

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010 AT 7.30 p.m.  
AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

Present: Cllr D Brazier (co-opted)  
Cllr J Gaywood  
Cllr D Graeme  
Cllr S Granger (Chairman)  
Cllr J Minns  
Cllr Mrs A Oxtoby  
Cllr V Sewell

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

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Brazier declared a personal interest under minute items 4 in respect of the proposals to switch off or reduce the intensity of street lighting on Ash Road and minute item 10 in respect of the review of Kent County Council's Winter Service Policy, as he was the Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Street Lighting**

The Committee considered a report prepared by Cllr Brazier on proposals to switch off or reduce the intensity of street lighting on Ash Road in order to save energy and reduce costs.

The Committee noted that the section of Ash Road effected by the proposals extended from Larksfield to the parish boundary of Longfield and New Barn and that there had been a number of road traffic accidents on this section of the highway, one of which had resulted in a fatality. The Committee was advised that the train service to Longfield Station had been extended into the early hours of the morning and that the presence of street lighting assisted pedestrians walking up the hill late at night. The Committee questioned why and when the street lighting had been installed. The Committee expressed a diversity of views on the provision of street lighting in Hartley and referred to the Hartley Parish Plan which had surveyed residents on the matter.

The Committee noted that any proposals would be subject to full risk assessments, safety audit and consultation.

**RECOMMENDED:** That, in principle Hartley Parish Council favours the proposal to switch off the street lights on the section of Ash Road from Larksfield and the parish boundary of Longfield and New Barn, subject to the outcome of full risk assessments, safety audit and consultation.

## **5. Northfield**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7.50 p.m. to allow Mr Zoller to advise the Committee of discussions he had had with Kent Highway Services.*

*The meeting resumed at 7.53 p.m.*

The Committee considered a report on progress to install a soakaway on Northfield.

At a meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 the Council approved, in principle, the installation of a soakaway on Northfield, subject to a number of conditions set out in a letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Kent Highway Services forwarded Hartley Parish Council's comments to its consultants and was informed that as many of those comments would be incorporated where possible. Furthermore Hartley Parish Council was informed that as soon as a suitable plan had come forward work would commence on the easement.

Hartley Parish Council was advised on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 that works to install a soakaway would commence on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010. Kent Highway Services enquired whether the New Ash Green Village Association would be willing to agree to the start of the works on 22<sup>nd</sup> March using a letter of understanding in advance of the completion of the necessary legal paperwork. Kent Highway Services confirmed that works would take into account the previous list of concerns and amendments raised by the Association, although Hartley Parish Council was not aware of those concerns or amendments.

Hartley Parish Council was later informed on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 that the works to install the soakaway would not proceed on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 as the workforce had been deployed to another job and it would be unlikely that the works could commence for at least 3 weeks.

No response had been received to requests from Hartley Parish Council for a site meeting in advance of the start of the construction works. Furthermore no letter of understanding had been provided to Hartley Parish Council.

The Committee noted Mr Zoller's information in relation to the installation of the soakaway and that the revised plans currently being drawn up by Kent Highway Services consultants should be available by the end of April. A copy of the revised plan would be forwarded to the Council and a site meeting arranged thereafter.

**RESOLVED:** That,

- (1) the report be received and noted; and
- (2) the matter be pursued with Kent Highway Services.

## **6. Springcroft**

The Committee was advised that Kent Highway Services had completed the installation of a soakaway in the turning area at the end of Springcroft and that the new soakaway appeared to be working satisfactorily.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) the report be received and noted; and
- (2) a letter of thanks be sent to the Leader of Kent County Council and copied to the Head of the Drainage Team.

## **7. Buses**

The Committee considered notes of a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010 with Arriva Southern Counties and the parish councils of Southfleet, Ash-cum-Ridley and Hartley.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received and noted;
- (2) the matter relating to the replacement of the damaged bus stop at Hartley Green which had since been removed be pursued with Arriva Southern Counties; and
- (3) Arriva Southern Counties be advised of the missing bus stop at the Cherry Trees shops.

## **8. Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board**

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

RESOLVED: That, the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 be noted.

## **9. Winter Services Policy and Plan**

The Committee was advised of a consultation exercise being undertaken by Kent Highway Services on its Winter Service Policy and Plan which would take the form of an online survey. The outcome of the consultation would be reported to the Kent County Council's Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July.

The Committee considered the current Winter Service Policy. Questions were raised in relation to the responsibilities of farmers to clear the roads. The Committee was advised that Messrs H F & J H Glover and the New Ash Green Village Association each had access to a snow plough and were paid an hourly rate to clear the minor roads where they considered it necessary. It was confirmed that they were not officially provided with grit, although in the past the New Ash Green Village Association had received supplies of grit.

The County Councillor explained the problems faced by Kent Highway Services during the severe weather experienced at the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010. He reiterated that Kent Highway Services did not have the resources to deal effectively with the snow other than to ensure that the strategic routes throughout the County were kept clear as far as possible.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Highways Committee, be authorised to complete the online survey on the review of the Winter Services Policy when it becomes available.

**10. Date of the next meeting**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....