



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish  
Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7:30pm

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

Also, in attendance was the Administrator Joanne Upton along with Cllr Val Springett and one member of the public.

**There was one report from members of the public.**

One resident spoke about the need for double yellow lines near the Madginford Shops as parking on corners opposite the bus stop blocks the road preventing access for the buses. He also advised the committee that he was recently stranded in Maidstone town centre after two number 4 buses were cancelled. This has happened on a few occasions. He requested that BPC follow this up. Cllr Hall offered to write to Arriva. Cllr Tribley asked the resident if he had reported it to Arriva, the resident confirmed he had not, the committee recommended that he also report this directly to Arriva.

**ACTION: CLLR HALL**

**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 and Cllr Denis Spooner.

**3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

Cllr Tribley declared an interest in item 7h.

**4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were agreed and duly signed.

**5. Administrators Report**

The Administrator confirmed that a new tracker has been set up to record issues reported by councillors to KCC or MBC, councillors should continue to provide these and the outcomes to the Administrator so that these can be shared with the committee. Cllr Ash requested that anything that comes into the office that relates to the Traffic and Transport Committee should be sent immediately to Cllr Tribley to review.

**6. Parish Traffic Zone Update**

Cllr Ash confirmed that he has some issues in his area that need to be reported. Cllr Tribley confirmed she will send details to the Administrator of a few additional reported issues in her zone.

**7. Review Highways Improvement Plan**

- a) Cllr Tribley confirmed they have now attended a meeting with KCC which was very positive. They met on site with two people from KCC and then joined Cllrs Hall and Ash to discuss further. A20 Lilk Hill gateway. KCC have suggested that we consider the previously proposed option two. If KCC look to reduce the speed to either 40 or 50mph this may be the more cost effective option. KCC will provide final costs for both options for BPC to consider.
- b) A20 speed review. Cllr Tribley advised that there had been another crash at Lilk Hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, she suggested that BPC connect with Hollingbourne and Thurnham Parish Councils to see if

they are also pursuing a speed reduction on the A20. Requested that the Administrator contact both parishes to determine if this is on their HIP's and to establish a contact who deals with traffic concerns.

**ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR**

- c) Ware Street/Bell Bridge pedestrian safety. KCC advised that traffic lights are not an option. Rumble strips are not an option as this is a residential area and are considered too noisy. Cannot use pedestrian crossing signs as there is not an actual crossing present. It might be possible to move the Bearsted gateway sign to near the layby and steps to Hill Brow and provide road markings. This will be forwarded to the design team.
- d) Dropped kerb/pedestrian crossing point at Bearsted Station. KCC have confirmed that this would need to be opposite the pedestrian entrance to the station and not opposite the vehicle/car park entrance. As the pedestrian entrance is opposite the area that is used for parked cars, it is more difficult to install a dropped kerb. Options may include a build out which may cause the loss of one or more parking spaces. This will be forwarded to the design team to provide BPC with options.
- e) Sandy Lane restricted access. KCC have refused the suggestion to make the bottom part of the road two lanes for safety reasons. Cllr Ash suggested we write to the residents to confirm that Sandy Lane will not be made into a pedestrian only road. Once the letter has been written Cllr Ash will deliver.

**ACTION: CLLR ASH/ ADMINISTRATOR**

- f) Double yellow lines requests. Cllr Tribley confirmed that KCC said if they carry out the work in batches this saves on cost. Cllr Tribley will send details of all requests on our HIP to confirm the order of priority.
- g) Spot Lane Chicanes. Cllr Tribley confirmed KCC have declined BPCs request to remove the chicane nearest to the Ashford Road. The committee are in agreement with this decision. The Administrator will contact the resident to advise.

**ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR**

- h) Otham Lane. KCC have confirmed they will fund slow markings for the road if BPC are in agreement. This was resolved with three in favour and one abstention. The Administrator will contact Otham Parish to establish if they have this on their HIP and whether they have also approached KCC.

**ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR**

**8. Bus funding/Community Transport Grant**

Cllr Hall mentioned the Detling bus service and it was agreed that Cllr Hall will speak to Detling Parish Council to find out whether their bus service has been successful, how many use it and how often they run. As the committee is unaware of the cost involved to run this service the committee would need to gain more information to apply for a grant. Therefore, Cllr Hall will also speak to the Head of Transport for KCC for further information.

**ACTION: CLLR HALL**

**9. Bearsted Train Service**

Cllr Hall confirmed he has a meeting with Helen Whatley on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>. South Eastern have already confirmed that the timetable for December has been issued and there is no scope to change it. He will ask Helen Whatley to pursue government rather than South Eastern. Cllr Hall will provide an update at the next meeting.

**ACTION: CLLR HALL**

**10. Bearsted Road Improvements**

Cllrs Tribley and Ash confirmed they will be attending the meeting at Beechen Hall tomorrow evening. They will discuss various traffic calming measures including, signs, build outs and weight and height restrictions. The Administrator confirmed that Councillors from Boxley Parish Council will be attending but there has been no response from Thurnham Parish Council.

