

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 8.00 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr D Brazier (*County Councillor – co-opted*)
Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)
Cllr Mr B Ramsay
Cllr Mr V Sewell
Cllr Mrs M Solman

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Cllr Mrs J Burns (Hartley Parish Council)
Cllr Mr L Moss (Fawkham Parish Council)
Cllr Mrs F Parkin (Fawkham Parish Council)
7 members of the public

1. Apologies

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

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs J Burns declared a personal interest during the adjournment on proposals to introduce waiting restrictions in the Parish, as the proposals extended along part of Chantry Avenue, of which she was a resident and in front of the St Francis De Sales Roman Catholic Church, of which she was a member of the church. The proposed waiting restrictions did not extend immediately in front of her property, but did extend in front of no 1 Chantry Avenue through to no 11 Chantry Avenue.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 5th July 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following corrections to the notes taken during the adjournment:

Quakers Close

Para 1 – Add the following words at the end of the first sentence, “***A number of residents of Quakers Close explained they had no facilities for off street parking and therefore would encounter great difficulties if waiting restrictions were implemented in Quakers Close***”

Fairby Lane/Chantry Avenue

Para 4 - Delete the last sentence in para 4, “***Mrs Waterson asked...in front of nos 37 to 41 in Fairby Lane***” and add the sentence “***Mrs Waterson asked for clarification on whether or not there was going to be restrictions in front of 37 to 41 Fairby Lane as she felt, if this was the case, it would push more vehicles in front of her house and others in the private road.***” at the end of the para 4.

Para 5 – Delete the word “**and**” in the first sentence of para 5 and add the words, “***...as she felt that an extension may be a good idea around the corner of her property. Mrs Gibb also ...***”

4. Castle Hill

The Committee welcomed Cllr Mr Moss and Cllr Mrs Parkin from Fawkham Parish Council. Cllr Moss reported that whilst there had been no direct complaint about Castle Hill from Fawkham residents, two serious accidents had occurred at the junction of Castle Hill and Fawkham Road

in the last two years and explained how the junction could be improved by closing the southern most slip road around the Green, thus making the junction a “tee” junction. Cllr Moss explained the improvement works would have to be undertaken sensitively, as the “Fawkham” village sign was sited on the Green and the area was protected as a conservation area.

The Committee examined the findings of the March 2006 speed and signing review undertaken by Babbie and noted that most of the recommendations contained within the report related to works within the Parish of Fawkham and therefore on behalf of Fawkham Parish Council, Cllr Moss agreed to take up the issues raised in the report through the appropriate channels.

RECOMMENDED: That,

(1) the report on the March 2006 speed and signing review undertaken by Babbie be handed over to Fawkham Parish Council and that Fawkham Parish Council be asked to pursue improvements to the signage on Castle Hill and the realignment of the highway at the junction with Castle Hill and Fawkham Road and,

(2) Fawkham Parish Council be offered the support of Hartley Parish Council to secure improvements to Castle Hill, as set out in (1) above.

5. Waiting restrictions

It was reported that no further progress had been made over proposals to introduce waiting restrictions at various locations in the Parish. The Chairman explained that the proposals had been prepared by Sevenoaks District Council in response to concerns expressed by residents over the parking problems at Hartley Primary School, which affected the safety of the children attending the school and the commuter parking in Quakers Close.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.15 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8.37 p.m.

RECOMMENDED: That,

(1) the views of residents immediately affected by the proposed waiting restrictions in Round Ash Way, Oast Way, Conifer Avenue, Chantry Avenue, Fairby Lane and Quakers Close be sought and,

(2) the Police be requested to attend the area surrounding Hartley Primary School and,

(3) Hartley Primary School be contacted to discuss the parking problems associated with the school.

6. Grass verges

The Committee considered a report on the cutting of the grass verges in Hartley.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

7. Kent Highway Services

(a) The Committee considered the spreadsheet received from Kent Highway Services on 28th July 2006, detailing progress on outstanding highway issues in Hartley. It was reported that a number of additional items had been added to the schedule.

It was also reported that there was still a problem with the funding of the interactive speed sign inasmuch as Kent Highway Services had advised the Parish Council that the works would not be undertaken until the April/May 2007, thus falling into the next financial year, whereas the funding of £3,000 through Members Community Grant scheme had been approved and allocated for the financial year 2006/07. It was confirmed that Kent County Council was liaising with Kent Highway Services to try and resolve the funding problem.

Kent Highway Services has advised that the cost of an interactive speed sign would be in the region of £3,500 and therefore the Parish Council would be required to fund the shortfall of

£500. The Committee was reminded that the Council had previously agreed to contribute a sum of upto £1,500 towards the cost of the interactive sign.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

(b) The Committee considered a report on a meeting with Kent Highway Services held on 8th August 2006 to discuss a number of outstanding highway issues relating to Hartley.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

8. Fairby Lane

The Committee considered a letter dated 31st July 2006 from a resident of Fairby Lane enquiring about the design of a barrier to prevent vehicular traffic on the private section of Fairby Lane and the Clerk's response in a letter dated 9th August 2006. It was reported that the resident was currently seeking the views of Kent Highway Services.

