

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER 2008 AT 7.30 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr Mr D Brazier (co-opted)
Cllr Mr M Harris (Chairman)
Cllr Mr J Minns

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Cllr Mr B Ramsay
1 member of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mr J Gaywood, Cllr Mr D Graeme, Cllr Mr S Granger and Cllr Mr V Sewell.

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 9th October 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Northfield

The meeting was adjourned at 7.32 p.m. to allow the property owner of "The Poplars" to inform the Committee of the problem associated with the surface water run off from Northfield.

The resident explained that there was a kerb-side gully located outside each of the properties known as "The Poplars" and "Oak Lodge" in Church Road. The gully located outside "The Poplars" discharged via a pipe directly into the front garden of "The Poplars". The gully located outside "Oak Lodge" discharged into a soakaway located in the front garden of "Oak Lodge". It was understood that the two gullies were connected.

The resident reported that these gullies and the soakaway could cope with the ordinary surface water flowing off the highway, but during periods of persistent rain,, surface water discharged off Northfield onto the highway and overloaded the existing drainage system, causing unacceptable volumes of water to discharge into the front garden of "The Poplars" and the soakaway at "Oak Lodge" to overflow. The resident informed the Committee that this had occurred on 8 occasions since January 2008 and showed photographs to demonstrate the problem. The resident felt that the situation had got worse since the agricultural use of the field had stopped.

The resident informed the Committee of a meeting held on 11th January 2008 attended by Kent Highway Services, Secretary of the Northfield Management Committee and the owners of "The Poplars" and "Oak Lodge". At that meeting Kent Highway Services had undertaken to prepare a report, which to date had not been forthcoming.

The meeting resumed at 7.40 p.m.

The Committee expressed its disappointment that no progress had been made since the problem had been reported in January 2008. The County Councillor agreed to take the matter up with Kent Highway Services.

RESOLVED: That, (1) a site meeting be arranged with Kent Highway Services to discuss the matter further and, (2) the problem be reported on the Parish Spreadsheet.

5. Springcroft

It was reported that Kent Highway Services had sent letters to each householder fronting the green areas in Springcroft seeking their views on a proposal to install two deep bore soakaways and that so far, Kent Highway Services had received only one negative response. The Committee considered a personal approach from the County Councillor and representatives from the Parish Council could be helpful.

The Committee questioned whether the soakaways could be installed in the pavement or road should the proposal to install the soakaways in the green areas prove not to be practical. The Committee expressed its concerns that any delays could jeopardise the funding for the project and felt that Kent Highway Services should be pursuing the matter with greater urgency.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) residents with properties fronting the green areas in Springcroft be approached to seek their views on proposals to install soakaways on the green area and that the Clerk be asked to write to said residents advising them that the local County Councillor or a Member of the Parish Council would be calling on them early in the New Year and,
- (2) a meeting be arranged with Kent Highway Services in conjunction with minute item 4(2) above.

6. Parking at Cherry Trees

At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was 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.*

It was reported that:

- (1) The landowners' agent had been informed of repairs required to the bollards and paving slabs outside the shops. As a result repairs had been undertaken to re fix the bollards.
- (2) A local tree surgeon had advised that Acer trees would be suitable for planting outside the shops.
- (3) No response had been received from Kent Highway Services in respect of the Council's enquiry about the level of safety audit required, i.e. whether it needed to comply with the requirements of HD19/03.
- (4) Resident at 23 Cherry Trees had given written consent to the installation of a "customer parking" sign.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted and Kent Highway Services be pursued for a response on the level of safety audit required.

7. Speedwatch

The Committee considered a letter dated 20th November 2008 from Swanley Town Council enquiring whether Hartley Parish Council would be interested in purchasing a Speedwatch sign in partnership with other local councils. The Committee noted that previous appeals for volunteers to operate a Speedwatch sign had been unsuccessful and that advice was being

sought from the Police on whether Police Community Support Officers could operate the scheme.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

8. Bus Services

At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that,

- (1) *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 and,*
- (2) *representations be made to Arriva about the unreliability of its bus services from Hartley.*

The Committee considered a letter 20th November 2008 from Arriva Southern Counties in response to (1) and (2). The bus company advised that it was sometimes necessary to alter the timing of some services to meet the requirements of the entire network and that in doing so there could be an adverse knock on effect. The bus company undertook to take account of the Parish Council's views when it next reviewed services, but was not able to provide any assurances that its comments would be acted upon. Comments on the general unreliability of the service would be directed to the Local Operations Manager.

It was reported that representatives from Hartley Parish Council had been invited by Southfleet Parish Council to a meeting with Arriva Southern Counties on 12th December 2008 to discuss common issues of concern over local bus services. Longfield and New Barn Parish Council and Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council would also be in attendance.

RESOLVED: That, the letter dated 20th November 2008 from Arriva Southern Counties be noted.

9. Request for footpath

The Committee considered a request for the provision of a footpath on Church Road between the pond and the entrance to Manor Field. The Committee felt there was insufficient space to construct a footpath without significant vegetation and tree clearance, and would be impractical due to land ownership issues of the verge/embankment.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the resident be thanked for the suggestion and informed of the Committee's views and, (2) no further action be taken.

10. Parish spreadsheet

The Committee examined the Hartley Parish List received by the Parish Council on 2nd December 2008. The Committee expressed concern about the quality of the entries included in the Parish List.

RESOLVED: That, Hartley Parish List received on 2nd December 2008 be noted.

11. Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 7th October 2008.

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 7th October 2008 be noted.

12. Kent County Council Draft Permit scheme

The Committee noted that Kent County Council was consulting on changes to the Kent Permit Scheme as a result of responses received from stakeholders to the second round of consultation.

RESOLVED: That, the document entitled, "Consultation document on the key changes to the Kent Permit Scheme" be noted.

13. Hartley Sign

The Committee considered a request from a resident to provide new “Hartley” signs on Ash Road at the parish boundaries approaching from Longfield and New Ash Green. The resident commented on the poor condition of the railway bridge.

The Committee noted that the provision of new “Hartley” signs had been agreed when the Highways Authority had upgraded the signage along Ash Road, but that they had never materialised.

RESOLVED: That, enquiries be made with Kent Highway Services on the provision of new “Hartley” signs on Ash Road at the parish boundaries.

14. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 26th February 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....