

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009 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 (Presiding Chairman)  
Cllr Mr J Minns  
Cllr Mr V Sewell

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 and Cllr Mr M Harris.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Northfield**

The Committee considered a report on a meeting with Kent Highways Services held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 to discuss the surface water run off from Northfield.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7.32 p.m. to allow the owner of "The Poplars" to update the Committee.*

*The owner of "The Poplars" explained he was not willing to accept Kent Highway Services' offer to landscape the depressed area in his front garden. He felt that as the flooding problem emanated from Northfield, the owners of the field should take responsibility for remedial works to prevent the flooding.*

*The owner enquired whether the Northfield Management Committee had received any legal advice. It was confirmed that Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council had received legal advice from NALC, but Members of the Highways Committee had not had the opportunity to view this advice.*

*The meeting resumed at 7.42 p.m.*

RESOLVED: That, (1) the legal advice be circulated to Members of the Committee and further clarification be sought on this legal advice, if necessary, and (2) the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Highways Committee.

**5. Springcroft**

The Committee considered reports on meetings with Kent Highway Services held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 to discuss the flooding problem at Springcroft. The Committee questioned whether the following options had been considered:

- Deep boring through or adjacent to the existing two soakaways at the end of Springcroft, including the provision of catchpits and additional soakaways beneath the carriageway as necessary upstream.

- Over digging existing soakaways by 1 to 2 metres in depth or laterally.
- Provision of tank storage within Springcroft.
- A combination of any of the above.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) the reports on meetings with Kent Highway Services held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 be noted and,

(2) enquiries be made to establish whether the options set out above to alleviate the flooding problems at Springcroft had been considered by Kent Highway Services and, where appropriate, provide a justification for rejecting any of the above options.

## 6. Parking at Cherry Trees

At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was reported that following a conversation with the Engineer from Kent Highway Services a written response would be received. It was reported that, despite assurances, no such response had been received.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be noted and (2) Kent Highway Services be pursued for a response on the level of safety audit required.

## 7. Speedwatch

The Committee considered a letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 from the Chief Inspector, West Kent Police, advising that PCSOs were not expected to operate Speedwatch equipment or run the scheme solely on behalf of parish councils without using civilian volunteers.

The Committee questioned the role and powers of the Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the letter from the Chief Inspector be noted and (2) clarification be sought on the role and powers of the Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership.

RECOMMENDED: That, a request be made to the Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership for additional visits to Hartley.

## 8. Bus Services

The Committee considered a report on a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008 with Arriva and local parish councils.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be noted and (2) a survey be undertaken in Hartley to establish the location of any missing bus stops and/or standards.

## 9. Request for a salt bin

The Committee considered requests for a salt bin at Quakers Close and Parkfield. Residents at both these locations had experienced difficulties accessing Ash Road during the recent bad weather.

RECOMMENDED: That, Kent Highway Services be requested to provide salt bins at Quakers Close and Parkfield.

## 10. Request of “village shops” sign

The Committee considered a request from the shopkeeper at Hartley DIY stores for the supply of a “village shops” directional sign.

RECOMMENDED: That, the request be declined.

## 11. Parish Portal – “My Kent Highways Online”

The Committee considered a report on a new initiative from Kent Highway Services to provide the public, parish representatives and council members with a range of online highway

services. The online facility would enable each stakeholder group with the ability to make a request, report and track a fault through its lifecycle, and make a complaint or comment on highway services. The Parish Portal, when operational, would replace the Parish Spreadsheet.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

**12. Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board**

The Committee considered minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting be noted.

**13. Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date:.....