

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 p.m. AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH  
ROAD**

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

In attendance: Mrs J Hoad (Clerk)  
Cllr B Ramsay  
2 members of the public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Gaywood, Cllr Minns, Cllr Mrs Oxtoby and Cllr 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 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Northfield**

At the previous meeting of the Highways Committee it was reported that the landowner, New Ash Green Village Association Ltd, had given its consent to a bore hole being sunk on Northfield to assess whether the area was suitable for the provision of a soakaway.

The Committee was advised that the exploratory works had taken place on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009. It was reported that the initial findings indicate chalk at a depth of 1.5 metres below ground level, with clay-with-flints overlying. Soakage tests within the chalk had shown the permeability of the chalk improved with depth. The Highways Engineer had informed the Council that due to the shallow depth of the chalk, a suitable system could be designed to reduce the run off and alleviate the flooding. It was reported that the Environment Agency had approved the works. A full report from Jacobs was awaited.

The Committee was advised that at a meeting of Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009 it had been resolved that Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council would not be prepared to have a soakaway on Northfield.

RESOLVED: That, (1) the report be received and noted, (2) clarification be sought from Kent Highway Services on whether the County Council would fund the installation of a soakaway on Northfield and (3) the matter be deferred pending receipt of the full report from Jacobs.

**5. Springcroft**

(a) It was reported that the ground radar survey undertaken in the turning area at the end of Springcroft had been completed. The survey had identified an area where it would be possible to install a soakaway. It was planned to undertake

soakage tests during the first week in September. Residents in the turning area had been advised of progress.

RESOLVED: That, the report be received and noted.

(b) The Committee considered a letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009 from a resident responding to the provisional findings of the Local Government Ombudsmen in respect of a formal complaint against Kent Highway Services. The Committee noted that the Local Government Ombudsmen did not propose to pursue the complaint and would not be taking any further action. The Committee was advised that the resident had taken the matter up with Kent Highways Services, the local Member for Kent County Council and the local Member of Parliament.

RESOLVED: That, the correspondence be noted.

## 6. Parking at Cherry Trees

It was reported that the Clerk had provided the Highways Engineer with copies of the original planning consent relating to the shops at Cherry Trees and the land registry details.

Views were expressed about the untidy condition of the area surrounding the shops. The Committee felt this matter could be taken up once the action plan for the Parish Plan had been published.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

## 7. Church Road

Following an enquiry from a resident, the Committee was informed that Kent County Council no longer promoted the Quiet Lanes Scheme. The resident had taken the matter up with Kent Highway Services and had been informed that additional signage could be installed, but before investigating the matter further the approval of the Parish Council would be necessary. The Committee felt that any additional signage would largely be ignored and considered the Council should be supporting action to reduce sign clutter rather than increasing it.

RECOMMENDED: That, no further action be taken to seek additional signage on Church Road.

## 8. County Council Member Highway Fund

The Committee was advised of the new Kent County Council Member Highway Fund. Each County Council Member may recommend spending up to a maximum of £25,000 during each financial year on minor highway works. Capital and revenue funded works are eligible and funds may be rolled over for two years. Examples include resurfacing, integrated traffic schemes, streetlights, interactive signs, traffic calming, grass cutting and road safety training for schools.

The Committee considered two schemes: (1) the provision of salt bins at the junctions of Parkfield and Quakers Close with Ash Road and (2) a safety barrier on the edge of the footpath outside the entrance to the Post Office, Ash Road. The County Councillor felt that the salt bins could be provided through Kent Highway Services. If this was not possible, he would be willing to support their provision through the Highway Members Fund.

RECOMMENDED: That, (1) the Council seeks funding through the County Council Member Highway Fund for the provision of a safety barrier on the edge of the footpath outside the entrance to the Post Office in Ash Road and (2) the Post Office be advised of this matter.

**9. Network Rail**

The Committee was advised of a complaint from a member of the public about the condition of the railway bridge at Longfield. Network Rail confirmed there were no plans to refurbish the bridge during 2009/10, but it had been recommended a painting programme be undertaken in the near future.

The resident had also complained about the condition of a number of road name signs and signs on the parish boundaries. It was reported that the matter had been taken up with Sevenoaks District Council and Kent Highway Highways respectively.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted and the Clerk's actions confirmed.

**10. Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Chairman

**Public Question Time**

Mrs Sharp questioned whether the Northfield Management Committee had any responsibility over the surface water discharge off Northfield.

Mr Zoller referred to possible legal action that could be taken by Kent County Council in respect of the surface water discharge off Northfield onto the public highway.

Cllr Graeme asked for an update on the condition of the bus stops.