



WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL (WDPC)

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HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS MINUTES

Meeting Date: 18th August 2026 Location: The West Dean Centre
Meeting Started 2.30pm Meeting Ended 3.40pm

Present

Cllrs J Richmond, B Freshwater, A Batchelor, S Dunford, and S Yeates– West Dean Parish Council (WDPC)
A Middlecote – GCH
PCSO C Ambury – Gloucestershire Police
Clerk – P Holland

PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Richmond thanked everyone for attending and all present introduced themselves. Cllr Richmond invited the first member of the public present to speak to the Committee about their concerns.

Members of Public (MOP) from Bream attended the meeting to raise their concerns over the speeding issue along Parkend Road, Bream.

They stated that this had been raised previously and no measures had yet been put in place to alleviate the problem.

They spoke of the fact that vehicles go from a National Speed Limit road into a 30pmh road with very little signage before the change of speed limit. They also spoke of the Village Gates which had been placed at Ellwood and asked if this would be an option for Parkend Road.

Cllr Richmond asked the Deputy Clerk to contact the Ellwood residents to get their views on the effectiveness of the Village Gates

They gave details of an incident where a local horse rider had been knocked off and the increase in traffic using this road as a rat run due to the ongoing closure of Forest Road.

Another MOP stated that walkers and cyclists had to be very careful when crossing this road due to the speed of the cars, they had witnessed a couple who had had to dive out of the way when a vehicle had come round the bend fast.

**Deputy Clerk to contact
Ellwood residents.**

	Cllr Richmond asked about the last time a speed survey had been carried out and PCSO Ambury stated it had been in 2025, but had not detail with them at the meeting. PCSO Ambury spoke of the hand-held speed gun which could be used by residents and she would be happy to train anyone who wanted to use it. She also advised on the regulations of where the speed van could be deployed. Cllr Yeates stated a VAS post had been requested for this road, but under the regulations for placement this road was not suitable and therefore a post was not allowed. Cllr Richmond spoke of the criteria which had to be met for the VAS units and also of the criteria for the Village Gates and that Ellwood residents had help fund those placed there. Cllr Freshwater asked if item 5.2 Speeding Traffic – Parkend Road, Bream could be brought forward, this was agreed by the committee. A MOP noted that many drivers saw the VAS units as a game, drive slowly until they get to it then speed up after they pass it. Cllr Freshwater stated that nothing was 100% effective but speeds had reduced since the placement of the VAS units. The MOP also noted that there were not many speed limit signs along the road once you entered the 30mph restriction, it was noted that you do not get repeaters once there are streetlights, PCSO Ambury also noted that drivers should be aware of their Highway Code. Cllr Dunford suggested that more education was needed and PCSO Ambury agreed to feed this back to Gloucestershire Safety Team. Cllr Batchelor spoke of the speed limit reductions which were being talked about at present. Cllr Richmond asked A Middlecote if there were any passive measures which could be considered, A Middlecote spoke of the Safer Roads Tool Kit which is available and he would send this to the Deputy Clerk. Another MOP spoke of the need for more Police presence and in lack of that a need for other deterrents to keep people safe. Cllr Freshwater suggested some options including getting SLOW painted on the road or the red boxes on the road. Another MOP noted that the road markings at the road junctions needed to be repainting as a lot of them are missing. Cllr Dunford advised the MOP that the Parish Council did not have the power to do this but could only pass this information onto the relevant authorities. A Middlecote said he would feed all this back to N Choat.	PCSO to pass concerns back to GST
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	Cllr Richmond closed the Public Forum at 3.10pm and opened the formal meeting.	
AGENDA No	ITEM/NOTES	ACTIONS
1	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from WDP Cllrs Grant, Bennet & Lewis GCC Cllr L Challis, and GCH Officer N Choat.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
	None were declared at this time. Councillors were reminded that they could declare an interest at any point should the need arise.	
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting.	
	The minutes were proposed by Cllr Freshwater, seconded by Cllr Batchelor and approved by resolution of the meeting as being an accurate account of the proceedings.	
5.2	Speeding Traffic – Parkend Road, Bream Discussion on this subject continued with Cllr Richmond noting the detailed concerns which had been raised in the Public Forum, he then asked for ideas on possible actions which could be suggested and below is the list of actions suggested:- • Get a speed survey commissioned for Parkend Road • Look into getting Village (White) Gates. • Get SLOW signs painted on both Parkend Road and Whitecroft Road. • Get the junction markings replaced. • Increase the distance at which the VAS units activate. • Place Count Down signs when approaching a reduction in the speed limit. • Change the National Speed Limit to a lesser speed limit at the entrance to the 30mph limit on Parkend Road. • Install Sleeping Policemen/speed bumps. Cllr Freshwater noted that the Village Gates were a good idea on the flat but was not sure how they would work a hill. PCSO Ambury reiterated that there were regulations as to where the Speed Camera Van could be deployed, it could not block the Highway. Cllr Freshwater noted that changing a speed limit on a road entailed a large cost, and the Parish Council did not have the power to spend another Authorities budget.	

