

# DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 26 May 2016

Apologies: Chairman Cllr Ken Rudman, Cllrs Sue Fulford and Caroline Hulse

Present: Vice Chairman Cllr Mark Flavell  
Cllrs Barbara Marshall, Nigel Powlson and Arthur Renshaw  
Parish Clerk Mrs Rita Hill  
County Cllr Philip Atkins  
Borough Cllr Stephen Smith, Crown Ward  
1 Member of the Public

### Meeting with County Cllr Philip Atkins

Vice Chairman thanked County Cllr Philip Atkins for the £500.00 from his Staffordshire Local Community Fund towards the renovation of the slide embankment project at the playing field.

### HGVs on Stubby Lane – Ongoing and A50 diversions

Vice Chairman explained to Cllr Philip Atkins that the number of HGVs using Stubby Lane is increasing and also the size of the HGVs. He went on to show Cllr Philip Atkins photographic evidence of incidents involving HGVs. Cllr Philip Atkins took these photographs away with him. **Action – Cllr Philip Atkins.**

As there are too many HGVs and that these are too large for Stubby Lane, these vehicles are having to drive over verges / kerbs. The ruts created by HGVs near to The Barn are 18 inches deep. Vice Chairman said that whilst in his own vehicle he had nearly been sided by a HGV. The bends in Stubby Lane are tight and HGVs have been seen to cross the centre line. There is genuine concern that generally HGVs using Stubby Lane is getting out of hand especially with Brit European vehicles and Marchington Industrial Estate reaching full capacity.

Cllr Arthur Renshaw commented that planning permission is being granted at Marchington Industrial Estate but no conditions are being placed on these applications.

Vice Chairman went on to say that the Parish Council is very worried about the A50 diversions, especially as there are 8 nights coming up in June due to resurfacing works.

Cllr Barbara Marshall explained to Cllr Philip Atkins her recent experience when she drove along Stubby Lane into the on-coming flow of A50 diverted traffic and that she had written Mr Matthew Ellis, Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Philip Atkins summarised that there are no suitable routes because of the increase in traffic.

Vice Chairman raised about the route assessment from Balfour Beatty that the Parish Council had vigorously pursued. In the report it said they could not use Forest Road as an alternative route because of the road width, but the Vice Chairman commented that in parts Stubby Lane was the same width or less.

Vice Chairman emphasised to Cllr Philip Atkins that the Parish Council felt it was being 'taken for a ride' and asked why engineers couldn't put a contraflow in on the A50. Vice Chairman handed over to Cllr Philip Atkins photographs of other contraflows. Cllr Philip Atkins took these photographs away with him. He added that we realise this could not happen for the June diversions but what about considering this concept for the A50 Uttoxeter Growth Corridor. Cllr Philip Atkins offered to help by putting this idea to the road engineers. **Action – Cllr Philip Atkins.**

Cllr Barbara Marshall raised that there was a near accident recently along Stubby Lane involving a foreign driver driving on the wrong side of the road. Cllr Arthur Renshaw enquired could SCC put up signs at Marchington Industrial Estate reminding drivers. Cllr Philip Atkins thought this would be down to the owners of the Estate to put some up. Cllr Arthur Renshaw replied saying, then how does SCC meet duty of care to pedestrians using Stubby Lane. Cllr Philip Atkins replied saying there are signs stating no footpath for such a distance.

Cllr Barbara Marshall raised that diversions are usually set at 30mph; however, the majority of Stubby Lane at present is 40mph. Cllr Philip Atkins noted down this comment. **Action – Cllr Philip Atkins.**

Cllr Stephen Smith commented that a SCC Highway engineer at a meeting held at ESBC said that Highways do have other diversionary routes regarding the A50 Growth Corridor Project A.

Cllr Nigel Powlson raised that time is money for lorry drivers; how much information goes out to haulage companies' pre signs warning of closure. Same point to be made to Balfour Beatty next week.

Cllr Philip Atkins confirmed that he will feed all this information back in to SCC Highways / Highways England who manages the A50 trunk road / Balfour Beatty. Cllr Philip Atkins suggested that SCC could threaten the companies with extra costs of having to put the roads used for the diversions back in good condition.

### **Marchington Industrial Estate**

Vice Chairman asked if SCC was involved in any forward planning for Marchington Industrial Estate. Cllr Philip Atkins replied saying that would be an ESBC issue. Cllr Philip Atkins said that Mr Geoff Evenson is the contact at SCC regarding planning applications. Vice Chairman replied, so SCC is a consultee on any planning application. Cllr Philip Atkins went onto say that what SCC could put forward would be in relation to the visibility of the entrance to the Estate. Cllr Philip Atkins briefly mentioned about a link road to Moreton Lane. Vice Chairman summed up saying

that SCC is not in a position to propose further development on the site. Cllr Philip Atkins replied no.

