

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 2ND AUGUST 2007 AT 7.30 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr D Brazier (*co-opted*)  
Cllr Mr D Graeme  
Cllr Mr S Granger  
Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr J Minns (Arrived at 8.40p.m.)  
Cllr Mr V Sewell

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

**1. Apologies**

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

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 13th June 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Fairby Lane**

It was reported that Kent Highway Services (KHS) had received a letter of petition signed by six residents of Conifer Avenue and Oast Way stating that they have used the section of Fairby Lane from the junction of Ash Road to the westerly boundary of numbers 6 and 7 for over twenty years without interruption and that they feel that it is now their right of way.

Kent Highway Services have forwarded a copy of the petition to the Parish Council asking that a copy be forwarded to the organisation dealing with the closure. The Chairman confirmed that KHS have no responsibility for the matter as the road is privately owned.

It was reported that the organisation responsible for the closure had been given a copy of the petition and had written to the objectors giving the reasons for closure. It is expected that the road will be closed to vehicular traffic on 11th August 2007.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

**5. Springcroft**

It was reported that Springcroft flooded once again on Friday 20th July 2007 and that Kent Highway Services had ordered an emergency 2 hour response call out to clear the area of mud and silt.

The Programme Delivery Manager has advised the County Councillor that following a recent accident on a high speed road due to the non-drainage of surface water, resources are at present being directed to dealing with drainage problems on high speed roads.

Kent Highway Services intend to install a line of kerbs in the channel on the junction of Manor Drive and Manor Lane to encourage the surface water run off to run into the existing drainage system. It is hoped that the work will be carried out this summer.

RESOLVED: That, 1) the report be noted and 2) the Clerk be asked to write to the Programme Delivery Manager at KHS to clarify that the installation of the kerbs is not a substitute for a long term solution to the flooding problems in Springcroft.

## 6. Parking at Cherry Trees

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that a scheme showing improvements to the parking in front of the shops by the removal of the road traffic island be prepared, costed and submitted to Kent Highway Services for comment.

Cllr Granger reported that he had prepared a sketch of possible improvements and this was considered by the Committee.

An engineer from KHS had previously visited the site and had confirmed that KHS would not be able to fund any of the works. The Committee considered that the road traffic island in its current state was a health and safety issue and that its removal would reduce the danger to pedestrians from cars parking on and around it. In view of this, it was agreed that KHS should be approached with a view to them funding the removal of the traffic island with the cost of the marking out of the new parking bays to be found from other sources.

The Committee considered possible funding for the project and agreed that the landlords and/or shop owners could be approached to ask whether they would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of marking out new parking bays should the scheme be accepted by KHS.

RESOLVED: That, 1) the proposed scheme submitted by Cllr Granger showing the removal of the road traffic island and the addition of parking bays in front of the shops be submitted to Brian Fitzgerald at KHS along with photographs and a supporting statement 2) that an engineer from Kent Highway Services be asked to meet with representatives from the Highways Committee to discuss the matter further 3) the Clerk be requested to write to the shop owners to inform them of the proposals and to ask whether they would be willing to contribute to the cost of marking out the parking bays and 4) the Clerk be requested to write to residents in the immediate vicinity of the shops to inform them of the proposed scheme.

## 7. Stack Lane

The Committee considered a letter received from a resident of Stack Lane regarding the condition of the surface of the road.

The Chairman reported that the status of Stack Lane had recently changed and that it was now classified as a 'Restricted Byway'.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8.05 p.m. to allow Mrs Allen, Mrs McGrath and Mr & Mrs Johnson to express their concerns about the condition of the surface of Stack Lane. Residents were particularly concerned that the condition of the unmade surface was made worse by the volume of cars and large delivery vehicles associated with the school.*

*The meeting resumed at 8.35*

The Committee noted that residents were not asking for the lane to be closed to vehicular traffic but would like the road to be brought up to a reasonable standard with contributions from the school and Kent Highway Services.

