

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 25th JUNE 2009 AT 7.30 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr D Brazier (co-opted)
Cllr D Graeme
Cllr S Granger (Chairman)
Cllr V Sewell

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)
Dr G Cramp
1 member of the public

Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Gaywood, Cllr Minns and Cllr Mrs Oxtoby.

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Granger be elected Chairman of the Highways Committee until the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2010.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Sewell be elected Vice Chairman of the Highways Committee until the Annual meeting of the Council in May 2010.

3. Membership of the Committee

RESOLVED: That, Cllr Brazier be co-opted as a member of the Highways Committee.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brazier declared a personal interest as the local member of Kent County Council.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 16th April 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. Terms of reference

RECOMMENDED: That, the terms of reference of the Highways Committee be amended, as set out in appendix 1 attached to these minutes.

7. Parish Plan

The Committee considered a draft of the Parish Plan on matters contained with the document relating to the Highway Committee. The Highways Committee made the following comments, (*shown in bold italics*):

Page 9 (part)	Section 3 Communications Roads	<i>No alterations</i>
Page 10	Ditto	Action plan – to lobby for the provision of a suitable alternative route north out of <i>from</i> Hartley
Page 10	Ditto	Action plan – to improve the condition of the pavements and road surfaces in Hartley

Page 10	Ditto	Action plan – to ensure that the parking regulations are more strictly enforced specifically as regards pavement parking No alterations
Page 10	Section 3 Communications Roads	Action plan – to lobby for street lighting along that part of Ash Road and Church Road within the main built up area Action plan – to encourage referenda on street lighting to be carried out in Quakers Close, Caxton Close and elsewhere where the survey indicated support for street lighting Two actions plans to be amalgamated and re-worded to reflect the view that investigations should be carried out in order to obtain the views of residents directly effected by the proposal for street lighting in Ash Road, Church Road, Quakers Close and Caxton Close, by undertaking a further survey or by other means. Reference to referenda to be omitted.
Page 11	Section 3 Communications Roads	Action plan – to investigate lobby for investigation into whether the lighting within the Bramblefield Estate and over the footbridge to Longfield could be improved and also whether the maintenance of the footbridge could be improved.
Page 11	Section 3 Communications Roads	Action plan – to ensure that lobby for appropriate further action is taken to improve traffic calming measures throughout the village and speed control particularly on Ash Road
Page 11	Section 3 Communications Roads	Action plan – to lobby our politicians to make it a requirement on granting planning permission that the local road network can accommodate the resulting traffic Re-word so that the local Planning Authority/developer is compelled to consider the impact of development, (both individually and as a collective whole), on existing road network
Page 11	Section 3 Communications Roads	Action plan – to lobby for an increase in the number of trains stopping at Longfield Station during the rush hours and to restore a half hourly service during weekends and evenings No alterations
Page 11	Section 3 Communications Roads	Update paragraph to reflect new access to south side of Longfield station
Page 11	Section 3 Communications	Action plan – to lobby for an entrance to Longfield Station on the south side with a

	Roads	ticket machine Alter to reflect new access to station (as above)
Page 13	Buses	Action plan – To lobby to improve bus services..... No alterations
Page 13	Community bus	Action plan – To look into the feasibility of providing a local and more widely available, community bus to assist elderly and disabled residents. No alterations
Page 22 (part)	Section 8 Local shops and businesses	No alterations
Page 23	Section 8 Local shops and businesses	Action plan – to endeavour to find solutions to problems of litter and parking at the Cherry Tree Shops and to improve the condition of the building
Page 25 (part)	Section 9 Public utilities	Action plan – to exert pressure on Kent County Council to improve the drainage system at Springcroft in order to solve the drainage problem No alteration
Page 25 (part)	Section 9 Public utilities	Action plan – to discourage any further development which is likely to cause an increase in flooding at Springcroft No alteration
Page 26 (part)	Section 9 Public utilities	No alteration

RECOMMENDED: That, the suggested alterations made by the Highways Committee, as set out above, be considered by the Council at its meeting to be held on Monday 13th July 2009.

8. Northfield

The Committee was reminded that the Council at a meeting held on 8th June 2009, had considered a report on a meeting with Kent Highway Services and local residents held on 1st June 2009 to discuss the problems associated with surface water run-off from Northfield.

The Committee was advised that the landowner of Northfield, the New Ash Green Village Association Ltd, had given its consent for site investigations to be undertaken by Kent Highway Services on the feasibility of providing a soakaway in the corner of the field opposite The Poplars, Church Road. The site investigation would take the form of sinking a bore hole. The Committee was informed that the site investigation had not so far been carried out.

RESOLVED: That, the report be received and noted.

9. Springcroft

At a meeting of the Highways Committee on 26th February 2009 it has been reported that Kent Highway Services intended to investigate the feasibility of extending the surface water drain at the end of Springcroft to discharge into either a pond or a new soakaway on land located

beyond at Heort-Lea, Simmons Drive, or to discharge into a new soakaway located in Hartley Wood.

