

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 9th OCTOBER 2008 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
Cllr Mr V Sewell (*arrived 8.00 p.m.*)

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from 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 12th June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Springcroft

The Committee considered two reports on meetings held with Kent Highway Services on 30th July 2008 and 8th September 2008. The Committee was advised of further communication from Kent Highway Services confirming that the green area in front of the properties in Springcroft were contained within the householders' deeds. In view of this Kent Highway Services proposed to enter into discussions with the householder/s to obtain their agreement for the construction to soakaways in the green.

RESOLVED: That, enquiries be made with Kent Highway Services to establish how it intends to proceed with negotiations in respect of the construction of two deep bore soakaways in the green areas at Springcroft.

5. Parking at Cherry Trees

The Committee was advised of an e mail from the agent acting on behalf of the landowners at the Cherry Trees shops confirming that arrangements would be made for appropriate repairs to be undertaken to the bollards and paving slabs in front and to the side of the shops. Furthermore the landowners confirmed they had no objection to a proposal to plant two new trees replacing trees that had either died or been removed, subject to confirmation that the tree roots would not affect the structure and integrity of the building. The Committee was informed of a report received by the Clerk that a resident had recently incurred injuries as the result of a fall whilst getting out of her car in the lay-by next to Budgens.

The Committee was informed of advice received from Kent Highway Services on the extent of the safety audit required in advance of any works to remove the island and realign the parking in front of the shops. It was reported that further clarification had been sought from Kent Highway Services on the level of safety audit required, more particularly whether the audit had to comply with the requirements of HD19/03. No response had been received to the Council's request for clarification.

It was reported that each of the six shopkeepers had been informed of efforts by the Parish Council to improve the environment around the shops and asked to comment on the matter. The Committee considered responses received from two of the shopkeepers.

The Committee was advised that a new “customer parking” sign had been delivered to the Parish Office.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) enquiries be made with the landowners to establish when the repairs to the bollards and paving slabs in front and to the side of the shop would be carried out,
- (2) advice and costings be obtained in respect of the planting of two new trees,
- (3) Kent Highway Services be asked to respond to the Council’s request for clarification on the level of safety audit required,
- (4) comments received from two shop keepers be noted and,
- (5) arrangements be made for the new “customer parking” sign to be fixed at the entrance to the car park.

6. Stack Lane

The Committee noted that since the last meeting the potholes in narrow section of Stack Lane had now been filled in and that Stack Lane in the vicinity of the primary school had been resurfaced with roadstone. The County Councillor expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of work undertaken and agreed to take the matter up with the Education Authority and Public Rights of Way. It was reported potholes were present at the junction between Stack Lane and Carmelite Way.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) the report be noted and,
- (2) Kent Highways Authority be informed of potholes at the junction of Stack Lane and Carmelite Way.

Cllr Mr V Sewell arrived at the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

7. Bus Services

(a) The Committee considered complaints received about the timing of the first available 489 bus service for those residents eligible to use the free bus pass. The Committee was informed that the free bus pass could only be used by eligible residents after 0900.

The Committee was advised that in the past Arriva had run a 489 bus service departing from New Ash Green, Redhill Wood at 0855, which enabled Hartley residents to use their free bus pass. This service had since been altered and now departed New Ash Green, Redhill Wood at 0845, arriving at Longfield Station at 0857. Eligible Hartley residents were, therefore, no longer able to use their free bus pass on this service. The next 489 bus service did not leave New Ash Green until 1000.

RESOLVED: That, the complaint about the timing of the first available 489 bus service for residents eligible to use the free bus pass be noted and Arriva be asked to offer an explanation about the rescheduling of its early morning bus service.

(b) The Council considered a complaint from a resident about the reliability of the local bus service. Arriva had responded to the resident’s complaints, but the Committee was informed that the resident contested the accuracy of the response received.

RESOLVED: That, representations be made to Arriva about the unreliability of its bus services from Hartley.

8. Parking restrictions

(a) The Committee was reminded that the Council had considered two schemes to address parking and safety issues at Cherry Trees and Quakers Close at a meeting held on 8th September 2008 and had responded to Sevenoaks District Council expressing its support for the schemes.

(b) The Committee considered a scheme to address parking and safety issues at Round Ash Way, Oast Way, Conifer Avenue, Fairby Lane and Chantry Avenue, as set out in under file number “Hartley-Fairby Lane proposals -231106.pdf” attached to a letter dated 3rd September 2008 from Sevenoaks District Council.

