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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 1ST AUGUST

Attending: Chairman: Chris Lovelace (and Ann Lovelace)
Treasurer: Steve Bull (and Sandy Bull)
Secretary: Linda Bennett (and John Bennett)
Sub Committee : Allen Moat (and Myra Moat)
Trevor Sykes (and Gill Sykes)
Dave Wood
Dotty Davis
Residents & Users of road: Enid Garrard, June Gillam plus Dawn & Barrie,
Roy Fiddimore, Julie Jewell & Martin Allen, Irene Ward,
Rosie Favell, Tash Waterman, Bob David, Kathy Smith,
Malcolm Withers, Steve Crane.

Apologies received from: Sadie Mullett, Nick & Sandy Fisher, John Howard,
Lee & Lorna McDermott, Tatsfield Parish Council
Kate & Nick Green-Banks, James & Laura Green

Before the meeting started Dave Bishop took a photo of some of the Committee and it was agreed that we would send him a write-up of the meeting for the Surrey Mirror. Voting Slips were handed out to those present to be taken home and completed anonymously and slips will be given to those not present.

1. Chairman's report

Chris opened the meeting by welcoming those attending and explained that the Residents' Association (RA) was formed, following agreement at our initial meeting, with the aim of improving the road surface and other benefits. The process had been to seek advice from Surrey County Council (SCC), Bridleway Association, Land Registry, and get quotes from three Road Contractors for repairing the top and middle section of the road. The quotes had been sent to SCC who have queries on the suitability of materials from a Bridleway aspect. We decided not to follow this up until we had the views of all residents. We have since received a quote from an acquaintance of John Howard, who had previously laid the last 100yds of the drive in Parkwood Golf Club, which is cheaper than the other quotes.

A situation has occurred in another Tatsfield road, where the materials used were not good enough. The Committee had also received copy of a report about Welcomes Road, Kenley (private road about 1mile long) where the new surface deteriorated after a year due to problems

with the weather, chippings and coating used. So we need to be careful, not only at the top of the road but also the different problems further down the road. We have also received the views of Emergency Services and Recycling Department.

This is a long term project and we will need a Road Fund which is kept topped up. We have two options: Option A to do a professional job, or Option B to fill in potholes in a piecemeal fashion.

2. Road surface

Definition of a private road, from the attached 'Advantages for repairing the road surface' was read to meeting.

As a user of Johns Road, Bob agreed that the top of the road was probably one of the worst in the village and that Ninehams Road has 10 households who all contribute to road improvements.

Trevor explained that our previous attempt at laying scrapings from the Approach Road was unsuccessful because it was done on a wet day. In the past couple of weeks someone in Paynesfield Rd has filled in some of the potholes, but it is doubtful if this will withstand heavy rain. Trevor and Chris had repaired part of the road outside their houses with tarmac and it has lasted about two years so far. If we did the same for the potholes on a DIY basis the cost would be lower. Suggestion that if we fill in the potholes 20 tons will cost £50 per ton which equals £1000 per year or £1 per week per household. We could organise a £1 a week draw.

It was pointed out that laying piecemeal tarmac is okay but the water runs off it and erodes the next section of road, filling drainage gullies with loose materials. Any work will need drainage gullies put in.

Dawn was asked for a horse rider's view on the road. She agreed that it is dangerous and recently there had been an accident at the rough end of Maesmaur Road. The horse rider had contacted the Council for compensation and suggested that the bridleway be repaired. She was told that the Council could not afford it. Suggestion that if enough horse riders complain then SCC will have to pay. Comments that many other roads are in as bad a state and SCC are not going to help all of them, but do they have a legal obligation. Is the Bridleway Ass. still active in Tatsfield?

The attached 'Advantages of a Private Road' read to meeting.

Comment that we pay extortionate rates, but get nothing in return, and we should insist that the Council should pay. If the number of houses in the road had not increased so much then the surface would not have deteriorated so much.

Comment that it is wrong to put road signs in a country lane and don't want street lighting, speed humps and white posts in the road; older people in the road are being scared by hearing that emergency vehicles cannot get down the road; does the committee have a personal agenda? Why do people park in the road instead of in their garages. Suggestion that, if the Council stop

collecting our rubbish bins, it would be okay for everyone to take their bins/bags to the top of the road for collection and that even public roads are only guaranteed for 10 years.

Committee explained that the signs and speed humps would be an attempt to slow down speeding vehicles and protect the road but until we know how much finance is available we cannot decide on road signs; that older residents would not easily be able to take their bins to the top of the road; that the Committee does not have a personal agenda and are just trying to make the road usable; explained that Option A should last 10 years but if the road is not improved then it will deteriorate to a point where access is impossible; that in a private road each resident is responsible for maintaining half way across the road. We have tried to pursue all options and are not here to pressgang anyone.

By a show of hands the majority present did not want a suburban looking road.

If we fill in the potholes each year then we will need residents to pay an annual sum towards this. In view of the little number of residents who would be prepared to do the work we would need to employ a workforce to scrape and level the surface and then apply materials. Comment that “why should I pay if others don’t”. Comment that I like the look of a country lane but it has caused suspension problems with car.

The overhanging trees from the woodland in the middle of the road are causing problems for emergency vehicles and delivery vehicles. We had ascertained who the owners are from Land Registry and had written to them, but had received no reply. Suggestion that we get the trees pruned and send them the bill. This cost would come out of the annual fund.

Comments that if the road is repaired now we will pay less in the long term; some companies will not deliver down the road, eg washing machines etc; top of the road has subsided greatly; half way down the road the surface is so bad it is difficult to walk on it and the level has dropped dramatically. Suggestion that people can still repair the surface outside their own houses.

Tell Martin the names of those large delivery vehicles using the road (DHL, Store to Door, Abel & Cole) and he will contact the companies. We have already asked sat nav TomTom not to direct vehicles along Old Lane and up Johns Road.

3. Road Signs

The attached ‘Road Signs’ details read to meeting.

A ‘Private Road, Parking for Residents only’ sign at the top of the road would free up parking for residents.

As it is extremely difficult for vehicles to reverse along the road through the potholes, particularly with parked cars, wing mirrors, and obstacles on grass verges, suggestion that the layby is kept as free as possible for turning vehicles.

The attached ‘Advantages of a Private Road’ read to meeting.

4. Voting slip

Chris explained about the Voting Slip (copy attached for those not at the meeting). Before completing these, please walk down the road and look at the surface and also the drive at Parkwood Golf Club (as mentioned above), and, with a view to freeing up parking space at the top of the road, please look at signage in other roads.

Please return voting slips by 13th August following which another meeting will be held to determine the way forward.

Any Other Business

Linda asked if there were any other residents who didn't know where their main stopcock was in their front garden. Suggestion that we get Thames Water to check the whole road.

Ann thanked the whole committee for all their efforts over the past few months.

Meeting ended 9.15pm