

## **Minutes of the first Hunton Parish Traffic and Road Safety Working Party (TRSWP) – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Present : Helen Ward (HW), Annette Trought(AT), Roger Lee (RL), Celia Kennedy-Sloane (CK), Steve Wyles (SW), Mike Summersgill (MS)

Apologies: Jonny Goddard (JG), Tony Stanbridge, James Forster, Liz Oliver

### **1. Terms of Reference**

Helen Ward was elected as Chairman and Roger Lee as Secretary. The Terms of Reference (TOR) were agreed with one change so that a quorum must include one non-parish councillor. **ACTION HW** to update and circulate revised draft TOR.

### **2. Traffic issues**

SW's spreadsheet records incidents reported by locals and is a reasonable sample of activity. A significant proportion relate to lorries/ heavy good vehicles (HGV) but these are more likely to be reported. It is difficult to accurately categorise each incident as it relies on judgement. The main issues identified were:

#### ***HGVs***

HGV's being in restricted weight areas either because they were deliberately taking a short cut or just lost and following their car type Satnavs. Hot spots are Redwall Lane, Hunton Hill and East Street. The TRSWP needed to know where exactly where the various 7.5 tonne limits start and stop and which hauliers have exemption permits. **ACTION RL** to investigate with JG. We should liase with other neighbouring councils on this, particularly Marden and Yalding. It was suggested that the Parish Council should have involvement in setting diversion routes for planned road closures. **ACTION HW** to raise at next Parish Council.

#### ***Speeding and dangerous driving***

West Street and East Street are the hot spots. SW explained that Speedwatch was becoming more difficult to organise and called for more people to get involved. Signage needs to improve. Pedestrians are in increasing danger on narrow roads where footpaths do not exist. Flooding in East Street is also an issue due to inadequate draining and/or insufficient maintenance. MS reported that Maidstone had experienced a 40% increase in road accidents but have been reluctant to release details of these such as whether this is due to the M20 or rural roads.

#### ***Parking***

This mainly relates to the area around the school. The 'walking bus' from the village hall car park has not been adopted by the school. There is insufficient school staff parking as well. There is thought to be some staggering of pick up times but could this be extended? **ACTION AT** to discuss these issues with the school.

### **3. Potential Solutions**

#### ***HGVs***

We should discuss signage and vehicle directions with Fruition/ Amsbury Farm. The diversion route for this winter's closure of Hunton Hill has also not yet been agreed. **ACTION HW** to raise at next parish Council.

### ***Speeding and dangerous driving***

We should identify hot spots such as the sharp bend by the river south of the village centre as candidates for improved signage and/or skid proof surfacing. Lughorse Lane is also a hot spot and simple solutions such as cutting back hedges/ other vegetation may be effective. Signage is a priority for this issue and HGVs. Existing signs need to be clear and unobstructed and new signs such as Tractor and Horse Riding warnings could be deployed. Redwall Lane will be an increasing issue with the Wares Farm development in Linton. We need to investigate s106 funding that may be available to mitigate some of these issues. There is a need to gather data to support our case for better signage. We should have regular meetings with KCC to discuss this and we need to identify the KCC councillors with roads responsibilities. It would be helpful if the TRSWP had a large scale map of the Parish marked up with all the road traffic signage and 7.5 tonne zones. **ACTION RL** to explore with Parish Council Clerk. At the next meeting the TRSWP should agree hazard areas and explore signage ideas. **ACTION ALL**.

### **4. Next Meeting**

25<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00 venue to be agreed. Day time was agreed to be a better time for most members.