The Committee considered letters from two residents of Chantry Avenue, one of which had submitted representations to Sevenoaks District Council opposing the proposal to install double yellow lines outside her property, whilst the other resident supported, in principle, the scheme and had included further suggestions to improve the safety of children attending the primary school.

RECOMMENDED: That, the waiting restrictions at Round Ash Way, Oast Way, Conifer Avenue, Fairby Lane and Chantry Avenue, as proposed by Sevenoaks District Council and as set out in under file number “Hartley-Fairby Lane proposals -231106.pdf” be supported.

(c) The Committee considered a scheme to address parking and safety issues at Church Road, Stack Lane and Woodland Avenue, as set out in under file name “Hartley – Church Road proposals -290306.pdf” attached to a letter dated 30th September 2008 from Sevenoaks District Council.

RECOMMENDED: That, the waiting restrictions at Church Road, Stack Lane and Woodland Avenue, as proposed by Sevenoaks District Council and as set out in under file name “Hartley – Church Road proposals -290306.pdf” be supported.

9. Chantry Avenue

The Committee considered a letter dated 16th June 2008 from resident requesting modifications to Ash Road at the junction with Chantry Avenue to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing at this juncture. Whilst the Committee sympathised with the resident’s concerns, it felt that in light of previous experience in dealing with Kent Highway Services to secure traffic calming measures on Ash Road, any attempts to obtain further traffic calming measures would be unsuccessful. Furthermore the Committee noted there was an alternative safe means to cross Ash Road at the pedestrian crossing next to Round Ash Way.

RESOLVED: That, the letter be noted.

10. Round Ash Way

The Committee considered correspondence from a resident to the local County Council member claiming that the boundary wall to her property had been damaged as a result of traffic accessing Hartley Primary School. The local County Council member explained that the Education Authority had paid for some of the repairs, but the resident was claiming that the wall required further repairs and was seeking additional assistance, which would be investigated by Kent County Council.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

11. Interactive Speed Sign – Ash Road

The Committee was informed that Kent Highway Services had confirmed there was no funding available to undertake a traffic survey of Ash Road to ascertain whether the interactive speed sign had reduced traffic speeds. The County Councillor explained that as the interactive speed sign had been funded outside the Highways budget, there was no obligation on the part of the Highways Authority to demonstrate value for money. Kent Highway Services had advised that, should the Parish Council be willing to fund the survey, it could undertake the works.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

12. Kent Highway Services

(a) Community Liaison Officer

A report of a meeting with Hartley's Community Liaison Officer held on 10th September 2008 about the new reporting procedures was tabled for discussion.

RESOLVED: That, report be noted

(b) Technical customer support

The Committee considered an e mail dated 17th July 2008 introducing the Countywide Improvements Officer for the West Kent Division of Kent County Council, Kent Highway Services. She had invited any queries or comments regarding road and footpath resurfacing schemes in the Hartley area.

RESOLVED: That, the e mail be noted.

13. Parish spreadsheet

The Committee examined the Hartley Parish List and the parish spreadsheet received by the Parish Council on 1st September 2008. The Hartley Parish List and parish spreadsheet received on 1st October 2008 was tabled for information. Members were invited to contact the Clerk if there were any matters arising from the lists.

RESOLVED: That, Hartley Parish List and Spreadsheet received on 1st October 2008 be noted.

14. Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 26th June 2008.

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 26th June 2008 be noted.

15. Kent County Council Draft Permit scheme

The Committee noted the outcome of the public consultation on the Kent County Council Draft Permit scheme.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

16. South Ash Road

The Committee was informed of a complaint received by the local County Council member from a resident of New Ash Green about South Ash Road. The resident had expressed concerns about the safety of cyclists using the road and the unsuitability of the road for use by heavy goods vehicles. The County Councillor had invited the views of the Parish Council, particularly whether it would support any campaign to upgrade the road.

Whilst the Committee generally supported initiatives to improve the safety of road users on South Ash Road, concerns were expressed that any measures to upgrade the road could cause an increase in the volume of traffic through Hartley.

17. Speedwatch

The Committee considered a report on a speedwatch demonstration attended by the Clerk and Councillor Oxtoby at Crockenhill Village Hall on 2nd September 2008.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and enquires be made with the Police Community Support Officers to establish whether they would be able to operate the equipment.

18. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 11th December 2008 at 7.30p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....