

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAY WORKING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
7th DECEMBER 2005 AT 7.30 p.m. AT THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD**

Present: Cllr Mr D Brazier (County Councillor – co-opted)  
Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr V Sewell  
Cllr Mr B Ramsay  
Cllr Mrs M Solman (arrived at 7.35 p.m.)

In attendance: Mrs H Gilder (Assistant Clerk)  
5 members of the public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mr C Ward.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

**3. Minutes**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highway Working Group held on 2nd November 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**4. Castle Hill**

(a) The Working Group considered an e mail from Fawkham Parish Councillor, Stephen Billings suggesting the installation of rumble strips on Castle Hill.

RESOLVED: That, the e mail from Cllr Mr Billings be noted and kept on file for future consideration.

(b) The Working Group noted a letter dated 9th November 2005 sent by the Clerk to Kent Highway Services.

Cllr Ramsay reported that following discussions with Kent Highway Services it is expected that the Parish Council will receive some feedback within the next week.

RESOLVED: That, the letter dated 9th November 2005, sent by the Clerk to Kent Highway Services and Cllr Ramsay's report be noted and that should a prompt response not be forthcoming, the Clerk be requested to send a chaser letter to Kent Highway Services expressing the Council's disappointment.

**5. Fairby Lane**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7.41p.m. to allow members of the public present at the meeting to give an update on progress.*

*The residents from Fairby Lane, present at the meeting reported that no further progress to close off the junction of Fairby Lane with Ash Road to vehicular traffic had been made.*

*The meeting resumed at 7.45p.m.*

Cllr Mr Brazier reported that the Kent Highway Engineers were currently looking at a potential scheme to close the road to vehicular traffic whilst still allowing access for pedestrians and bicycles and that to date no feedback had been received.

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Brazier's report be noted and that the Clerk be requested to send a chaser letter to Kent Highways should a response not be received in the near future.

## 6. Interactive Sign

(a) At the site meeting held on 20th October 2005, the Transport Manager for Kent Highway Services stated that he was still in discussion with the Central Team regarding the provision of an interactive warning sign on Ash Road and that a report on the matter would be prepared shortly. The Clerk wrote to the Transport Manager on 9th November 2005 requesting an update on the current position of this matter. The Transport Manager replied that the policy issues relating to the use of these signs were raised at a recent meeting with other Highway Authorities in the South East and that he hoped to receive some feedback from this meeting shortly. To date no further information has been received.

RESOLVED: That,

1) the report be noted and that the Clerk be requested to provide Cllr Brazier with copies of the correspondence relating to the provision of the interactive sign in order that he may take the matter up with Kent Highway Services.

2) that, in the event of this failing to progress the matter, the Clerk be requested to write to the Cabinet Member, Dr Howard Stoate and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to express the Parish Council's frustration with the lack of progress.

(b) The Working Group considered a report by the County Transportation Manager to the Highways Advisory Board on 1st November 2005.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

## 7. Road Closures

The Working Group noted a letter sent by the Clerk to the Highway Manager at Kent Highway Services expressing the Council's dissatisfaction at the diversion set up via Ash Road, Castle Hill, Fawkham Road and Main Road as a result of the road closure on Hartley Road between the hours of 19.00 and 01.00 on the 19th October 2005 and noted that to date, no feedback had been received.

Cllr Harris suggested that in the event of an accident on Hoselands Hill, a one way system, avoiding Castle Hill should be considered and put in place to enable emergency vehicles to gain access.

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk be requested to write to the Police expressing the Parish Council's concern that in the event of a serious accident, the emergency services would have difficulty gaining access, and seeking their advice on what can be done to prevent the roads becoming blocked should an accident occur.

The Chairman reported that an accident had occurred on Hoselands Hill earlier in the day and Cllr Mrs Solman asked whether the Parish Council was provided with official accident records.

The Chairman confirmed that the Council did not receive any records unless specifically requested.

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk be requested to obtain the latest crash statistics from Babbie and to confirm whether this information can be made available to all Members of the Council.

## 8. Kent Highway Services

The Working Group considered a report from Kent Highway Services detailing recent changes to Kent Highway Services and the results of the Parish and Town Council Conference Evaluation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

## 9. Speed Watch

The Working Group considered a report by the County Transportation Manager to the Highways Advisory Board on 1st November 2005.

The Chairman reported that an article had been included in the Parish Council's latest Newsletter detailing the Speed Watch Safety Campaign and requesting volunteers to

come forward.

The Chairman reported that unfortunately the Speed Watch rules preclude the use of Parish Councillors as operators of the system although the Liaison Officer could be the Parish Clerk.

Cllr Brazier noted that there was no mention in the County Transportation Manager's report that Parish Councillors were unable to operate the system.