### **A50 Growth Corridor**

Vice Chairman asked Cllr Philip Atkins, when this project is finished do you envisage any impacts locally to Marchington and Draycott in the Clay. Cllr Philip Atkins said personally no - ultimately through traffic should flow better. He added that the Sudbury roundabout will be the only one along the fast length of road from Blythe Bridge to Derby; however there are known issues here of lorries tipping over. Cllr Philip Atkins said in response to the Vice Chairman's question that he did not think it to be a plus or a minus. Cllr Philip Atkins commented that there has been communication with Derbyshire County Council about this.

Cllr Philip Atkins said due to concerns about east / west connections the A50 scores well, as well as the railway line, in that funding is there. Cllr Arthur Renshaw asked what can we do to raise the profile. Cllr Philip Atkins responded saying need to raise through Parish Forum and suggested that the Parish Council liaises with Parishes over the county border (under duty to co-operate). Cllrs suggested that Sudbury Parish Council is contacted.

Vice Chairman commented, that in his personal opinion, the only objective of the works is to make the traffic on the A50 faster – nationally the project is to help east / west connections – but really they want drivers to use the A50 more than they use the motorways; so the amount of traffic will get worse.

### **Weight Restriction on A515**

Vice Chairman said he knows that Cllr Philip Atkins is set against it. Cllr Philip Atkins said he was more a deterrent man. Cllr Philip Atkins said was the Parish Council aware the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee report was out. Vice Chairman said that Yoxall, Kings Bromley and Draycott in the Clay Parish Councils want the weight restriction; Cllr Philip Atkins doesn't; Highways doesn't – the matter won't go away.

Vice Chairman raised that he wanted to share a letter received recently from a Parishioner with Cllr Philip Atkins as the Parish Council needs to respond to the Parishioner. Vice Chairman read out the letter and asked Cllr Philip Atkins how he felt about a night time ban on the A515 so people can get some sleep at night. Cllr Philip Atkins responded saying that the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service talk about an overnight ban in the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee report. Through traffic could use the A50 and A38 at night as there is capacity. Cllr Philip Atkins said that the idea has some merit; but would need policing and that he will give serious consideration to this idea by talking to Mr Mark Deaville, SCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport about it. Discussion took place that the ban would not block off access to Marchington Industrial Estate; about parking of HGVs overnight; short cutting out of Burton upon Trent and A38. Cllr Nigel Powlson wondered if there would be an uplift of traffic during the day. Vice Chairman said not sure if this would during day as there is a lot of timed distribution.

Cllr Philip Atkins said that the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee report has gone to Mr Mark Deaville for him to comment on.

Cllr Philip Atkins suggested that a letter is sent from the Parish Council referring to evidence given by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (paragraph 6.2.11 in the report - Toby Wilson on behalf of Tim Hide)

### **Speed Limits**

1st section of road (Aston Bridge to Moreton Lane roundabout). Vice Chairman asked Cllr Philip Atkins if he was aware of a petition by Sudbury Filling Station – he replied no. They are asking for the 60mph section to be reduced to 40mph. Mr Andrew Griffiths MP has been given two books full of signatures and another book is currently being filled – in total to date about 800. Cllr Philip Atkins said that amount of signatures triggers a Cabinet Member to look into the request and that it would likely to be brought into Divisional Highway Programme. Vice Chairman said that the matter was ongoing and will be with Cllr Philip Atkins shortly. Cllr Philip Atkins commented on the natural extension of the current 40mph. Cllr Philip Atkins said he was supportive of this, especially as it is bad exiting the Boars Head, the petrol station, plus the level crossing. **Action – Cllr Philip Atkins.**

2nd section of road (Stubby Lane). This road is part 30mph and part 40mph, there is a lot of traffic including HGVs, there is no footpath in the 40mph section and there are street lights in the 30mph but not in the 40mph. Cllr Philip Atkins suggested have a good case of improving the street lighting because of safety. Cllr Arthur Renshaw said people lives are at risk and that there are no verges or footpaths to put street lighting within. He added that don't want to discourage work on Marchington Industrial Estate but the road is not suitable. 30mph all along Stubby Lane needs looking at.

3rd section of road (A515 through the village). To reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. When you travel through Kings Bromley the road is no wider, Draycott in the Clay has a T-junction and we have a school, we did have a school crossing patrol until it was deemed to be unsafe. People drive from Stubby Lane to the school as people don't feel safe crossing the road on foot. Cllr Philip Atkins commented that we need a pelican crossing or a toucan crossing which could trip a 30mph request.