**11. 20mph speed limit road options.**

KCC have advised that the government is committed to making all residential roads 20mph in the next decade. Cllr Tribley suggested we look to make all roads in Bearsted 20mph with the exception of the A20 Ashford Road and Ware Street. Although the section of Ware Street from the Hog Hill to Cross Keys should be included as a 20mph zone. This will be added to our Highways Improvement Plan. Regarding

the 20mph signpost at the entrance to Manor Rise, Cllr Tribley confirmed that KCC were meant to remove the post, not change the sign. Cllr Tribley will contact KCC to request the post is removed and will respond to the resident.

**ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY**

#### **12. Bicycle hoops near the Green**

Cllr Tribley advised that she has spoken to KCC regarding a small area outside of the Bearsted shops on the road that could potentially accommodate bicycle hoops. KCC will investigate this and advise accordingly. The committee will refer this back to Full Council to reconsider allowing the bicycle hoops to be installed near the bus shelter on the Green rather than behind the Christmas tree. The committee feel that this area offers a more secure location in that it will be visible from the shops, The White Horse and users of the Green. Costs to be put forward to Full Council at the next meeting.

**ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY**

#### **13. Improve safety of roads at local schools**

Cllr's Tribley, Knatchbull, Hall and Ash all confirmed that they had visited the schools during peak times to witness the problems local residents and families are facing. Cllr Tribley noticed that the school patrol lights were not being used and confirmed that she has spoken to the school and was advised that since the crossing person left no one has taken responsibility for turning these on. It was also noted that families exiting the alley opposite Thurnham/Roseacre entrance were not walking to the yellow box area to cross. Suggested posters be displayed at the end of the alley to encourage people to walk to yellow box area to cross. Administrator to contact the school to arrange for the children to participate in a competition to design a poster with BPC funding a prize. It was agreed that the yellow zig zags should be repainted and extended round the corners and painted on the opposite side of the road, where many parents are currently parking and blocking the road. Councillors felt that it would be beneficial to the school to host road safety talks to the children. The Administrator will review options available and liaise with the schools. Cllr Tribley will contact Charlie Reynolds to request additional enforcement. Councillors dismissed the suggestion to make roads one way as they believe this would encourage speeding.

**ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY/ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **14. Church Lane car park – anti social driving**

The committee felt that this issue should be deferred to Full Council. Cllr Knatchbull confirmed that she will be attending a meeting on Thursday with PCSO Anna Hick to discuss other options for security and prevention. She will report back to Full Council

#### **15. KCC Forward Work Programme**

Cllr Tribley will enquire about the island area in front of Marino's being added to this programme.

**ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY**

#### **16. New website page – HIP information**

The Administrator asked councillors to confirm what information they would like to see presented on the new web page, which will be used to communicate with residents the work undertaken by the Traffic and Transport Committee, it will also allow the committee to communicate results and outcomes of requests made to KCC and MBC for works needed around the village. Cllr Tribley advised that the committee would need to confirm with KCC that they are happy for BPC to display the HIP document on a public website.

**ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY**

#### **17. General Correspondence**

- a) Horse sign request. Cllr Tribley will contact the British Horse Society to enquire about providing signs.  
**ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY**
- b) Double yellow lines Cavendish Way, Copsewood Way and Yeoman Way. This has already been addressed in the meeting and will be flagged to KCC as a priority.
- c) Copsewood Way sign request. The Committee agreed that the correct signage should be used to clearly display that this is a dead end. Cllr Tribley will contact KCC for a new sign and respond to the resident.

**ACTION: CLLR TRIBLEY**

- d) Grass verges and speeding on A20. KCC have confirmed that the Electrical Company carrying out the works will reinstate the verges once the work is complete. There will be a bicycle lane installed from Roundwell to the new Woodcut Farm Business Park. This work will begin after Christmas so verges will be reinstated once the bicycle lane complete. The Administrator will continue to liaise with KCC. Cllr Hall advised that speed cameras are usually installed where there is a proven record of incidents so it would be highly unlikely that a speed camera would be approved on the Ashford Road, the committee agreed that the speed reduction measures we are pursuing for Lilk Hill will help to alleviate speeding along the A20. The Administrator will respond to the resident.

**ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR**

- e) Lighting on steps between Hill Brow and Ware Street. KCC have confirmed that any additional lighting is the responsibility of BPC, this will now be referred to the Environment Committee to consider.

**18. Future Agenda Items**

- Budget
- Community Transport
- Trains Update
- Bearsted Road Improvement Update
- School Parking
- New Website

**19. Date of next Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

Cllr Tribley mentioned that she is unable to attend this meeting and Cllr Ash mentioned that this is very close after the Christmas period and it was agreed that the Administrator will see if we can move the meeting to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.32hrs

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....