RESOLVED: That, 1) the Clerk be requested to write to the Kent County Councillor highlighting the complaints received from residents and asking him to pursue the matter at County level, 2) the Clerk be requested to write to the Restricted Byways Officer to enquire as to what standard Restricted Byways should be maintained and to ascertain the position regarding responsibility for the implementation of any works required and 3) the Clerk be requested to write to the Head Teacher at Our Lady of Hartley Catholic Primary School to inform her of the concerns of residents regarding the state of Stack

Lane and to ask for the School's support in reducing the amount of vehicular traffic using the lane.

## 8. Bus Shelter

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was reported that no response had been received from Arriva Bus Company in response to the Council's enquiry about the usage figures for the bus stops at Wellfield and Cherry Tree shops.

The Committee noted that in a letter dated 25th June 2007, Arriva confirmed that its ticketing equipment is not sufficiently sophisticated to enable the bus company to identify numbers at any one stop and so is unable to help with the Council's request for information. Furthermore, Arriva has confirmed that it is not in a position to assist with the supply of bus shelters.

The Committee agreed that in view of the number of elderly residents using the bus service from Wellfield, a bus shelter in this location would be the first choice.

Cllr Brazier informed Members that he had recently sent an email to the Parish Office with details of the KCC External Funding Unit giving details of a list of bodies willing to fund community expenditure.

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk be requested to contact the KCC External Funding Unit to enquire as to whether it is aware of any funding available for the provision of bus shelters.

## 9. Bus Service

The Committee considered a copy of a letter dated 6th July 2007 from Kent County Council to Sevenoaks District Council advising of changes to the Sunday service on route numbers 423 and 489 which will come into effect on 12th August 2007.

The Committee noted that there did not appear to be any reduction in the service but that the timetable had just been rearranged.

RESOLVED: That, the letter dated 6th July 2007 advising of changes to the Sunday service on route numbers 423 and 489, be noted.

## 10. Cycle Route, Ash Road

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that further investigations be undertaken to establish whether it would be feasible to provide a cycle route on the existing footpath.

It had been reported that Offham Parish Council had recently provided a cycle route but confirmation has been received from the Clerk at Offham PC that there is no cycle route within its parish but that some confusion may have arisen as it has recently laid a tarmac perimeter track around one of its playing fields as part of its improvement works.

The Committee agreed that in view of the recent initiatives introduced by schools to encourage more children to walk or cycle to school it should explore further the possibility of providing a cycle route in Hartley.

Cllr Granger reported that he had driven through Offham and had noticed a shared pedestrian and cycle path.

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Granger make further investigations into the apparent shared pedestrian and cycle path in Offham and report his findings at the next meeting.

## 11. Speedwatch

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2007, questions were raised about the speed of traffic in Woodland Avenue. The Community Warden agreed to obtain information on the Speedwatch scheme which was forwarded to the Parish Council.

The Committee considered the information received from Roads Safety/Roads Policing Officer for the West Kent Police.

The Committee noted that complaints regarding traffic speed had been received from residents in Woodland Avenue and Gorsewood Road.

The Chairman reported that in order to operate the Speedwatch scheme, members of the public would be required to volunteer.

RESOLVED: That, the Clerk be requested to contact those members of the public that had raised the issue and put them in contact with the Community Warden in order that he may provide them with further information to facilitate the scheme.

## 12. Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board

Cllr Brazier reported that the only issue affecting Hartley, discussed at the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board was flooding at Springcroft, details of which had been noted by the Committee under minute item 5.

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Brazier's report be noted.

## 13. Parish Issue Spreadsheet

The Committee considered the Parish Issue Spreadsheet received by the Council on 29th June 2007 and made a number of comments relating to the Spreadsheet.

RESOLVED: That, the Parish Issue Spreadsheet received by the Council on 29th June 2007, be noted.

## 14. Highway Matters

Cllr Granger reported that the manhole cover at the junction of St Johns Lane and Ash Road made a clunking noise each time a vehicle passed over it.

RESOLVED: That, the issue of the manhole cover be reported on the Parish Issue Spreadsheet to be returned on 6th August 2007.

## 15. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 6th September 2007 at 7.30p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....

Public Question Time

Mrs Allen thanked the Committee for listening to the concerns of residents. Mrs Allen told Members that she was impressed with the quality of information passed on to residents through the Parish Council's newsletter.

