

Report: Meeting – Friday 7 July in reference to planned works on St John's Road.

A meeting took place on Friday 7 July in response to a concern raised by a resident that recent works carried out on St John's Road were not completed to the agreed specification.

During the meeting, the representative for the St John's Road maintenance group expressed frustration on several fronts. There was disappointment that the Parish Council might not support the matter as strongly as initially expected. It was explained that the Council makes decisions collectively in formal meetings and follows those agreed positions. It was also clarified that councillors, as residents, may express personal views privately outside of Council business. This distinction was understood.

The representative also outlined frustration with another resident involved in the project. Although this individual had previously been supportive and had contributed financially to the working fund, they intervened late in the process and halted the planned works. Their concern was that the original specification for the entrance—specifically the section relating to their frontage—could lead to future flooding affecting properties they are responsible for maintaining.

Two options were discussed at that point:

1. The works would be halted indefinitely, as permission to proceed was withdrawn, or
2. Amended works could go ahead, fully funded by the individual who raised the flooding concern, with them taking responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

The second option was agreed. As a result, the remaining funds contributed by residents were retained in the maintenance pot for future upkeep of the two sections already completed to the original specification.

It was confirmed that communication would be issued to all participating residents explaining the change in approach.

It was acknowledged that the Parish Council had followed up due to a resident concern and because councillors had previously encouraged residents to proceed with the project. However, it was recognised that this matter is effectively private and should remain within that remit.

The representative asked that the Parish Council consider whether there is any appetite for supporting a longer-term solution for the entrance. It was confirmed that this would be raised at Full Council. In my capacity as Chair of Planning and Highways I did state that I thought it unlikely that any support would be considered a good use of Parish Council funds, however I could not talk on behalf of my peers.

Report submitted by Cllr Jayne Todd