RESOLVED: That, the correspondence be noted.

9. Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 6th June 2006.

RESOLVED: That, the minutes be noted.

10. Flooding at Springcroft

The Committee considered a letter dated 14th July 2006 from Keith Ferrin, KCC Cabinet Member responsible for Environment, Highways & Waste sent to a resident of Springcroft explaining what action had been taken to alleviate the flooding issues at Springcroft. The County Councillor reported that he had taken the matter up directly with Keith Ferrin, but due to the reprioritisation of other drainage works he thought it unlikely the problem would be resolved quickly.

RESOLVED: That, the letter and report be noted.

11. Highway Matters

The Committee considered a request from a resident of Manor Drive that representation be made to Kent Highway Services for the installation of a new road warning sign at the junction of Manor Lane and Manor Drive advising there was no through access at the end of Manor Drive.

RESOLVED: That, the request for the provision of a road warning sign to be sited at the junction of Manor Lane and Manor Drive be included on the next monthly spreadsheet and submitted to Kent Highway Services.

12. General Correspondence

The Committee was reminded of an e mail dated 13th June 2006 from a resident on a number of issues relating to the speed of traffic on Ash Road and Church Road. The Committee considered an e mail dated 13th July 2006 in response to the Council's response dated 11th July 2006. The Committee felt that it could not pursue the matter further with Kent Highway Service until such time as there was evidence of road traffic accidents on Church Road.

RESOLVED: That, the exchange of e mails be noted.

13. Date of the next meeting

25th October 2006 at 8.00 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

Note:

Flooding at Springcroft

Following a very heavy rainfall during week commencing 21st August 2006, the surface of the highway and footpath at the end of Springcroft was adversely affected by the silt being washed down from the unmade section of Manor Drive. Kent Highway Services was advised of the situation on 25th August 2006 and the Parish Council was informed that the Highway Inspector would be investigating the matter.

Adjournment

Fairby Lane/Chantry Avenue

Mr Waller explained why he did not want yellow lines to be placed outside the front of his property. He believed that the parents collecting and dropping off children in Fairby Lane would ignore the yellow lines and park on the pavement, which was wide enough to easily accommodate the width of a car between nos 29 to 35 Fairby Lane. He understood that driving on a pavement was a road traffic offence, but parking on the pavement was not and therefore no action could be taken by the Police against parents who parked their vehicles on the pavement. He also stated that the “keep clear” lines in front of the school entrance were not enforceable. He would not wish bollards to be installed on the pavement as he believed they could present a hazard to pedestrians, particularly at night as Fairby Lane had no street lighting.

Mrs Jordan supported Mr Waller’s views. She explained that she had not instigated the provision of the timber bollards in front of her property on the junction of Fairby Lane and Chantry Avenue.

Cllr Mrs Burns felt that Hartley Primary School should take a stronger role to discourage inconsiderate parking and referred to her previous employment as a school secretary in Dartford, where she had been required to ask parents parking inconsiderately outside the school premises to move on. If they refused to co-operate, the registration number was taken and the matter referred to the Police. She explained that, if requested, the local Police attended the site and issued tickets where necessary. She hoped the newly appointed Headteacher would take a more proactive role.

Quakers Close

Mr and Mrs Fuller explained that there had been commuter parking in Quakers Close for over 30 years, but this had never presented a problem to the residents in Quakers Close. Mr Fuller had undertaken a survey of the parking over a period of two weeks and had not recorded any blocked drives. He explained the introduction of waiting restrictions would present difficulties for properties that had no off street parking, for visitors and tradesmen attending properties in Quakers Close. Mr Fuller reiterated that he did not want waiting restrictions extended along the full length of Quakers Close. It was explained that the consensus of opinion expressed at the last meeting was such that any waiting restrictions should be confined to the section of Quakers Close from its junction with Ash Road to the first layby. Mr Fuller appeared to accept this proposal. Cllr Ramsay explained that he had been approached by a number of residents along the section of Quakers Close from Ash Road to the first lay by, who were experiencing problems with the commuter parking and had asked if some form of waiting restrictions could be implemented to alleviate their problem.

Church Road/Stack Lane/Woodland Avenue

Cllr Mrs J Burns considered that the provision of double yellow lines in front of St Francis De Sales Church was unreasonable and felt that the suggestion of allowing 2 parking bays in front of the church entrance would be insufficient for the church’s needs. She was concerned that any waiting restrictions on Church Road would encourage parents to park in Stack Lane, which was a private road and already had a history of parking problems. The Committee felt that the proposals in front of the church should be modified to provide double yellow lines on the corners of Stack Lane and Church Road, the corners of Woodland Avenue and Church Road and in front of Middle Farm. This would improve the safety of children crossing the road at the junction of Stack Lane and Church Road and assist the passage of buses exiting the junction of Woodland Avenue onto Church Road.