Cllr Philip Atkins was asked what steps can the Parish Council take to see the introduction of 30 mph limits on Stubby Lane and the A515 through the village. Vice Chairman reminded Cllr Philip Atkins that he and the Chairman had a meeting with him a few years ago with the then County Cllr Bob Fraser and gave a presentation. At the time Cllr Philip Atkins and Bob Fraser were supportive so the project went into the Divisional Highways Programme (DHP), then when Cllr Philip Atkins became our Parish's County Cllr the project came out of the (DHP). Cllr Philip Atkins commented what is and not achievable. Vice Chairman replied saying it is achievable. He added that 30mph doesn't need street lights. Cllr Philip Atkins questioned whether the A515 met the necessary DfT criteria for a 30 mph limit. Vice Chairman replied that it did, and that this was demonstrated in the presentation previously provided to Cllr Atkins. Vice Chairman commented about the noise and vibration of HGVs and

that Cllr Philip Atkins knows there is a benefit to Parishioners quality of life if HGVs reduce their speed. Vice Chairman said to Cllr Philip Atkins that if he is really interested in deterrents it's about time some were introduced. Cllr Philip Atkins was advised that this matter is serious to the Parish and is not going to go away.

Cllr Philip Atkins raised getting money from A50 diversions, planning applications, change in operating licences from properties, Section 106 monies and pinch point monies

### **Community Speed Watch (CSW)**

Cllr Arthur Renshaw raised that Cllr Philip Atkins was quite supportive of this scheme; however, the Parish now has an active CSW but the group feels much on their own now because there is no back up from anyone. Cllr Arthur Renshaw asked Cllr Philip Atkins who is in charge of this scheme from the Police. As an example, a week last Friday 25% of the drivers were breaking the speed limit within the 30mph zone of Stubby Lane. The group feeds the information in – is this used by anyone? At the end of the day drivers are breaking the law. Cllr Philip Atkins said he thought it was operated by Staffs Safer Roads Partnership and added that this scheme has funding. Vice Chairman asked could the Parish have this towards our request for a reduction in speed limits. Cllr Philip Atkins mentioned about getting speed activator signs put in based on the evidence being submitted. The CSW group meets most weeks. Quite a number of foreign drivers are speeding. Cllr Philip Atkins commented that VAS (vehicle activated signs) is proving to be a good deterrent.

### **The Green Pipehay**

Vice Chairman explained the situation to Cllr Philip Atkins, in that, the Parish Council has corresponded with ESBC and Mr Andrew Griffiths MP was now on the case and has written to Mr Andy O'Brien, CEO ESBC. Vice Chairman wondered if SCC would be able to lend any weight behind the request to reduce size of green and take out the bollards. Cllr Philip Atkins thought that SCC would be able to offer to do any works at a reasonable cost and ESBC pay for it. However didn't think ESBC would be happy with this. Member of the Public raised their concerns about the problems being encountered. Cllr Philip Atkins said that ESBC need to weigh up the cost of the tarmac against mowing the grass and the costs of the repair works to the bollards - say over 10 years it would have paid for itself. It was raised that SCC Highways will incur repair costs to the pavement as residents are having to park their vehicles on the pavements so that lorries can get round. **Action – Borough Cllr Stephen Smith to speak to Mr Michael Hovers, ESBC. Action – Cllr Philip Atkins offered to progress the matter.**

### **Any Other Business**

Cllr Arthur Renshaw advised Cllr Philip Atkins that he had communicated to SCC on numerous times regarding a temporary traffic order public notice that stated the railway level crossing was at Coton in the Clay which is incorrect – it is Sudbury Crossing, Draycott in the Clay. **Action – Cllr Philip Atkins offered to progress the matter.**

Cllr Arthur Renshaw advised Cllr Atkins that he had written to Mr Matthew Ellis, Police and Crime Commissioner saying that SCC and Police don't talk to each other, in that, any damage from an accident / incident is not passed on e.g. a road junction sign was knocked down for a month before it was re-erected. Shouldn't the Police be reporting these things to SCC. Cllr Philip Atkins responded suggesting use the My Staffs App to report such matters. Cllr Arthur Renshaw replied saying all well and good but that way SCC are still paying out for the re-erection, but missing a trick as could be getting the cost back from the person who caused the problem in the first place. He added that the Parish Council was always being told that SCC is struggling for money.

Vice Chairman summed up the meeting saying that the Parish Council will send Cllr Philip Atkins a summary of the Parish Council's concerns and wishes. **Action – Vice Chairman.**

It was agreed to meet Cllr Philip Atkins again for an update sometime during the middle to end of July. **Action – Parish Clerk.**

An informal meeting to be held with Balfour Beatty and Connect A50 Ltd on Tuesday 31 May 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. **Action – Parish Clerk to advise Cllrs Caroline Hulse and Sue Fulford.**

Next Prison Liaison Meeting. Dates were put forward by the prison. Cllr Barbara Marshall offered to attend on 16 June at 6.00pm in the Training Centre. **Action – Parish Clerk to contact Cllr Caroline Hulse and the Prison.**

**As no other business arose the open meeting closed 9.05 pm.**

**Date of the next monthly meeting: Thursday 9 June 2016, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.**

**Signed**



**Date** 9 June 2016

**Chairman**

**2016 – Dates of Parish Council meetings:**

**14 July      8 September      13 October    10 November      8 December**

Minutes of the Parish Council meetings can be viewed in the noticeboard located outside the Village Hall and <http://draycottintheclayparishcouncil.btck.co.uk/>