

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 29th January 2019 at 6.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Ron Dark (in the Chair) Robin Forrest Will Glancy
Tony Clear Gail Martin, Brian Bird

In Attendance: Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There were approximately 30 members of the public present at the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the necessity of calling this extra meeting to respond to the consultation for TRO proposals for School Lane/Farnham Road/Long Road and Waterworks Road, as the deadline for consultation falls before the next scheduled P.C. Meeting.

19/18 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Clarke

19/19 Declarations of Interests – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – none declared

19/20 Public Comment – The following comments were received in respect of the proposed TRO for School Lane/Farnham Road and Long Road/Waterworks Road:

- The Head Teacher of Sheet School said that the safety of the children at the School and that of pedestrians in the community is of paramount importance. The School Road Safety Committee has been working hard to discourage parents parking dangerously on Long Road (up to the bridge and on the blind corner) and she welcomes the proposals for Long Road/Waterworks Road. Parents of children at the School are discouraged from using School Lane to drop their children off and are asked to park and stride from the local pubs, who have given permission for their car parks to be used at School pick-up/drop off times, or to walk their children to School where possible. The proposals for School Lane and the disabled bay outside the School would mean the loss of a parking space currently used by the School (the School car park can only hold 6 cars, and there are 18 members of staff) and limit visitor parking to 2-hours - she did not feel this would be an issue. Currently, however, the business recycling lorry is unable to access School Lane because of the current chicane style parking and the School has not been able to recycle for 2-years - she did not feel this gives an appropriate signal to the children.
- A School Lane resident said that the parking restrictions should be on the south side of School Lane as cars and large vehicles regularly mount the pavement, endangering pedestrians, if there are no parked vehicles on the north side.
- A School Lane resident explained that some time ago his neighbour had nearly been hit by a car coming down School Lane – the two of them had therefore decided to take matters into their own hands and park on the north side of the Lane to protect themselves from vehicles. Residents of the lane have come together to create the chicane style parking system
- A resident of No. 18 School Lane said that her child had nearly been hit by a 4 x 4 and that having the protection of the cars on the north side of the lane is so important, as well as appropriate traffic calming systems
- A resident of the Lane said that for many years she has tried to persuade and work with HCC to install traffic calming measures but has never been able to get anywhere with this;
- A resident who lives close to the School said that her drive is regularly blocked by disrespectful parking at School drop-off/pick up times.
- A resident confirmed that the current system of parking has slowed down the traffic and made the lane feel much safer

- A resident queried who would enforce the TRO? Any TRO will be worthless if not enforced regularly. The Chairman confirmed that this point would be raised with HCC/EHDC
- It was noted that child safety is not mentioned in the list of reasons for the TRO – Cllr. Martin confirmed that the TRO has been drawn up in good faith – HCC are concerned with child safety, as well as access for emergency vehicles and refuse collections.
- A resident expressed concern that the TRO proposals will have the effect of creating a “drop-off” zone outside the School
- It was pointed out that the Nursery regularly walk the children along School Lane to the allotments – the children will be more at risk if the cars are parking on the south side of the lane as per the proposed TRO
- It was pointed out that current traffic signage in School Lane is appalling - the width limit signage is obscured
- It was pointed out that parking within the whole village needs to be addressed – there are often problems with parking around the Village Green and outside the Church, causing issues for cars pulling out into the Farnham Road. It was queried whether there was any land that could be used for parking?

19/21 TRO for School Lane/Farnham Road (east of the Level Crossing) and Long Road/Waterworks Road (west of the Level Crossing)

The proposed TRO for the above roads was discussed and it was agreed that the following response should be sent:

Sheet P.C. welcomes HCC road safety engineers’ in-put in addressing access and safety concerns in School Lane/Long Road and would make the following observations and suggestions.:

- The proposals for Reservoir Lane, Long Road, Waterworks Road and Farnham Road are sensible and welcomed.
- We know that access problems in School Lane need to be addressed, but we fear that the changes will increase both the volume and speed of traffic. Anecdotally, the current arrangements set up by residents have deterred through traffic. Residents are concerned about vehicles mounting pavements, and the close proximity of traffic to the narrow footpath. At present, parked vehicles act as a physical barrier which protects pedestrians. If the proposal to place the restrictions on the north or the south side of the Lane is neutral in terms of safety, then the established preference of the residents of the Lane for parking on the pavement side should be recognised, and the plan reversed in this respect. We suggest consideration be given to switching the proposed parking restrictions from the School to the Farnham Road, from the north side to the south, so that the physical barrier of parked cars is retained. This would also require switching the restricted area opposite 12 School Lane from the south to the north to preserve a passing place. As an alternative, or in addition, we suggest that physical traffic calming measures such as speed ramps be deployed.
- We are concerned that parents on the school run frequently park cars on the road immediately adjacent to the level crossing. There are continuous double white lines on the roads at this point, but we feel that kerbside markings in both School Lane and Waterworks Road would be more effective.
- Regular enforcement will be essential for any scheme to be successful

19/22 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 12th February 2019 at 7.30 p.m.