

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAY WORKING GROUP HELD ON  
MONDAY 30th JUNE 2005 AT 7.30 p.m. AT THE HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH  
ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr B Ramsay  
Cllr Mr V Sewell  
Cllr Mrs M Solman (*arrived at 7.55 p.m*)

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)  
Cllr Mr D Brazier  
7 members of the public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr C Ward.

**2. Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr M Harris be elected Chairman of the Highway Working Group until the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2006.

**3. Election of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Mr B Ramsay be elected Vice Chairman of Highway Working Group until the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2006.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mr V Sewell declared a personal interest in respect of the matters relating to Hartley Primary School as he serves on the School's Governing Body as a Community Governor.

**5. Minutes**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highway Working Group held on 31st January 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**6. Terms of Reference**

RECOMMENDED: That, (1) the Terms of Reference be amended, as set out in appendix 1 attached to these minutes and (2) County Councillor Mr David Brazier be co-opted to the Working Group.

**7. Order of business**

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Standing Order 26 (d) the order of business be altered so that the business relating to proposed closure of Fairby Lane to vehicular traffic be taken as the next item of business.

**8. Fairby Lane**

The meeting was adjourned to receive representations from residents of Fairby Lane over the use of the private section of Fairby Lane by members of the public and their wish for the junction of Ash Road and Fairby Lane to be closed to vehicles. A petition containing the signatures of 39 residents of Fairby Lane and 18 parents escorting children to Hartley Primary School supporting the proposal to close the end of Fairby Lane to vehicular traffic had been previously received by the Council.

The meeting was resumed.

The Working Group supported the views expressed by the residents of Fairby Lane. In addition, the Group considered that the proposed road closure of the end of Fairby Lane at its junction with Ash Road would improve road safety. The Working Group considered the effects of the proposed road closure on vehicular access to Hartley Primary School and was satisfied that there would be no long term detrimental effect on traffic movement to and from the school, but future consideration be given to a one way system.

*Cllr Mrs M Solmon arrived at the meeting at 7.55 p.m.*

RECOMMENDED: That, Hartley Parish Council writes to Kent Highway Services in support of the proposal to close the private section of Fairby Lane at the junction with Ash Road to vehicular traffic

#### **9. Flooding at Springcroft**

It was reported that the problem of flooding at the end of Springcroft was being investigated by the Highway Authority and that tests placed on the soakaways had found them to be irredeemably blocked. Attempts to clean the soakaways by means of jetting had only partially alleviated the problem and further work would be required to provide a more permanent solution.

The Working Group considered that the problem was exacerbated by the fact that silt from the unmade up section of Manor Drive was being washed into the underground surface water drains in Springcroft, thus causing a build of silt, which ultimately causes the system to become blocked.

Three possible options are being investigated and include, (1) the provision new soakaway/s, (2) the provision of new intercepting chambers located half way down Springcroft to collect the silt and (3) the provision of new bore holes to drain the surface water to an area further down the valley.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

#### **10. Ash Road**

The Working Group considered the letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 2005 written by the Clerk to the Highway Authority on a number of issues affecting Ash Road. A response is awaited. It was reported that there are a number of outstanding items still to be completed under the contract for improvement works undertaken on Ash Road last year.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

#### **11. Proposed Interactive sign**

It was reported that the funding to provide an interactive sign on Ash Road had been secured and that a study was being now undertaken over the siting and wording on the sign. Two possible locations for the interactive sign are being investigated and the findings of the study are awaited.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

#### **12. Prohibition of Driving Temporary Order – D 116 Castle Hill**

The Working Group considered a letter from Kent Highway Service advising of the closure of Castle Hill to undertake communication systems work. The road has been closed and will be shut off for a period of three weeks. It was reported that the contractor, McNicholas, had stored its plant and equipment on Hartley Green without the Council's permission, but this has since been removed.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

**13. Castle Hill**

The meeting was adjourned to allow a resident to express his views on issues surrounding the speed of vehicles and congestion on Castle Hill, particularly at school times and his proposal that Castle Hill should be restricted to one way traffic.

The meeting resumed.

The Working Group considered these issues and a number of views were put forward to improve traffic movement on Castle Hill, which included restricting traffic to one way, the provision of traffic lights and widening the road. The County Councillor explained that there were only four roads linking the roads running north to south through Hartley and New Ash Green with the Fawkham Valley Road and that some consideration should be given to upgrading at least one of these roads.

RECOMMENDED: That, (1) the views of residents on Castle Hill over the problems associated with the speed of vehicles and congestion on Castle Hill be sought and (2) advice on how this problem may be alleviated by sought from the Kent Highway Services.

**14. County Lengthsman**

The Working Group considered a letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2005 from the Kent Highway Service advising of a new scheme to deal with small highway problems. The Group noted that the Clerk had been nominated as the “Lengthsman co-ordinator” to liaise with the local highway division as required.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be noted (2) the new County Lengthsman scheme be advertised through the Council’s newsletter and the notice boards.

**15. Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library.

The meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....

## **Highways 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 ***\*an ongoing*** strategy to overcome the problems associated with the traffic on Ash Road and report back to the Council with its findings and recommendations, ***\*as necessary***.
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.

***\* insertions shown in bold italics***