

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Lighting Committee held on
Monday 22nd April at 7.00 pm at Russell House,
Market Square, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Mrs L Bird (LB) – Chairman
Mr M Bortolozzo
Mr J Lord

In attendance: Asst Clerk: Mrs J O'Sullivan (JO)
Town Clerk: Mrs A Howells (AH)
Two members of public (item 5.8)
One member of public (item 5.9)
One member of public (item 5.11)
Four members of public (item 11.1)

Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies were received from Mr N Proudfoot and Mr K Thompson.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u> None.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th February 2024</u> Were approved at the Council meeting on 18 th March 2024.	
4.	<u>Information items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</u> None.	
5.	<u>Highways</u> 5.1 Community Speed Watch Campaign - The Assistant Clerk had completed online training and met with the Kent Community Speed Watch Manager on 18 th April to undertake further training. Since the beginning of March three Speed Watch sessions had taken place in Hosey Hill and a further one was planned for 26 th April (Assistant Clerk would attend). Summary statistics for Hosey Hill show 23% of vehicles were over the 30mph limit (total 344 vehicles passing). The Assistant Clerk would send Speed Watch training to Cllr Bortolozzo.	JO

	<p>A new Speed Indication Device (SID) had been ordered and delivery expected in the next couple of months. The cost (£1,985) had been allocated from last year's budget.</p> <p>5.2 Kent Police Speed Checks - Statistics for this year so far were as follows (all visits 1hr 20 mins, sited at junction of Hosey Hill / French Street): January 2024: 3 visits – 16 offences February 2024: 3 visits – 18 offences March 2024: 3 visits – 20 offences</p> <p>5.3 Highways Improvement Plan (HiP) 2024/2025 - The Committee noted the updates to the HiP, including the removal of item 4 (Hosey Hill – install 30mph signs) following investigations by KCC. The Town Clerk suggested that items that have been successfully completed and removed from the HiP should be listed separately as 'success stories'.</p> <p>5.4 To consider Highways Improvements at Pootings - The Chairman and Assistant Clerk met with Nigel Rowe (NR), KCC, on 4th April. Following a site visit to Pootings in March KCC had proposed three 'SLOW' signs to be painted in the road. These would hopefully be installed June/July. The proposal to move the 'Pooting' sign closer to where housing begins was being investigated by KCC. The Chairman reported that Pootings residents wish to submit a revised request to KCC for a 30mph speed limit based on new evidence. This will be communicated to KCC and added to the HiP.</p> <p>5.5. Update on Westerham Hill and Pilgrims Way junction - The Committee noted that the signs have been added within the last year and it was proposed that this item is removed from the HiP but it will continue to be monitored. The road surface was looking worn and may need to be re-surfaced. The Assistant Clerk would contact KCC to find out if there were any plans to resurface this stretch of the junction.</p> <p>5.6 Update on Granville Road - A quote had been requested by APFOS from KCC to cut the corners from the turf at Granville Road green space and make good the concrete edges. No update to report and the Assistant Clerk would chase KCC.</p> <p>5.7 To consider Highway Improvements at junction of Farley Lane/Goodley Stock - A resident had contacted WTC regarding speeding on this section of road and reinstating the vehicle speed activated sign. The Committee noted that KCC would not install a new one as there was no history of speeding related incidents. The Assistant Clerk was investigating how the bus stop markings on both sides of the road could be refreshed / installed.</p> <p>5.8 To consider speed reduction on Main Road, Crockham Hill to Edenbridge - Two members of the public attended the meeting and outlined their concerns regarding speeding / crashes at this location. They requested that the speed limit was reduced from 60mph to 40mph. The Chairman reported that this item would be placed to the HiP and that KCC would investigate road speeds along this stretch and where the existing speed signs were. Cllr Lord noted that part of this road extended into the Edenbridge Town Council's (ETC) jurisdiction and the Committee suggested that the members of the public should also raise their issue with ETC. The Town</p>	<p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p>
--	--	---

	<p>Clerk / Assistant Clerk would also contact ETC on this matter.</p> <p>5.9 To consider Highway Improvements on Main Road, Crockham Hill (New Road) - A member of the public raised concerns regarding visibility for vehicles turning out of New Road onto Main Road (due to parked cars, overhanging vegetation for example). Following discussion, it was agreed that a mirror placed at a strategic point would be helpful. The Assistant Clerk would investigate further.</p> <p>5.10 To consider request for resident's parking at Black Eagle Close The Committee agreed that further details should be provided including whether there is support from other residents.</p> <p>5.11 To consider Marlborough Court – access road to be made one-way A member of the public attended the meeting and outlined concerns regarding the access road. Following discussion, it was agreed that the resident would canvas opinion from neighbours (both within the flats and the houses) to gauge their support. The Assistant Clerk would provide a suitable survey template for the resident to use.</p> <p>5.12 Update on Thames Water meeting - The Chairman and Town Clerk had attended a meeting with Thames Water on 6th March 2024. No major works were planned for our area, but the Committee noted that the A25 at Brasted would be closed for around 6 weeks during the summer. It was suggested that this was communicated on the Council's Facebook page closer to the time.</p> <p>5.13 To consider the addition of rumble strips into 20mph zone – The Chairman reported that KCC did not recommend the addition of rumble strips due to the noise nuisance to nearby residents. The Committee discussed the possibility of pink road surface as it was felt that the visibility of the 20mph zone was unclear, and this would alert motorists to the change in speed. The Assistant Clerk would investigate further.</p> <p>5.14 To consider the results of WTC survey – issues relevant to H&L – Prior to the meeting the results of the WTC survey relevant to Highways and Lighting were circulated. Following discussion it was agreed to recommend the following actions to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better pavements in town centre/paving access – lobby SDC • Free/reduced fees/more parking in Westerham – lobby SDC • Another crossing in town – lobby KCC • Extend 20mph zone in Westerham – lobby KCC • Improve junction at London Road/A25 – lobby KCC • Better/more frequent bus services – lobby bus companies • Improved lighting in town / London Road – lobby SDC • Enforce speed restrictions in London Rd/20mph – Speedwatch • Bus shelter – investigate possibility at London Road stop • Repair potholes, road surface, keep drains clear / stop cars parking on pavements / overhanging vegetation – communicate reporting links via TN16, social media and website. • Marlborough Court made one-way – resident survey 	<p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p>
6.	<p><u>Street Lighting</u></p> <p>6.1 Repairs and responses – The Assistant Clerk reported that the street lighting maintenance invoice had been received.</p>	

	<p>6.2 Church Floodlights – quote for LED The Assistant Clerk reported that a quote of £6,932.76 (+VAT) had been received to supply and install the LED floodlights at the church. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk would meet with the council's street lighting contractor to discuss the matter further.</p>	JO/AH
7.	<p><u>Sevenoaks District Council</u> 7.1 Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board - Nothing to note of relevance to Westerham.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Public Transport</u> 8.1. Go Coach - Nothing to note.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Financial</u> 9.1 Financial Statement up to 31st March 2024 – The Assistant Clerk reported that £11,500 from last year's budget had been moved into a H&L reserve account and a further £7,000 would be added when the precept was received making a total of £18,500 to utilise. 9.2 Draft budget 2024/205 – The budget was noted. The Committee asked why the 'Upgrade and Improvement – S/L' and 'Highways Maintenance' cost headings had been removed from this year's budget. It was noted that both of these had zero expenditure in 2023/24. The Assistant Clerk would confirm the reasons why with the Finance Officer.</p>	JO
10.	<p><u>Climate Change/Environmental & Bio Diversity</u> 10.1 ECO Policy Action Plan – It was noted that electric charging points had now been installed at Costell Meadows car park and this item had been completed. The Committee agreed to add Church LED lights and light pollution to the Eco Policy.</p>	JO
11.	<p><u>Consultations</u> 11.1 To consider responses from Farley Nursery & Westbury Terrace junction consultation Several residents from Farley Nursery attended the meeting to hear the results of the informal consultation. There had been a good response to the survey with 36 questionnaires returned (over half of those distributed). Responses were received from the following roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farley Nursery – 17 (50%) • New Road – 9 (23.7%) • Westbury Terrace – 8 (21%) • Granville Road – 2 (5.3%) 	

	Overall results are indicated below:					
	Yes	No	Don't know	Y %	N %	
Q1	8	27	1	22.2%	75.0%	
Q2	24	11	1	66.7%	30.6%	
Q3	21	15	0	58.3%	41.7%	
Q4	23	13	0	63.9%	36.1%	
	<p>The Town Clerk reported that as there had been over 6 objections then KCC would require the case to go to the Joint Transportation Board prior to a formal Traffic Regulation Order. This would cost the Council around £3,700 which the Committee agreed was prohibitive.</p> <p>Cllr Lord suggested an alternative solution whereby double yellow road markings further up Westbury Terrace (on the left hand side of the road before the turning into Granville Road) could be removed to allow the parking of two cars. This would address the objection that double yellow lines around the Farley Nursery turning would lead to a reduction in available parking spaces. The Committee agreed that this was a sensible solution, and the Assistant Clerk would investigate further.</p> <p>Further discussion on possible alternatives included a pedestrian drop kerb on the corner of Farley Nursery and T-bone white markings along the corners. The Assistant Clerk would investigate further.</p> <p>The Committee noted that parking at Pitts Cottage could also be an option for residents and visitors to the area.</p>					JO JO
12.	<p><u>Correspondence</u> The Committee noted the report of contravention of a traffic island in Westerham by vehicles which had been sent to Kent Police.</p>					
13.	<p><u>Reports from Councillors</u> Cllr Bird had attended the meeting with Thames Water. Cllr Lord met with David Booker at St Mary Church and walked around the Farley Nursery/Westbury Terrace area in relation to the Farley Nursery consultation. Cllr Bortolozzo reported that he had visited all the sites relevant to the meeting to familiarise himself with the issues.</p>					
14.	<p><u>TN16, Edenbridge Magazine, Website, Social Media and Crockham Hill Newsletter</u> It was agreed that information on where to report issues (e.g. potholes, parking) should be included.</p>					JO
15.	<p><u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u> Results of the Farley Nursery Consultation.</p>					

16.	<u>Further matters for consideration at the next meeting</u> None.	
17.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 10 th June 2024	

The meeting was concluded at 9.10pm

Minutes confirmed as a correct record:

Chairman