	It was noted that in one hour, one day, 90 vehicles were counted going down Parkend Road, and it was suggested again that perhaps speed bumps would be the best option in the narrow section of this road to reduce the speed of vehicles. Cllr Freshwater noted again that this would involve a cost which would need to be met. Cllr Richmond noted that we live in a statistical world, but this relied on equipment working correctly and being maintained. Cllr Richmond spoke of the RTC costs recorded in 2024 were £2,834,336 per fatal collision, £324,895 per serious collision and £32,502 per slight collision.	
4	Gloucestershire County Highways Report	
4.1	A Middlecote advised that most of his report was listed as items on the Agenda, however, he gave a report, on the latest position with regard to the surveys on the flooding issues and drainage at the Game Keepers Public House. Cllr freshwater asked if it would be possible to get a game plan, with dates, on paper, as this had been going on for 3 to 4 months. A Middlecote said he would feed the concerns back to his manager.	
4.2	The Deputy Clerk advised the committee that N Choat had given an update on the Yellow Line Request to confirm this is now with the relevant team who would look at appropriate locations, but this could take up to 18 months to be completed.	
5	Items for Discussion and Decision	
5.1	Verge Cutting The Deputy Clerk advised the committee that N Choat had advised he had spoke with the resident who had raised concerns over this, and that works were due to have taken place the week of the complaint, closing the case was an administrative error, which should not happen in future. The committee discussed other area within the Parish which needed verges cut back and A Middlecote will take this back to N Choat.	
5.3	Street Light – The Tufts Bream The Deputy Clerk advised the committee that request for a street light at The Tufts Bream, had been looked at by GCH and they no longer ran the “Community Match” funding for new lights. The Deputy Clerk advised committee that a costing had been requested from GCH to enable the committee to make a more informed	Item to be put on agenda when costings received.

	decision on this matter, this information was still awaited at the time of this meeting.	
6	Items for Information	
6.1	The RTC stats for West Dean Parish TS 9801 2025/26 were noted. Cllr Dunford noted that these figures did not include non-injury incidents, and this made it harder when trying to arrange for speed reduction measures.	
6.2	The latest VAS stats and post for the WDPC Website was noted. Cllr Dunford noted that Woodland Road, Christchurch was missing and asked for this to be added. Cllr Richmond asked for an additional line of text reading “ investigations are ongoing” be added to the end of the piece.	Deputy Clerk to make requested amendments and send to web provider.
7.	Chairs Items	
	- Forest Road Closure – Cllr Dunford stated that the signs all still said this road June and the GC website was the same. Cllr Freshwater stated he had been told the works would overrun by a month. - Cllr Freshwater noted that closure for Whitecroft Road, overnight, and the effect this will have on traffic volumes on Parkend Road, Bream and asked if a letter raising these concerns could be sent to Cllr B Hoyland under her role as Chair of the Road Safety Liaison Group. - Cllr Freshwater raised a query over the anomaly of what the speed limits on the roads in new residential developments would be if the roads were not adopted by GCH would be, and where do residents stand on the issue of speeding, and suggested writing to Cllr Hoyland, on the subject of this anomaly using the new Lydney housing estate as an example	Letter to be written to Cllr Hoyland. Letter to be drafted to Cllr Hoyland.
8.	Items for the Next Meeting	
	No items were identified at the meeting.	
9.	Date of Next Meeting	
	Cllr Richmond advised that, as agreed, the next meeting would be moved to an evening slot to allow those who work to attend. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 7pm in the West Dean Centre.	