

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASH ROAD WORKING GROUP HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19TH MAY 2004 AT 7.30 p.m. AT THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

Present: Cllr Mr B Ramsay
Cllr Mrs M Solman
Cllr Mr C Ward (Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Mr I Dennis (Chairman of the Trustees of Briars Way and Gorse Way
Road Fund)
Mr L Steingass (Associate member of the Trustees of Briars Way and
Gorse Way Road Fund)

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Harris and Sewell.

2. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr C Ward be elected Chairman of the Ash
Road Working Group until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr B Ramsay be elected Vice Chairman of
the Ash Road Working Group until the Annual Meeting of the Council in
May 2005.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Ash Road Working
Group held on 7th January 2004 be approved and signed as a correct
record.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Terms of Reference

At the Council meeting held on 9th February 2004, a recommendation of the
Finance and General Purposes Committee to extend the terms of reference of
the Ash Road Working Group was approved and as a result, the Working Group
considered amendments to its terms of reference to include other highway
matters affecting the Parish.

RECOMMENDED: That, the name of the Working Group be
amended to Highways and By-Ways Working Group and that the terms of
reference be extended, as set out in appendix 1 attached to these
minutes

7. Access restrictor on the footpath between Manor Drive and Gorse Way

The meeting was adjourned at 7.39 p.m.

*The Chairman of the Trustees of the Briars Way and Gorse Way Road Fund
explained proposals to re surface the footpath running between Gorse Way and
the top of Manor Drive. The Trustees were concerned that any improvements to
the surface of the path may encourage motor bikes to use the footpath and as a
result, they were seeking the Parish Council's support for the installation of an
access restrictor to prevent motorbikes riding on the footpath.*

The meeting resumed at 7.55 p.m.

The Working Group considered the Trustees proposals.

RECOMMENDED: That, the Council supports the actions of the Trustees of the Briars Way and Gorse Way Road Fund to install an access restrictor in the final section of the footpath prior to the exit onto Manor Drive/Church Road to stop the riding of trial bikes down the footpath.

8. Ash Road

(a) The Working Group noted that the plaque, in memory of the man killed on the Ash Road in September 2003, was fitted to the bench on 15th May 2004.

(b) The Working Group reconsidered the proposed improvement works to Ash Road endorsed the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board on 9th December 2003, which has been scheduled to be undertaken by the Sevenoaks Highway Unit during 2004/05. Concerns were expressed about the position of the bus stop located on the east side of Ash Road, immediately adjacent to Hoselands Green, inasmuch as buses stopping to drop off and pick up passengers are likely to cause congestion affecting traffic approaching the new roundabout.

RESOLVED: That, (1) concerns over the location of the bus stop located on the east side of Ash immediately adjacent to Hoselands Green be brought to the attention of the Kent County Council's Highway Engineer and (2) enquiries be made over the progress of the detailed design scheme being undertaken by consultants acting on behalf of Kent County Council

9. Flooding at Springcroft

It was reported that, despite efforts by Sevenoaks Direct Services to sweep the road and clean the road gullies at the end of Springcroft, the area was still experiencing problems of flooding. Photographs taken at the time of the most recent flooding were examined by the Working Group. The Sevenoaks Highway Unit has informed the Council that further investigative work is to be undertaken to establish whether the bore holes in the soakaway have been unduly affected by a build up of silt.

The Director of Strategic Services at Sevenoaks District Council has been informed of the problem. The Chief Executive of Sevenoaks District Council has been informed of the petition signed by 54 residents and arrangements are being made for the petition to be presented to the District Council at its next meeting.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

10. Correspondence

(a) The Working Group considered a letter from Mr Dobson of Hamilton, Church Road complaining about the condition of the surface of Church Road between New Ash Green and Hartley Hill.

RESOLVED: That, the letter be noted.

(b) The Working Group was reminded that, the Council had written to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in respect of the provision of a width and weight restriction on South Ash Road. The Borough Council has responded confirming the proposal has been put on a list and will be considered after the proposed closure of Brown's Transport yard. Future consideration of this matter will be subject to justifications, prioritisation and funding availability.

RESOLVED: That, the letter be noted.

6. Date of the next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

APPENDIX 1

Ash Road Highways and Byways Working Group Terms of Reference

1. To determine the problems and assess the priorities associated with the volume and speed of traffic using the Ash Road.
2. To formulate a strategy to overcome the problems associated with the traffic on Ash Road and report back to the Council with its findings and recommendations.
3. To meet from time to time as deemed necessary by members of the working party.
4. The working party to be dissolved on submission of its findings and recommendations to the Council.
5. To co opt, for such time as is necessary, members of the public to the working group.
- 6. To examine and make proposals to the Council on issues affecting highways and byways within the Parish.**

Approved by Council at its meeting held on 14th July 2003 and re-confirmed by the Council at its Annual Meeting on 10th May 2004

*** proposed amendments shown in bold italics**