



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish
Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Wednesday 6th September 2022 at 7:30pm

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

Also, in attendance was Administrator Joanne Upton.

There was one report from members of the public.

One resident spoke about traffic and congestion around Bearsted, 3 elements to this are climate crisis, sustainability of transport and the village suffering from increased noise, pollution and danger. Requested that BPC discuss and produce a proposal that can be presented with solutions to KCC and MBC to improve the traffic situation and to make the village more walking and cycling friendly. Cllr Knatchbull confirmed to the resident that she has raised the issue of including a cycle lane at the junction of Willington Street and Ashford Road, where the works go ahead there and will keep the resident informed.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

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

2. Apologies and absence

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr Mark Peters.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Cllr Knatchbull confirmed that she had met previously with the member of public that spoke to discuss traffic issues around Bearsted and Cllr Tribley confirmed she has previously met with this resident to discuss the bicycle hoop options for the Green.

4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 29th June 2022 were agreed and duly signed.

5. Administrators Report

Nothing to report.

6. Parish Traffic Zone Update

Cllr Ash, has reissued the parking zone area and will provide a copy of this to the office. Cllr Ash suggested that the office keep a record all issues so that if residents call in we can advise if this has already been reported and if any outcome has been achieved. It was agreed that each councillor will report any issues in their area via the KCC and MBC websites, they will then send details of the reported problem along with the reference number for the office to keep a record.

ACTION: CLLR ASH/ ADMINISTRATOR

7. Review Highways Improvement Plan

a) A20 Ashford Road traffic calming: Cllr Tribley confirmed we have now received two options from KCC. Option 1 will cost between £15,000 and £20,000. Option 2 will cost approximately £5,000. Part of the cost saving for option 2 is to use the existing signs which are already barely visible due to being partially concealed by vegetation by the side of the road. Cllr Tribley proposed to go for option 1 and

contact Cllr Paul Carter for a grant towards the cost and then allocate funding in next years budget. Agreed with all in favour.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

- b) Ware Street, pedestrian crossing by train station: Cllr Tribley is hoping to raise this in a face to face meeting with KCC, which she is still waiting for a date to be confirmed. Cllr's Hall and Knatchbull confirmed they would be happy to also attend this meeting. Review again early Autumn.
- c) Sandy Lane restricted access: KCC have confirmed that this road already has an 'except for access' prohibition which Kent Police manage the enforcement of. KCC will not seek to restrict all vehicles using this road by reducing the status of their asset. However, a resident met with Rob Sparrow from KCC who believes the road is too narrow for emergency vehicles and should be made a pedestrian area. KCC responded to Rob Sparrow advising they do not believe this is a safety issue but happy to support the proposal if BPC fund it. Cllr Tribley will speak to Rob Sparrow to confirm this and to investigate costs.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

8. Spot Lane Chicanes

The committee confirmed that there is no suitable alternative location to replace the first two chicanes with 1 chicane halfway between, due to drive ways. Therefore, if we were to pursue this the only option would be to remove the chicane nearest the Ashford Road. It was raised that the resident that requested the removal of the chicane may have sold his property and as we have had no other requests or complaints we should enquire with the resident before proceeding with the public consultation and costing exercise.

ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR

9. Bus Service Update

Cllr Knatchbull confirmed that the Compaid bus service would be too small to serve and work for Bearsted. The figures confirm that there is just not enough demand for a bus service to be reinstalled. Cllr Tribley suggested arranging a one off bus service for a Christmas shopping trip for elderly residents. No decisions were reached at this time.

10. Bearsted Train Service

Cllr Hall advised he was very disappointed with the response from Helen Whately. He has hoped that she would put pressure on the Transport minister, based on their promise to return services to pre covid standards. However, she merely forwarded our letter and sent the reply. Cllr Hall to draft another letter to Helen Whately asking her to readdress the issue.

ACTION: CLLR HALL

11. Bearsted Road Improvements

Cllr Tribley confirmed that the office is still trying to confirm a date to meet with Boxley and Thurnham councillors to discuss traffic calming options. Cllr Hall and Cllr Knatchbull confirmed they were happy to attend the meeting in Cllr Tribley's absence.

ACTION: ADMINISTATOR

12. Parking Survey

Cllr Ash advised that he has spoken to the shop owners in Madginford who confirmed that all staff have parking available to the rear and that apart from school pick up and drop off there never seems to be an issue with parking. There is 25 spaces to the front and 11 spaces in the side car park. Proposed that there is no need to increase the parking in this area. All agreed.

13. 20mph speed limit road options.

Cllr Tribley advised that she has been unable to raise this yet with KCC but will do so when the face to face meeting has been arranged.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY/ CLLR HALL/ CLLR KNATCHBULL

14. The Landway

Cllr Hall confirmed a resident had requested traffic calming measured be considered on the Landway due to cars speeding. Cllr Tribley advised that the survey previously completed, recorded the average daily

speed was 26.3mph. It was agreed that during the day there are so many obstructions with parked cars that it does not warrant additional measures. Cllr Hall will respond to the resident.

ACTION: CLLR HALL

15. Bicycle hoops near the Green

Cllr Tribley confirmed that she had previously met with a resident to discuss the various bicycle hoop options for the Green. He had advised that the log style option may not be particularly secure as the front wheel can easily be detached from the rest of the bike which can then be stolen. He would recommend using the Sheffield Stand style also that the location needs to be visible and not tucked away. Cllr Tribley proposed that we install two Sheffield stands next to the bus shelter and that they are root fixed for additional security. Proposed we allow £400 for purchase and installation. Agreed with all in favour. Cllr Tribley will contact Lee Harrison for installation costs and this can be put forward to full council.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

16. General Correspondence

a) Lighting on the steps between Ware Street and Hill Brow: Cllr Tribley has reported the vegetation be cut back and is awaiting a response from KCC, she will respond to the resident. The committee also discussed the possibility of a Parish lighting programme to look at all footpaths in parish.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

b) Double yellow lines Cavendish Way, Copsewood Way and Button Lane: Cllr Tribley confirmed she is chasing this with KCC and will respond to the resident.

ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY

17. Future Agenda Items

- Train Service from Bearsted station
- KCC updates
- BPC updates
- Sandy Lane restricted access
- 20 mph speed road options
- Bicycle hoops on the Green.
- Bearsted Road Traffic Calming

18. Date of next Meeting: 8th November 2022

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.11hrs

Signed.....

Date.....