

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011 AT 7.30 p.m.  
AT HARTLEY LIBRARY, ASH ROAD**

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

In attendance: Mrs H Gilder (Assistant Clerk)  
1 member of the public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr J Gaywood

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Brazier declared a personal interest under minute item 4 in respect of Kent Highways Services Winter Service Handbook as he is 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 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Kent Highway Services – Winter Service Handbook 2010 – 11**

a) The Committee considered the Winter Service Handbook 2010-11 for the Sevenoaks District from Kent Highway Services.

RESOLVED: That,

the Winter Service Handbook 2010-11 for the Sevenoaks District, be received and noted.

b) The Committee considered the response received from Kent Highway Services to a request for St. Johns Lane, Woodland Avenue and Wellfield to be included on the salting routes.

The Committee noted that Wellfield and Woodland Avenue were included in priority 5 for hand gritting of both the carriageway and footway and that Kent Highway Services were planning to review St Johns Lane.

RESOLVED: That,

the matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Highways Committee, pending the outcome of Kent Highway Services review of St Johns Lane.

c) The Committee considered concerns expressed by a resident about the gritting of the secondary salting route along Hartley Bottom Road which does not extend over the railway bridge as it is not Kent County Council property, but is the responsibility of the railway authority. The resident had requested that if it is not possible to grit over the railway bridge, a salt bin be provided.

RESOLVED: That,

- 1) Clarification be sought from Kent County Council and network Rail regarding responsibility for the salting of the railway bridge.
- 2) Kent Highway Services be requested to provide a salt bin on Hartley Bottom Road, adjacent to the railway bridge.
- 3) The resident be informed of Hartley Parish Council's actions

## **5. Supply of salt**

At a meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 a recommendation to decline the offer from Kent County Council for the supply and delivery of 1 tonne of salt for distribution in the parish was deferred to allow information to be obtained from town and parish councils participating in the scheme.

The Committee agreed that the main issues to consider were where the salt could be stored and how it should be distributed. The Chairman reported that in response to the Parish Council's enquiry, a letter had been received from HF & JH Glover confirming that they would be willing to store the salt in their yard for the remainder of this winter, at no charge, subject to agreement that they would spread it on the Council's behalf at a charge of £30 per hour. Should the Council require storage space for next winter, a storage fee would be payable.

The Committee noted that there were mixed reviews amongst those town and parish councils that had participated in the scheme, particularly regarding the percentage of salt in the salt/sand mix. After some discussion, it was suggested that to avert potential issues over the prioritisation of spreading the salt, an alternative would be to ask HF & JH Glover to store the salt and to re-fill the 9 salt bins currently located in Hartley, as and when required during significant periods of snow.

RECOMMENDED: That,

- (1) The offer from Kent County Council for the supply and delivery of 1 tonne of salt for distribution in the parish, be accepted.
- (2) The offer from HF & JH Glover to store the sand for the remainder of this winter, free of charge, be accepted.
- (3) The offer from HF & JH Glover to spread the salt on the Council's behalf, at a charge of £30 per hour, be accepted, subject to their agreement to re-fill the salt bins with the mixture as an alternative to spreading it.

## **6. Salt Bins**

(a) The Committee considered a request from a resident for the provision of salt bin at the junction of Silverdale and Wellfield. The Committee noted that the request had been refused by Kent Highway Services due to the fact that this year's allocation of

salt bins has already been determined. The resident had been advised to request the Parish Council to re-submit the request in the summer.

Cllr Brazier reminded the Committee of the scoring process adopted by Kent County Council in assessing requests for salt bins.

RESOLVED: That,

- (1) Kent Highway Services be requested to assess the site and advise the Council of the score result.
- (2) The resident be advised that the Parish Council is unable to supply salt bins but will submit a request to Kent Highway Services for a bin to be provided.

b) The Committee noted that at a PACT meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011, residents had explained their difficulties getting out of Caxton Close during the recent period of snow and ice. The gates onto the recreation ground at Woodland Avenue were damaged at the beginning of December and the Police suspect that the damage was caused as a result of a vehicle sliding on the ice at the junction of Wellfield and Woodland Avenue/Caxton Close.

Members noted from the Winter Services Handbook that salt bins were already located in Woodland Avenue, nr Caxton Close and Woodland Avenue at the junction with Wellfield, which would benefit from the proposed bin re-filling arrangements using the 1 tonne of salt provided by Kent Highway Services.

RESOLVED: That,

no further action be taken.

## **7. Kent Highway Services – Planned Carriageway Maintenance Guide**

The Committee considered the recently published document from Kent Highway Services – Planned Carriageway Maintenance Guide.

RESOLVED: That,

Kent Highway Services – Planned Carriageway Maintenance Guide, be received and noted.

## **8. Bus Services**

The Committee considered notes of a meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010 with Arriva Southern Counties and the parish councils of Southfleet, Ash-cum-Ridley and Hartley.

RESOLVED: That

the report be received and noted.

## **9. Northfield**

The Committee had been requested to note that works to install a new soakaway on Northfield were completed at the end of October 2010 and that Church Road, between Grange Lane and Hartley Hill, would be closed on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 for up to a period of two weeks to install new gullies, manhole, make a connection to the new soakaway and clean an existing soakaway.

RESOLVED: That,  
the report be received and noted.

### **10. Pedestrian Crossing**

The Committee considered an email from a resident, sent to the Police, requesting the provision of a new pedestrian crossing on Ash Road near Parkfield. The resident is concerned about the safety of young people crossing Ash Road to access the school buses.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8.45p.m.*

*The meeting resumed at 8.50p.m.*

Members agreed that this particular section of Ash Road would benefit from a pedestrian crossing.

RESOLVED: That,

- 1) the matter be referred to the Community Liaison Officer at Kent Highway Services for due consideration.
- 2) The resident be informed of Hartley Parish Council's actions.

### **11. Speedwatch**

At the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010, it was resolved that an article be placed in the next edition of the Council's newsletter, advertising the Sevenoaks Safety Community Partnership's speed panel initiative. An article was placed in the September 2010 edition and as a result, two volunteers had come forward.

Members discussed the possibility of operating the scheme with Ash-cum Ridley Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That,

- 1) The matter be pursued with the Sevenoaks Safety Community Partnership.
- 2) Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council be contacted to ask whether they have had any volunteers come forward.
- 3) The two volunteers be contacted to advise them that the matter will be taken forward by the Sevenoaks Safety Community Partnership.

### **12. Kent County Council Member Highway Fund**

At a meeting of the Highways Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010, it was resolved that enquiries be made with the Post Office over plans to install a ramp outside the Post Office for disabled access. The Post Office staff have advised that there are no plans to install a ramp as there is insufficient space and that assistance will be provided by the staff should access be required by a disabled person.

It was also resolved that consideration of schemes suitable for funding through the Kent County Council Member Highway Fund be deferred to the next meeting of the Highways Committee.

RESOLVED: That,  
consideration of schemes suitable for funding through the Kent County  
Council Member Highway Fund be deferred to the next meeting of the  
Highways Committee.

**13. Date of the next meeting**

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....