

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2007 AT 8.00 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr V Sewell  
Cllr Mrs M Solman

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr D Brazier, Cllr Mr J Gaywood, Cllr Mr B Ramsay and Cllr Mr C Ward.

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mrs M Solman declared a personal interest under minute item 4 in respect of the signposting of Restricted Byways, as her private residence was located in Manor Drive.

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**Restricted Byways**

The Committee considered a letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007 from the West Kent Public Rights of Way Officer informing the Parish Council that Kent County Council has a duty to erect signposts showing the correct status of Restricted Byways where they join a road. The Committee noted that new signposts had been erected at both ends of Stack Lane, but as yet no such signposts had been erected in Manor Drive. The Committee noted that both Stack Lane and Manor Drive were shown on the Definitive map of public rights of way as being a Road Used as a Public Path and therefore had been automatically reclassified in changes to the legislation under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

The Committee noted from the correspondence that these paths now carried rights for pedestrians, horse riders, pedal cyclists and horse drawn vehicles, but not motorised vehicles unless exercising a private right of access and questioned the standard to which these paths should be maintained, as Restricted Byways were maintainable at the public expense and rights of access were exercised to Springcroft, Manor View and Berrylands off the Manor Drive.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted and the West Kent Public Rights of Way Officer be asked why a signpost showing the correct status of Manor Drive had not yet been erected.

**Manor Drive**

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it had been reported that SD320, which formed part of Manor Drive, had been redesignated as a Restricted Byway and that Restricted Byways were maintainable at the public expense to a standard acceptable for use as a Restricted Byway. The Chairman of the Committee explained that part of Manor Drive was surfaced with tarmac, between its junction with Church Road and the adopted highway of Manor View which leads into Springcroft. The remainder of Manor Drive to its junction with Manor Lane was not made up.

The County Councillor confirmed that Kent County Council would not make up un-adopted roads. Furthermore un-adopted roads would only be adopted if they were brought upto to a standard acceptable to the County Council and this would have to undertaken at the residents

expense. The County Councillor felt that the County Council would be able to demonstrate that the condition of the unmade section of Manor Drive was fit for purpose, as it could be expected at this time of year that Public Rights of Ways, Bridleways and Restricted Byways would be muddy under foot.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8.10 p.m. to allow Mrs Riley of Manor Drive to express her concerns about the condition of the surface in Manor Drive, particularly the unmade section which she considered to be hazardous to pedestrians and the damage caused to the trees and verges by the delivery vehicles attending the various development sites in Manor Drive .*

*The meeting was resumed at 8.13 p.m.*

The Committee was sympathetic to Mrs Riley's concerns and felt that Kent County Council would have no objection to the residents filling the potholes with hardcore, but suggested they may wish to take this matter up directly with the County Council themselves.

### **Flooding at Springcroft**

The Chairman of the Committee reported that engineers from Kent Highway Services had been observed undertaking survey work at the junction of Manor Drive and Manor View and when asked they had confirmed that Kent Highway Services were undertaking a feasibility study on improvements to the surface water drainage.

The County Councillor reported that the budget for the forthcoming financial year had been approved by the County Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 and that an additional £1,500,000 had been included in the budget for highway maintenance.

It was reported that Springcroft had once again been flooded earlier in the day and that Kent Highway Services had been informed of the problem.

RESOLVED: That, the reports be noted.

### **Fairby Lane**

The Chairman of the Committee reported on a meeting with Mr B Fitzgerald held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007. At that meeting Mr Fitzgerald had informed the Chairman and the Clerk that he believed Kent Highway Services did not have the authority to issue a Traffic Road Order to "stop up" the junction of Fairby Lane and Ash Road due to the private status of part of the road. Mr Fitzgerald felt that residents may wish to consider implementing the works required to prevent vehicular access on the private section of Fairby Lane, although he admitted such works would be undertaken at the residents risk as they could be challenged on their actions. Mr Fitzgerald confirmed he would be taking legal advice on the matter and would confirm Kent Highway Services position in due course.

The Committee expressed its disbelief at Kent Highway Services apparent change of view and the County Councillor agreed to take the matter up directly with Mr Fitzgerald.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

### **Parking at Cherry Trees**

The Committee was informed that a response was awaited from Kent Highway Services to the Council's request to remove the road traffic island outside the shops at Cherry Trees to improve the parking.

RESOLVED: That, consideration of the matter be deferred.

### **Interactive speed sign**

The Chairman reported that Kent Highway Services had confirmed the installation of the pole for the interactive speed sign would be erected outside Fairby Grange by the end of January 2007 and that the sign itself should be installed by the end of the financial year, subject to the co-operation of EDF Energy. The Committee noted that the pole had yet to be erected.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

**Buses**

(a) The Committee considered a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007 from Arriva in response to concerns raised by the Council about the reliability of the 423 bus service. Arriva had acknowledged that there had been problems of late with the service and would be monitoring the situation over the coming weeks.

RESOLVED: That, the letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007 from Arriva be noted.

(b) It was reported that Sevenoaks District Council had advised bus shelters had, in the past, been provided by Adshell free of charge, but was unsure as to whether the company were willing to provide any further bus shelters. A meeting had taken place with Adshell and Sevenoaks District Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and the outcome of the meeting was awaited.

RESOLVED: That, consideration of the matter be deferred.

**Kent Highway Services**

The Committee considered the Parish Issue Spreadsheet received by the Council on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 indicating action taken by Kent Highways Services on matters reported by the Parish Council at the end of December. The Committee noted that Kent Highway Services had issued a further spreadsheet outlining action taken on matters reported at the end of January 2007.

RESOLVED: That, (1) Parish Issue Spreadsheet issued by Kent Highway Services on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 be noted and (2) the Parish Issue Spreadsheet be made available to view on the Council's website.

**Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board**

It was reported that the minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 were not available.

**Highway Matters**

There were no reports from Councillors.

**Date of the next meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 8.00 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....

**Public Question Time**

A period of 15 minutes was set aside for public question time.

Clarification was sought by Mr and Mrs Fuller on the extent of the proposed waiting restrictions at Quakers Close and by Mr Ede on Kent Highway Services position regarding the closure of Fairby Lane at its junction with Ash Road to vehicular traffic.