The Committee was advised that discussions had taken place with the owner of Heort-Lea, Simmons Drive about the feasibility of using or crossing over his land. Kent Highway Services had concluded that this was not a viable option due to the damage it would cause to the property. Kent Highway Services were making arrangements for a ground radar survey to be undertaken to locate the position of services in the highway at the end of Springcroft, with a view to providing a small soakaway at this locality. This would provide a temporary solution for upto 15 years.

RESOLVED: That, the report be received and noted.

10. Parking at Cherry Trees

The Committee was advised that Kent Highway Services were seeking to obtain a copy of the original planning consent for the shops from Sevenoaks District Council and copies of deeds to identify land ownership from the Kent Highways Definition Team.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be received and noted and (2) Kent Highway Services be provided with copies of documentation held by the Parish Council relating to the original planning consent and land registry details.

11. Speedwatch

There was no further data available from the Police regarding recent enforcements of speed restrictions.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

12. Bus Services

(a) The Committee examined a survey on the location and condition of bus stops in Hartley, which identified a number of missing posts and flags, and overgrown vegetation obstructing posts and flags.

The Committee was advised that the Implementation Plan, contained in the draft Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport 2009 – 2026, (stage 2), referred to bus stops throughout Hartley, and in particular the bus stop at Chantry Avenue, which were recommended for improvements works including replacement posts and flags, provision of timetable information, provision of bus clearways and raised kerbs, subject to future Local Transport Plan funding and programming.

RESOLVED: That, issues identified in the survey undertaken of bus posts and flags in Hartley be taken up with the relevant authorities.

(b) The Committee considered a report of a meeting with Arriva Southern Counties and neighbouring Parish Councils on 15th May 2009.

RESOLVED: That, the report be received and noted.

13. Village shop directional sign

At a meeting of the Highways Committee held on the 26th February 2009 the Committee had recommended the request for the supply of a “*village shops*” directional sign be declined. The matter was considered by the Council at a meeting held on 9th March 2009, at which the Highways Committee was asked to come forward with a clear proposal on where a “*village shops*” sign could be sited.

RECOMMENDED: That, no further action be taken in respect of the request for the provision of “*village shops*” directional sign, as no suitable location could be identified.

14. Kent Highway Services – Drainage assets

The Committee was advised that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the maintenance of ditches falls on the owners of the land, even if Kent Highway Services have drainage rights into the ditch. Kent Highway Services are seeking the assistance of parish councils to collate a database of the ownership of ditches in their parish and would be willing to meet with the Parish Council to discuss in more detail.

RESOLVED: That, (1) Kent Highway Services be advised that the Parish Council has no record of ditches in the parish and therefore is not able to offer any assistance and (2) Kent Highway Services be advised to contact Messrs H F & J H Glover regarding the locality of any ditches on their land.

15. Kent Highway Services – District Soft Estate Maintenance Schedules

The Committee considered the District's soft estate maintenance schedules and an overview of how Kent Highway Services deals with enquiries relating to vegetation, grass cutting and trees.

RESOLVED: That the reports be received and noted.

16. Kent Highway Services – Parish Portal

The Committee was informed that a basic service of the Parish Portal was now available to Hartley Parish Council. When fully operational the Parish Portal will allow stakeholders the ability to report highway faults on-line, raise enquiries on-line, track progress and view summary performance data. The service should be extended at the end of July to allow parish councils to raise logs on line. Training will be organised by Kent Highway Services in due course.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

17. Kent Highway Services – Invitation to meet KHS engineers

The Committee considered an invitation from the Community Liaison Officer to meet with engineers from Kent Highways Services. The Committee was advised engineers are not available to meet with parish councils in the evening.

RESOLVED: That, the invitation to meet with engineers be accepted and a suitable agenda prepared.

18. Flower stall outside the Black Lion, Ash Road

The Committee was advised of anonymous letters in respect of a flower stall located outside the Black Lion.

The Committee was informed that the Police had received complaints and advise that the flower stall is located on land owned by the owners of the Black Lion PH and does not need a trading licence. At the request of the police, the stallholder has moved advertising boards off the public footpath, which were causing any obstruction. The police are monitoring the situation.

RESOLVED: That, the reports be noted.

19. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 3rd September 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date:.....

Public Question Time

Dr Cramp expressed his concerns about the planning conditions imposed on the planning permission granted in 1968 for the Cherry Tree shops, which in his opinion had completely failed to achieve their objectives to address parking, cleanliness and visual amenity.

Highways Committee

Terms of Reference

1. To determine the ~~problems~~ ***issues** and assess the priorities associated with traffic, ***highway and associated infrastructure** ~~issues~~ within the Parish, ***and to negotiate with the relevant authorities.** .
2. To meet from time to time as deemed necessary by members of the committee.
3. To co opt, for such time as is necessary, members of the public to the committee.
4. ~~To examine and make proposals to the Council on issues affecting highways and byways within the Parish and to negotiate with the relevant authorities.~~

*** proposed additions shown in bold italics**