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Brazier be asked to contact the County Transportation Manager to obtain clarification on the matter.

## **10. Flooding at Springcroft**

The Chairman reported that West Kent Highways intend to put in linear drainage channels adjacent to the existing road gullies. Before the work can commence, the utility companies have to be contacted to provide information on services running beneath the road. A response is still awaited from the Electricity Board but once this has been received, work will be able to commence.

Cllr Ramsay reported that he had received an email from West Kent Highways confirming that the necessary equipment has now been ordered and although later than anticipated, work will commence once the equipment is received and the utility companies have provided the information requested.

Cllr Ramsay reported that a recent flood at Springcroft in November had been promptly dealt with by Sevenoaks District Council.

RESOLVED: That, the reports be noted.

## **11. Chantry Avenue**

The Chairman reported that the Parish Office had been contacted by a resident from Chantry Avenue regarding problems with inconsiderate parking outside the school. The Community Warden has been liaising with the resident and will be handing out notices to those parking in the area requesting that they park more considerately.

The Group agreed that persistent inconsiderate parking causing pavements and drives to be blocked should be a matter for the Police.

Cllr Ramsay reported that Direct Services were now responsible for the District's Traffic Wardens and suggested that they be asked to send a Warden out to Hartley.

RESOLVED: That,

- 1) the Clerk be requested to contact Direct Services to request that a Traffic Warden be made available occasionally to patrol outside the school and the shops at Cherry Trees.
- 2) Cllr Ramsay be asked to re-enforce this request.
- 3) Cllr Sewell be requested to report this action to the School Governors.

## **12. Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Ramsay reported that at the recent Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board Meeting he had raised several issues, being the incomplete traffic calming measures on Ash Road, a request for a salt bin at Parkfield, the gritting schedule for Hartley and the fact that neither Woodland Avenue or Wellfield are included and the problems being encountered with the Highway Lengthsman Scheme.

In answer to these issues, Cllr Ramsay was advised that 1) a response would be received shortly regarding the incomplete traffic calming measures, 2) a request should be made by the Clerk to install a salt bin at Parkfield, 3) Woodland Avenue and Wellfield should be included in the gritting schedule and 4) that the Lengthsman is only able to deal with minor issues.

RESOLVED: That,

- 1) the report be noted.

- 2) Should a response to the Clerk's letters of 9th August 2005 and 9th November 2005 regarding the incomplete traffic calming measures on Ash Road, not be forthcoming, the Clerk be requested to send a chaser letter.
- 3) The Clerk be requested to contact the Liaison Officer at Kent Highway Services to request the installation of a salt bin at Parkfield.
- 4) The Clerk be requested to contact Kent Highway Services to obtain written confirmation that Woodland Avenue and Wellfield have now been added to Hartley's gritting schedule.
- 5) The Clerk be requested to obtain information on what issues can be dealt with by the Lengthsman.
- 6) The Clerk be requested to submit a regular report to the Working Group on any work that is required from the County Lengthsman, to be graded in order of urgency by the Group prior to submission to the Lengthsman.

Cllr Sewell reported his concerns over the parking outside the shops at Cherry Trees.

The Group agreed that parking was a major problem with the road constantly being blocked and cars parking on the pavement.

The Chairman reported that discussions had taken place previously regarding the possibility of altering the parking arrangements at the front of the shops but that there had been some question over who owned the land.

Cllr Sewell reported that the problems at Cherry Trees had been highlighted in the Village Plan Questionnaire.

Cllr Sewell also expressed his concern over the number of large vehicles travelling along Ash Road.

RESOLVED: That, 1) The reports be noted and 2) Cllr Ramsay be requested to establish who owns the land used for car parking at the front of the shops at Cherry Trees and to report back his findings at the next meeting of the Highways Working Group.

### **13. Date of the next meeting**

Tuesday 31st January 2006 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library.

The meeting closed at 9.00p.m.

### **Public Question Time**

Public question time commenced at 9.00p.m.

A resident raised the issue of cars parking on the pavement in Fairby Lane. Cllr Sewell replied that advice would be sought from the Police, and the Community Warden would be asked to monitor the situation.

A resident reported that she had recently met with the Community Warden to look at the parking issues around the school and that the Community Warden is in the process of obtaining documentation from Kent Police Liaison which will be distributed to parents as they enter the playground at school times asking them to park more considerately.

A resident asked whether it would be possible to put an article in the next edition of the Parish Council's newsletter recommending a route to take (avoiding Castle Hill) should an accident occur on Hoselands Hill and the road becomes blocked. The Group agreed that this was a good suggestion and would be recommended to the Communications Working Group.

A resident informed the Group that the salt bin at Bramblefields was empty and required re filling. The Assistant Clerk agreed to contact the District Council to ask for this to be done.

Public question time closed at 9.20p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....