



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Richard Ash MBE (Chair)
Cllr David Hall (Vice Chair)
Cllr Alan Rowe
Cllr Denis Spooner
Cllr Val Springett

Also, in attendance was the Administrator Joanne Upton and 4 members of the public.

One resident spoke in detail about their concerns regarding the volume of traffic now using Otham Lane as a cut through, including vehicles driving too fast, no pavements making it too dangerous to walk, lots of litter, verges eroding away due to vehicles driving over them to avoid other cars, the sides of roads caving into drainage ditches, residents unable to install fencing. Recent incidents include broken glass likely from wing mirrors, someone was hit by a vehicle which drove off.

A second resident asked for more details on the Community Bus Service.

Cllr Ash proposed to move straight to item 14c, this was resolved with all in favour.

14.c Correspondence. Otham Lane.

Cllr Ash advised the residents that ex Cllr Tribley had been in contact advising that the traffic survey in 2021 showed the 85thile speed of 32mph, but KCC confirmed the survey shows an average speed of 22.2mph.

Cllr Springett advised KCC will not consider speed reduction measures as the speed limit is 60mph and road users are not exceeding the speed limit, suggested residents write to Paul Carter to raise their concerns. Cllr Hall advised that Otham Lane does not qualify for 'quiet lane' status.

Cllr Springett suggested a meeting with KCC to discuss options for pavements/cycle paths and additional signage and potentially adding Otham Lane to the Lorry Sat Nav database.

ACTION: CLLR SPRINGETT

Cllr Ash proposed to move to item 8a, this was resolved with all in favour.

8a. Bus Funding/Community Transport Grant.

Cllr Hall explained about the funding BPC had received, the service will run from Detling and Bearsted, via Grove Green and into Maidstone Town Centre. The bus timings and start date is still to be confirmed with Compaid and once finalised BPC will issue a press release.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

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

2. Apologies and absence.

Cllr Peters was absent.

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

None declared.

4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 7th March 2023 were agreed and duly signed.

5. Administrators Report

The Administrator confirmed the areas for the newly allocated Zones and will email these to Committee Members.

ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR

6. Parish Traffic Zone Update

Cllr Springett suggested checking that the potholes had actually been reported via the KCC website. Cllr Spooner suggested adding the KCC reporting link to our Newsletters.

ACTION: CLLR SPRINGETT/ADMINISTRATOR

7. Review Highways Improvement Plan

- a) A20 Gateway. Cllr Hall confirmed the invoice had been received and will be paid this month and Cllr Ash confirmed he has emailed KCC to confirm a start date for the works.
- b) Bearsted Station crossing point. Cllr Spooner confirmed an email had been received and the funds can be used by South Eastern or Network Rail for improvements. Cllr Springett advised that Network Rail and South Eastern are unaware of our plans for a crossing and we should approach them to request part of the Section 106 funding. Cllr Spooner will make contact.

ACTION: CLLR SPOONER

8. Bus funding/Community Transport Grant

- a) Cllr Ash proposed the £3667.59 CIL funds be allocated to the Traffic and Transport Committee budget, this was seconded by Cllr Hall and resolved with all in favour.

9. Bearsted Road Improvements

Cllr Springett reported that the archaeological dig had been completed and works are due to start spring/summertime. The road into Notcutts will be the first phase works.

10. 20mph speed limit road options.

Cllr Hall confirmed this needs to be added to our HIP, which will be review by KCC October/November 2023. Cllr Springett suggested looking at two zones, one North and one South of Ashford Road, rather than the whole village as drivers more likely to take notice. Cllr Ash suggested liaising with Faversham Council as they are now a 20mph area.

ACTION: CLLR ASH

11. Improve safety of roads at local schools

Cllr Springett and the Administrator reported there has been increased patrols at both school sites recently and there has been a big improvement in parking at these times. Cllr Springett will email Charlie Reynolds to report back on the success of the additional patrols.

ACTION: CLLR SPRINGETT

12. Parking Concerns

Cllr Ash reported visiting Copsewood Way on a Sunday and sighting 2 low loaders full of cars parked on the road. Cllr Springett advised she has spoken to Planning Enforcement, who advised they cannot comment as someone has made a formal complaint. Cllr Spooner suggested residents keep a diary of parking issues. Cllr Ash confirmed that the process of consultation had been delayed due to staffing issues at MBC. It was agreed that the Administrator will respond to all correspondents to advise of the plans to introduce a time limited parking zone.

ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR

13. M20 Delays and Congestion.

Cllr Springett reported that KCC Highways will not discuss the closing of Junction 7. National Highways have claimed they have been refused permission by Kent Highways to use the A20. Cllr Springett is trying to establish further information via the Kent Resilience forum and will report back to the Committee.

ACTION: CLLR SPRINGETT

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14. General Correspondence

- a) Road Closures. The Administrator reported that we had not received any further information from the resident, the Committee agreed to defer until BPC received further information.
- b) Cavendish, Copsewood and Shirley Way. This was discussed under item 12.
- d.) Ragstone Road, Double Yellow Lines. The Committee agreed for the Administrator to respond to the resident regarding the yellow lines due to be added to Ragstone Road.

ACTION: ADMINISTRATOR

15. Future Agenda Items

- Community Transport update
- Bearsted Road Improvement update
- Parking concerns
- 20mph speed limit options

16. Date of next Meeting: 4th July 2023

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.07hrs

Signed.....

Date.....