



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish
Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Richard Ash MBC (Chairman)
Cllr David Hall (Vice Chair)
Cllr Alan Rowe
Cllr Denis Spooner

Also, in attendance was the Administrator Joanne Upton along with MBC Cllr Val Springett and 4 members of the public.

The committee voted with all in favour to move straight to item 4.

4 To elect a new committee Chairperson

Cllr Hall nominated Cllr Ash for the position of Chairperson, seconded by Cllr Rowe and agreed with all in favour. There were no other nominations.

5. To elect a new committee Vice Chairperson

Cllr Ash nominated Cllr Hall for the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Spooner and agreed with all in favour. There were no other nominations.

There were 3 reports from members of the public.

One resident spoke about parking concerns on Sandy Mount which has become a car park for residents on Ware Street. Concerns include inconsiderate parking on footpaths, making it difficult for his disabled son to use the footpaths safely. Cars driving on the footpaths due to numerous cars parked in the road. There are no spaces for visitors and the resident has had trouble selling his property due to the parking issues.

A second resident spoke about parking concerns on Shirley Way, vehicles parking opposite each other preventing emergency and larger vehicles being able to use the road, parking on footpaths preventing wheelchair and pushchair access to pedestrians. Parked cars belonging to staff that work at the various local businesses so are being left there all day.

A third resident spoke about parking concerns on Copsewood Way, specifically the two car transporters being parked on the road and the number of cars being parked by that business. Extremely dangerous when trying to access their driveway as the car transporters block all visibility of the road.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

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

2. Apologies and absence

Apologies were duly noted for Cllr Mark Peters.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None declared.

The committee voted with all in favour to move to item 9, 16a & 16b.

9. Review Highways Improvement Plan

Sandy Mount – Cllr Ash asked the resident if he felt the number of designated parking bays were appropriate. The resident confirmed it was as it allowed vehicles time to be on the correct side of the road before the bend. He feels there should be double yellow lines from the parking bays round the bend until the straight. The Administrator confirmed that former Chair Joanna Tribley had been in contact with KCC regarding double yellow lines but we need to establish what stage this request was at. Cllr Rowe asked if

these incidents of illegal parking were being reported to the police and stated that all incidents must be reported by residents. Cllr Hall suggested that Cllr Ash and himself visit Sandy Mount to review the situation and meet with the resident. Cllr Spooner suggested MBC request parking wardens to visit the area.

ACTION: CLLR HALL/CLLR ASH

16. Correspondence

- a) Shirley Way. Cllr Hall suggested the possibility of restricted parking to prevent people parking there all day.
- b) Copsewood Way. Cllr Rowe advised the residents that if the business with the car transporters are parking cars illegally on the roads, the residents should report this to the police. It was agreed that Cllr Hall and Cllr Ash will visit Shirley Way and Copsewood Way to review the situation.

ACTION: CLLR HALL/CLLR ASH

6. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 8th November 2022 were agreed and duly signed.

7. Administrators Report

The Administrator reported that the new Traffic page for the website has not yet been designed due to staffing issues in the office.

Otham Parish Clerk had been in contact with KCC regarding reducing the speed limit on Otham Lane, the data shows the average speed is 28mph, KCC advised they are happy to meet with BPC should the committee wish to discuss this further but at the present they do not consider there is a need to reduce the speed.

Hollingbourne Parish Council have confirmed they would like to arrange a meeting to discuss speed reduction on the A20. Cllr Springett advised she has been in contact with Cllr Smith at Thurnham who is also keen to meet. The Administrator will contact all concerned to arrange a date for the meeting.

The office sent information to all three schools regarding free Road Safety talks by KCC, Madginford School will follow this up directly with KCC. The suggested poster competition was not initiated due to staffing issues in the office.

ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR

8. Parish Traffic Zone Update

No action taken by Councillors. Cllr Ash spoke about the numerous pot holes, Cllr Spooner suggested BPC contact Paul Carter, Cllr Hall offered to contact KCC to establish the best contact. Cllr Spooner suggested we add a link to the Newsletter providing residents details to report potholes directly to KCC. Cllr Hall has spoken to KCC regarding the flooding on the south side of The Green, which is causing the Green to collapse due to the shallow nature of the drains. Cllr Hall will liaise with KCC and suggested BPC Traffic and Environment committees make this issue a priority.

ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR

9. Review Highways Improvement Plan

A20 Speeding. Cllr Hall advised that KCC have now stated only one gateway option is available due to the buildouts would block drive ways. This has been quoted at £5000 - £8000. Cllr Hall proposed to proceed with the available gateway option, seconded by Cllr Spooner and agreed with all in favour.

Budget. Cllr Hall noted that the pedestrian crossing at the Bearsted Train Station had not been included in the £20,000 budget for 2023/2024. Cllr Hall proposed to accept former Chair Joanne Tribble's £20,000 budget and to request an additional £15,000 for the pedestrian crossing at the Full Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Spooner and agreed with all in favour.

10. Bus funding/Community Transport Grant

Cllr Hall confirmed that he is liaising with Detling Parish Council to apply for the grant. This would provide a bus service twice a day for 5 days per week. The route would need to be finalised in conjunction with Detling Parish Council. Cllr Hall will prepare a statement for the Newsletter and report back to the Committee once a decision on funding has been made.

ACTION: CLLR HALL

11. Bearsted Train Service

Cllr Hall confirmed that no progress has been made with South Eastern, even with the involvement of Helen Whately.

12. Bearsted Road Improvements

Cllr Springett advised that this is imminent and is awaiting a date for a meeting to confirm the start on site date. Cllr Springett is still pushing for traffic calming measures on Ware Street to reduce the number of vehicles using Bearsted as a cut through.

13. 20mph speed limit road options.

Cllr Ash stated that he would like to see all roads within Bearsted reduced to 20mph, with the exception of the A20 and Ware Street/The Street. The area from the railway bridge to Mallings Lane to be included in the 20mph zone. Cllr Springett advised there is a specific process to request this, Cllr Hall will write to KCC to progress this.

ACTION: CLLR HALL

14. Improve safety of roads at local schools

This was discussed under item 7.

15. New webpage – HIP information.

This was discussed under item 7.

16. General Correspondence

- c) Fauchons Lane junction with The Landway. Cllr Springett advised this can be reported online to KCC who will contact the resident to cut back if it is blocking or overhanging the footpath.

ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR

17. Future Agenda Items

- HIP.
- Community Bus Service.
- 20mph speed limit road options.
- Update from MBC on the road widening of Bearsted Road.
- School road safety.

18. Date of next Meeting: 7th March 2023

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 20.55hrs

Signed.....

Date.....