 Hearing.

A report from Cllr S Parker was circulated at the meeting. See Appendix 1.

Mr Vaux handed out documentation following the Stage 2 hearing. See Appendix 2.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that the documents are considered and discussed at the next Road Safety meeting.

6.55pm Mr Vaux left the meeting

7.2. To discuss and draw up a proposal with safeguards for Ackworth

It was agreed to recommend to carry this action to the next meeting.

7.3. To discuss a recent Facebook post by "Hands Off Hesse"

At this stage it was agreed to note the post.

8. To receive feedback from a resident(s) regarding:

8.1. Problems encountered since the double yellow lines were painted on Wakefield Road outside the Electric Theatre

It was agreed to recommend to contact District Councillor Jessica Carrington for further advice

8.2. Speeding cars on Hayfield Way

It was agreed for Hayfield Way to be considered in the Road Safety Plan for 20mph.

8.3. Robinson's View and whether it should be closed off

It was agreed to look at the original plans to see if Robinson's View was always intended to be a through road.

8.4. Parking at Carr Bridge, Barnsley Road on match days

It was reported that the pavement on Barnsley Road is blocked frequently on match days. A discussion took place.

It was agreed to recommend that a notice is put in the noticeboard at Carr Bridge asking people not to block the footpath and signposting them to Bell Lane car park.

9. To receive an update from SELRAG

9.1. Nothing to report

There being no further business to be discussed the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.10pm.

Appendix 1

WAKEFIELD LOCAL PLAN

Held Thursday 22nd September 2022 at Wakefield Town Hall

I attended the above meeting as a member of the public, an observer only, seated in the public gallery.

Ms. Katie Child B.Sc. (Hons) MA MRTPI on behalf of the Secretary of State, Planning Inspectorate chaired the stage 2 hearing impartially, asking many interesting questions, not always answered with assured certainty.

To the left of the chair were seated three representatives of Wakefield M.D.C., though these three were supplemented by other Authority representatives of Wakefield M.D.C., at various times. The representative for Keyland Developments Ltd. (Spawforths – A. R.), supporting development at Featherstone, sitting to their left.

To the right of the chair were seated firstly Ward 13 District Councillor T.H., to his right were several members of Featherstone Town Council, to their right a member of the public Mr C.R. .

The table facing the chair, set immediately below the gallery, was out of my view, but I understand it contained ,in part, representatives supporting development adjacent to the proposed Knottingley relief road.

The meeting began at 2.00pm and was scheduled to finish at 5.00pm, though it did over-run.

My own impression of item numbers four and five of the agenda, the Featherstone and Knottingley Link Roads, was that in each case the proposing developers would provide access to the extent of their own respective sites only, no indication given by both that they would be willing to provide funds to continue the roads, other than by further permissions.

The Wakefield Authority representatives appeared to indicate no clear evidence as to where or whether new roads were to be, or how any such roads would be funded. National Government and the Combined Authorities were given as possibilities, but no definitive indication of finance shown.

My own conclusion from the spoken evidence of this enquiry would be that should the proposed development take place at Featherstone with the only access on to the Wakefield – Pontefract road, the only result could be further congestion in Featherstone without any clear solution to the problem which now exists.

This in turn would not only impact on congestion at Pontefract, but also at Ackworth.

Stephen Parker

Appendix 2

[ins08-note-to-council-re-road-schemes-29sept22 -insp.pdf \(wakefield.gov.uk\)](#)

[exwdc104-note-for-inspector-south-featherstone-link-road-and-lp11-final.pdf \(wakefield.gov.uk\)](#)

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