

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 29th NOVEMBER 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 V Sewell

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

1. Apologies

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

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 18th October 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Springcroft

(a) It was reported that the Cabinet Member responsible for the Environment, Highways and Waste, Mr K Ferrin, had been invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the flooding problems associated with Springcroft. No response had been received.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

(b) It was reported that the end of Springcroft had once again been flooded on 19th and 20th November 2007. The Chairman read a statement issued by Kent County Council to the press setting out the action taken so far by Kent Highway Services and the works proposed to resolve the flooding problem in Springcroft. It was reported that a response to the County Council's statement had been issued by the Parish Council stating that all works undertaken so far had been ineffective and explaining that Kent Highways Services could give no assurances when works to resolve the problem would be carried out. It was suggested that contact should be made with Kent TV to enquire whether details of the problem could be transmitted on the network.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted and all actions confirmed.

(c) It was reported that a verbal complaint had been received from the property owner at 1 Hartley Wood Corner, Manor Drive about the kerb realignment works undertaken by Kent Highway Services in August 2007. The resident claimed that the works had caused increased volumes of water to discharge into the frontages of both nos 1 and 2 Hartley Wood Corner. The resident considered that the situation had been made worse by the development works being carried out opposite, at the property previously known as Southdown, Manor Drive, due to the removal of an existing soakaway from the rear garden by the developers.

RESOLVED: That, the matter be included on the monthly Parish spreadsheet.

5. Parking at Cherry Trees

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with the Transportation Engineer, Mr A Jiwaji, on 14th November 2007. The Engineer had agreed to consider and report back on a scheme submitted by the Parish Council to improve the parking arrangements in front of the shops. The Engineer's attention had been drawn to the presence of a private sewer running under the lay by. A response was awaited.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted and the matter be pursued with Kent Highway Services.

6. Bus Shelter

The Committee noted that six residents had been contacted in respect of the siting of a proposed bus shelter at Cherry Trees and that West Kent Housing Association had been contacted in respect of the siting of a proposed bus shelter at Wellfield.

The Committee considered responses received from three residents who lived opposite the shops at Cherry Trees. All had expressed their concerns about siting a bus shelter at the shops as they feared it could be used as a meeting point for youths, and therefore create a nuisance in terms of noise, intimidation, vandalism and graffiti.

It was reported no response had been received from West Kent Housing Association or the Planning Authority in respect of an enquiry about whether the provision of a bus shelter constituted development requiring the benefit of planning permission.

The local County Councillor was willing to support the provision of a bus shelter through the Members Community Fund.

RESOLVED: That, (1) a feasibility study be undertaken on the siting of a bus shelter at Wellfield, (2) the Planning Authority be pressed to respond to the enquiry about whether the provision a bus shelter required planning permission and, (3) a response be sent to each of the three residents who had contacted the Council in respect of the siting of a bus shelter at Cherry Trees.

7. Bus Services

(a) The Committee considered letters dated 15th November 2007 from the Commercial Director at Arriva and 12th November 2007 from the Business Development Manager at Arriva in response to the Council's concerns about the early morning time tabling to Darent Valley Hospital and the three hour gap in the morning service from Hartley to New Ash Green.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) the correspondence be noted and,

(2) enquires be made with Arriva in respect of:

- provision for through ticketing from the 423, 433 and 489 bus services to Fast Track
- feasibility of introducing electronic signage on the bus stops in Hartley
- replacement of the missing bus stop at Cherry Trees

(b) The Committee considered the new time table issued by Arriva and operational from 18th November 2007, particularly in light of complaints received about the reduction in service on the 489 bus route and the reduction in service on the Ash Road between Wellfield and St Johns Lane. The Committee noted that the 489 bus route had been reduced to an 1½ hourly service whilst improvements had been made to the 423 bus route with the introduction of a new bus, 433.

RESOLVED: That, concerns be expressed to Arriva about the reduction of the buses serving Ash Road between Wellfield and St Johns Lane to a 1½ hourly service.

8. Cycle Route, Ash Road

The Committee considered a letter dated 24th October 2007 from Kent Highways Services explaining that the width of the footpath was considerably less than the 3.0 metre wide standard required and as the adjacent land was privately owned there would be no prospect in widening the footpath. It was reported that, at a meeting held on 14th November 2007, the Transportation Engineer, Mr A Jiwaji, had been shown an example of a shared footpath and cycle route at Offham, which was considerably less than the 3.0 metre wide standard. Mr Jiwaji had agreed to investigate the matter and report his findings.

RESOLVED: That, the letter dated 24th October 2007 from Kent Highway Services be noted and a response to the report on the shared footpath and cycle route at Offham be pursued with Kent Highway Services.

9. Speedwatch

It was reported that letters had been delivered to every household in Gorsewood Road and Woodland Avenue to assess the interest from residents in initiating a Speedwatch Scheme. The Committee examined an analysis of the responses received to date. It was explained that further responses were expected.

RESOLVED: That, the matter be deferred.

10. Interactive Speed Sign – Ash Road

It was reported that the wiring in the column of the interactive speed sign had not been connected and therefore the information given by Kent Highway Services, that the sign had been commissioned in June 2007, was inaccurate. The Chairman explained that he had taken the matter up with Kent Highway Services and that this was being investigated.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

11. Highway Matters

The Committee was informed of concerns expressed by a Member about the condition of the road surface of Church Road from St Johns Lane to Manor Field and reports of a blocked road gully at Manor Road, Longfield Hill.

The Committee examined the latest monthly Parish Spreadsheet and made a number of comments.

The Committee considered a newspaper article relating to a report on discounts being offered to local residents using the Dartford tunnel.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) the poor condition of the road surface to part of Church Road and the blocked road gully in Manor Road, Longfield Hill be added to the spreadsheet
- (2) the defective light over the keep left sign at the junction of Church Road and Ash Road be placed back on the spreadsheet (ref 13).
- (3) the discharge issues surrounding the kerb re alignment at the junction of Manor Lane and Manor Drive be added to the spreadsheet
- (4) the overhanging vegetation on Ash Road from St Johns Lane to the Black Lion pub be placed back on the spreadsheet (ref 36).
- (5) Potholes on Castle Hill be added to the spreadsheet
- (6) Potholes at the junction of Carmalite Way and Stack Lane be added to the spreadsheet and,
- (7) the local Member of Parliament be asked if the discounts being offered to local residents using the Dartford tunnel would extend to Hartley residents.

12. Farningham to Hadlow Pipeline

The Committee considered a letter dated 31st October 2007 from Southern Gas Networks in response to the Council's concerns about the use of Ash Road for the transportation of equipment and materials during the construction period. The Gas Company advised that its Transport Management Plan had been developed in conjunction with the Police and the Highway Authority. Furthermore the Environmental Statement and non technical summary would be available sometime after Christmas.

13. Kent Highway Services: Highway Tracker Survey 2007 – Parish & Town Councillors Survey

The Committee briefly considered the Highway Tracker Survey 2007.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Highways Committee be authorised to complete and return the survey.

14. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 24th January 2008 at 7.30p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

