

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 28th JANUARY 2010 AT 7.30 p.m.
AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

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

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

1. Apologies

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

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 November 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Traffic calming

The Committee considered a request from a resident for an investigation to be carried out into the speed of traffic and for traffic calming measures to be introduced on Wellfield. The request had been made to Kent County Council who informed the resident that they should, in the first instance, direct their concerns to Hartley Parish Council.

The Committee felt it unlikely that any traffic calming measures could be introduced on Wellfield as the highway did not have the benefit of street lighting. Furthermore Wellfield was on a bus route and any traffic calming measures would not be popular with bus companies. However the Committee considered that Hartley Parish Council was not in a position to comment formally on the proposal and that it was a matter for the Highway Authority.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) the e mail dated 21st January 2010 from a resident requesting traffic calming measures be introduced on Wellfield be received and noted,
- (2) the matter be referred back to the Highway Authority for due consideration; and
- (3) the resident be informed of Hartley Parish Council's actions.

5. Salt bins

The Committee considered a letter dated 15th January 2010 from Cllr Alford in support of the provision of a salt bin at Parkfield. Cllr Brazier explained the scoring process adopted by Kent Highway Services in assessing requests for salt bins. It was understood that the application for a salt bin at Parkfield had scored 100 points and that a score of 120 points was required in order to reach the second stage of the assessment process. The number of successful applications depended on the budget allocation and that only salt bins scoring in excess of 185 points had been successful.

Cllr Brazier reaffirmed his commitment to fund the provision of a salt bin at Parkfield through the Members' Highways Fund, but explained that Kent County Council was not able to fund the filling of the bin with salt and looked to local councils for assistance.

Whilst the Committee was grateful for the County Councillor's offer to fund the provision of a salt bin at Parkfield, the Committee expressed some concern that a precedent could be established if the Parish Council agreed to fund the filling of a salt bin and that it could be faced with a number of requests for salt bins elsewhere in the parish. A number of other locations in the parish which could also benefit from the provision of salt bin were suggested.

The Committee expressed concern that the salting routes did not include some of the bus routes in Hartley and questioned whether St Johns Lane, Woodland Avenue and Wellfield should be included on the salting route. Reference was made to previous criteria for salting roads on bus routes serving areas of social housing. Woodland Avenue and Wellfield would fall into that category.

Cllr Brazier explained the difficulties encountered by Kent Highway Services during the recent severe weather, which had been exacerbated by the prolonged period of snow. Resources had been concentrated on A and B roads, and roads of strategic importance for commuters and as a result the salting of secondary routes, such as Church Road, had been delayed, although he reported that these secondary routes were eventually salted.

RECOMMENDED: That, the County Councillor be thanked for his offer to fund the provision of a salt bin at Parkfield, but the County Councillor be informed that Hartley Parish Council is unable to take on the responsibility of filling the bin with salt.

6. Northfield

The Committee considered a report on the provision of soakaway on Northfield. At a meeting held on 14th December 2010 the Council had approved, in principle, the installation of a soakaway on Northfield, but had expressed some concerns about the longevity and sustainability of design proposals put forward by consultants, Jacobs. These comments had been passed to Kent Highway Services, who were discussing the matter with their consultants with a view to incorporating as many of those comments as possible in a revised scheme. As soon as a suitable plan had come forward, work would commence on the easement.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

7. Springcroft

The Committee was advised that Kent Highway Services would commence work to install a soakaway in Springcroft in mid February 2010.

RESOLVED: That, the report be noted.

8. Traffic Regulation Order at schools in Sevenoaks District

The Committee was advised that Sevenoaks District Council was currently considering the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to cover all schools within the Sevenoaks District. When in place the TRO would cover every school with yellow zig-zag markings at school entrances and would allow enforcement action to be taken against anyone contravening the TRO. It was reported that currently no enforcement action could be taken on those zig-zag markings where no TRO was in place. Sevenoaks did not intend to install any new zig-zag markings.

Inaccuracies in the draft Order relating to the address of Hartley Primary School and Our Lady of Hartley Primary School had been brought to the attention of Sevenoaks District Council.

The Committee was reminded of the procedure to be followed when informing Sevenoaks District Council of illegal parking. All reports of illegal parking should be directed to Sevenoaks District Council through the Parish Clerk.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) no comment be made on Sevenoaks District Council's proposal to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order on all existing zig-zag markings at school entrances within the Sevenoaks District and
- (2) Sevenoaks District Council be advised of illegal parking at Cherry Trees and The Warrens.

9. Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007

The Committee was advised that the Kent Permit Scheme had been approved by the Secretary of State and that the Scheme had commenced operation on 25th January 2010. From 25th January 2010 promoters of all works or activities specified in the Scheme would be required to obtain a permit from Kent County Council before starting work on the highway. Working without a permit or working in contravention of conditions attached to the permit would be an offence subject to a fixed penalty notice issued by the Council.

10. Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 15th December 2009.

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 15th December 2009 be noted.

11. Management of Vehicle Obstructions to Private Access

The Committee considered Kent County Council's Policy for new and refreshed white "access highlight" markings on public highways which came into immediate effect. The policy sets out the processes to be considered when applying for

consents to place white “access highlight” line markings on the public highway and the costs involved.

The Committee noted that the white “access highlight” lines were not legally enforceable and that obstructive parking could only be enforced by the Police.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) Kent County Council’s Policy for white “access highlight” markings on public highways be noted; and

(2) details of Kent County Council’s Policy for white “access highlight” markings on public highways be included in the next available edition of the Council’s newsletter.

12. Jacobs

The Committee considered a letter dated 2nd December 2009 from Jacobs offering the professional services of the company’s engineering team at reduced hourly rates. The services offered include (a) safety assessments and advice; (b) signs and carriageway markings design and advice; (c) non motorised users surveys including footpaths and cycle facilities; (d) road and highway improvement schemes-design and advice; (e) road crash analysis and studies; (f) speed limit analysis using KCC adopted criteria and (h) in service review of existing highway issues and conditions.

RESOLVED: That, a letter dated 2nd December 2009 from Jacobs offering their professional services be noted.

13. Kent Highway Services Online

(a) It was reported that Kent County Council had a web page that allowed members of the public to report and track any faults on the road. The Committee felt that a link to this webpage from the Hartley Parish Council website would be helpful.

RESOLVED: That,

(1) a link be included on the Hartley Parish Council website to the webpage on the Kent County Council website for members of the public to report faults; and

(2) details of Kent County Council’s web page allowing members of the public to report and track faults be publicised in the next available edition of the Council’s newsletter.

(b) The Committee expressed concerns about the tracking process on Kent Highways Online and referred to a case whereby a fault had been reported in Dickens Close, which when tracked showed that the fault had been resolved. The fault had been inspected and a minor repair carried out, although the root cause of the fault had not been rectified and the fault had been reported again. However the tracking system still showed the fault as being resolved. The Committee considered the term used to record the status of the report as being “resolved” was misleading. Cllr Brazier agreed to take this matter up.

14. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 25th March 2010 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: