



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish
Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Wednesday 29th June 2022 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Joanna Tribley (Chairman)
Cllr Richard Ash MBE (Vice Chair)
Cllr Denis Spooner
Cllr Sandra Knatchbull
David Hall

Also, in attendance was Administrator Joanne Upton.

There were two reports from members of the public.

One resident spoke about the constant disturbance outside of his property due to the chicane at the Ashford Road end of Spot Lane. He feels that the distance to the second chicane is not far enough to allow speeding and therefore it should be removed.

A second resident spoke in favour of making part of Sandy Lane pedestrian only and converting the bottom part up to Mount Pleasant into a 2-way road. The resident spoke of how the road is much narrower in some places and emergency vehicles would not be able to access and open doors. The road is dangerous for pedestrians and has no lighting.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

The Administrator declared that the meeting will be recorded for minuting purposes.

2. Apologies and absence

None.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

There were no declarations of interest.

4. To appoint committee Chair and Vice Chair

- a) To appoint a new Chairperson. Cllr Ash proposed Cllr Tribley remain as Chair, seconded by Cllr Spooner and agreed with all in favour.
- b) To appoint a new Vice Chairperson. Cllr Tribley proposed Cllr Ash remain as Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Spooner and agreed with all in favour.

Cllr Tribley proposed to move item 8c forward, agreed with all in favour.

8. Review Highways Improvement Plan

- c) BPC and KCC update. Cllr Tribley advised that she has spoken to KCC regarding removing the two chicanes nearest to the Ashford Road and replacing with one chicane half-way between the current location of the two existing chicanes but that this would be a costly exercise. If the first chicane was removed this would leave a large enough distance to encourage speeding. KCC have confirmed that this could be added to our HIP, alternatively if there is any CIL money from Bellway development at Church Road, Otham, we could apply to finance the removal of the first chicane if this is a hazard. Cllr Ash confirmed that we would need to go to public consultation to ensure all residents of the road would be in agreement of removing this chicane. Cllr Tribley advised that she also discussed the possibility of including the removal of the chicane with the contract to widen the top of Spot Lane, when they add in the drop kerb. Cllr Spooner suggested we do the public consultation prior to approaching KCC.

ACTION: OFFICE

Cllr Tribley confirmed that she is still waiting on the designs for the dragon's teeth since April and that KCC are short staffed and unlikely to be fully operational until August. Cllr Ash suggested we approach our County Councillor to assist. Cllr Spooner also confirmed there are two other County Councillors that should be able to assist and he will pass on details to Cllr Tribley to contact.

ACTION: CLLR SPOONER / CLLR TRIBLEY

Cllr Tribley confirmed that KCC was open to the idea of making part of Sandy Lane two-way but a site visit would be required by them. The item has been added to our HIP. This will be discussed further at item 10.

- a) A20 Speeding at Lilik Hill. Cllr Spooner advised that he has spoken to a Thurnham Parish Councillor who supports us in reducing the speed limit. He can formally contact him with details of the crash information and the additional developments on the A20, namely the Woodland Trust car park and Woodcut Farm. No need to contact Hollingbourne as this is not in Hollingbourne parish. Cllr Spooner will also supply the contact details for Jennie Watson's manager to contact.

ACTION: CLLR SPOONER / CLLR TRIBLEY

- b) Update on Thurnham Parish Contribution to Gateways. The Administrator confirmed a cheque has been received from Thurnham Parish Council for £500 towards the cost of the gateways.

5. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 5th April 2022 were agreed and duly signed.

6. Administrators Report

Nothing to report.

7. Parish Traffic Zone Update

Cllr Ash suggested that we wait for the outcome of the pending By-Election to relook at Parish Zones once we have confirmed any new members to the committee. Cllr Ash confirmed he will continue to pursue the white lines being repainted.

9. Bus Service Update

- a) Number 11 Bus Service. Cllr Tribley confirmed that after reviewing the data received on the usage of this service, there is no case for reinstating the service.
- b) Bus Recovery and Service Reductions. No comments
- c) National Bus Strategy. David Hall advised there is money available to bid but this is only for new initiatives and not to reinstate previous services. Cllr Knatchbull mentioned a Compaidd bus service that is run by volunteers. We could potentially pair up with other remote and rural areas to provide a service into Maidstone town centre. Need to investigate options and contact other potential villages or locations that would benefit from this service.

ACTION: CLLR KNATCHBULL

10. Bearsted Train Service

David Hall reported that there are currently 2 trains per hour except between the hours of 11am and 3pm. It was confirmed that after covid era that the previous service of 2 trains per hour would be restored. We should lobby for this to be reinstated. David Hall will compose a letter to be signed by Cllr Tribley to South Eastern. A separate letter will be drafted and sent to Helen Whatley asking for her support.

ACTION: DAVID HALL

11. Bearsted Road Improvements

Cllr Tribley will liaise with Cllr Springett about the integration of traffic calming measures as part of the Bearsted road improvements, including signage for local traffic only. To be followed up with an approach to Boxley Parish Council, as any works will fall into their parish.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY / OFFICE

12. Sandy Lane Restricted Access, Responses from Residents

We have been informed by a resident that a member from KCC has visited the site and deemed the lane unsuitable for vehicular use, reporting that the road should be made pedestrian-only. The request for 2 way access at the bottom end of Sandy Lane has been added to our HIP and will be subject to a site visit by KCC Highways.

13. Parking Survey – Ashford Road shops

Cllr Ash reported on the many parking spaces. However there are no available parking spaces to alleviate the number of cars parking on Cavendish Way and surrounding roads. There is the potential for additional parking spaces outside the Co-op in Madginford where the crazy paving is situated. Would require speaking to the landowners.

ACTION: CLLR ASH

14. 20mph speed limit road options.

It was agreed to defer this to the next Traffic and Transport meeting, due to KCC being understaffed.

15. Bicycle hoops near the Green

A suitable location for bicycle hoops on the paths or highways close to the Green could not be identified. Councillors decided that a suitable place might be on the Green itself between the Christmas Tree and the wall adjacent to the picture framing business or behind the cricket pavilion, where there was bicycle parking provided for the Jubilee picnic. This will be referred to Full Council for a decision.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

16. General Correspondence

a) Lorries using Ware Street. The additional signage discussed in item 11 should assist with this issue. Cllr Tribley to respond to resident.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

b) Double Yellow Lines. Charlie Reynolds from KCC has confirmed yellow lines are checked regularly. Cllr Tribley to respond to resident.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

c) Dropped Kerb. Recommended for the dropped kerb to be installed opposite the main entrance to the train station car park as the path opposite the other entrance is blocked by parked cars. Cllr Tribley will speak to KCC and respond to the resident.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

17. Future Agenda Items

Train Service from Bearsted station
KCC updates
BPC updates
Parking Survey
Sandy Lane restricted access
20 mph speed road options
Bicycle hoops near the Green.

18. Date of next Meeting: 6th September 2022

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 20:54hrs

Signed.....

Date.....