



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish  
Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7:30pm

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

Also, in attendance was the Acting Clerk Joanne Upton and 4 members of the public.  
The Acting Clerk took the Chair.

**Three residents spoke in detail raising their concerns regarding parking on Ragstone Road, people parking on the pavements and on the corner during school drop off and pick up. Highlighting the dangers that reduced visibility causes. In some cases, this prevents residents leaving or entering their driveways. The pavements are disintegrating and the rubble ends up in the road, damaging tyres. One resident mentioned that parking on pavements is illegal but no one is there to police it. Another resident advised it is only illegal in London. Cllr Springett confirmed that this will be law later this year but could not confirm exactly when.**

**1. Declarations of intention to record.**

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

**2. Apologies and absence.**

Cllr Peters apology and reason were noted.

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

All Councillors declared they had been lobbied on parking issues.

**4. To elect a Committee Chairman**

Cllr Springett nominated Cllr Ash, which was seconded by Cllr Spooner with no other nominations this was resolved with three in favour and one abstention.

Cllr Ash took the Chair.

**5. To elect a Committee Vice Chair**

Cllr Springett nominated herself as Vice Chair. This was proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr Rowe, with no other nominations this was resolved with three in favour and one abstention.

Cllr Ash proposed to move to item 17f, this was resolved with all in favour.

**17f. General Correspondence, Ragstone Road double Yellow Lines**

Cllr Ash advised that he had visited Ragstone Road on a school day at 2.30pm and viewed only 5 parked cars he then returned at 3.15pm and witnessed approximately 30 parked cars and at 4.30pm only 8 cars remained. Cllr Ash stated that this is a problem for all residential areas surrounding schools and is concerned that double yellow lines move the problem to another road. Cllr Springett advised that she had emailed MBC Parking Services today to clarify what is enforceable. Once pavement parking becomes illegal Cllr Springett will request a purge on enforcement visits to the area. Once the new Beat Officer is available BPC can also request that he patrols these areas. Cllr Ash suggested that double yellow lines on the top corner of Ragstone Road could be added to our Highways Improvement Plan which will be reviewed in October by KCC. This was resolved with all in favour.

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

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were agreed and duly signed.

**7. Reports**

- a) The Acting Clerk advised all actions from the previous meeting had been completed and had nothing else to report.
- b) The Chairman reported that the double yellow lines on the corners of Ashford Road/Landway and Greensands/Ragstone Road had now been actioned. The road repairs at the KIM's roundabout and up to Notcutts have now been completed. The A20 gateway is due to start on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Ash is waiting on an up to date copy of the HIP from KCC. The Chairman has looked at the consultation documents for Faversham Council with regards to reduce all roads to a 20mph speed limit and suggests that this should be considered by BPC at a later date. The Acting Clerk confirmed that the link for reporting potholes to KCC was shared in our last newsletter.

**8. Parish Traffic Zone Update**

Cllr Ash reported white lines had been repainted in Hampson Way, Mynn Crescent, Birling Avenue and at the bottom of Hogg Hill. Cllr Springett advised that MBC have been remarking parking bays on the south side of the Green and will do the north side at a later date. They will also be looking at the parking bays outside of the shops at the Green.

**9. Review Highways Improvement Plan**

- a) A20 Gateway. This item has already been discussed.
- b) Bearsted Station crossing point. Cllr Spooner confirmed there is no 106 money from the Roundwell development but they are still negotiating with South Eastern for the £17,000 money from the Barty Farm development to be used towards the Station Crossing.

**ACTION: CLLR SPOONER**

- c) Double yellow lines on HIP. This item has already been discussed.

**10. Parking concerns, Cavendish, Shirley and Copsewood Way**

Cllr Ash reported that the consultation documents have now been sent to residents. Cllr Springett advised that she had been contacted by a resident in Yeoman Way who was concerned that the parking issues will then move into Yeoman Way. The Committee resolved to wait for the outcome of the consultation and recommendations from MBC before considering further initiatives for the area.

**11. Community Bus**

The Acting Clerk reported that the office have been advertising the revised timetable via Facebook, the website and have sent posters to the village halls, libraries and the Co-op to be displayed. Cllr Springett suggested that we review the number of residents using the service in 6-9 months and undertake extensive advertising to ensure the service is being utilised.

**12. Bearsted Road Improvements**

Cllr Springett reported that the site compound is being built so hopefully the work will start soon, however she has not received any further confirmation of a start date.

**13. 20mph speed limit road options.**

The Committee would like to see all roads in Bearsted except the Ashford Road and parts of Ware Street reduced to 20 mph, it was resolved to defer this item until the next meeting due to the many other initiatives the Committee is working on.

**14. Scheme of Delegation**

Cllr Spooner confirmed that the sustainability statement and procurement procedure statement should actually be included in the Committee's Terms of Reference rather than the Scheme of Delegation.

Cllr Ash had prepared a sustainability statement which the Committee agreed to. It was decided that Cllr Ash will email a copy to all committee members for comments and additional input to the statement. The Acting Clerk explained that the Committee needs the statement to explain the process they will undertake before spending money. Cllr Ash suggested this should include regular reviews of the budget, Cllr Spooner said this should reference sustainability. Cllr Springett asked if the office can provide a template for the committee to amend.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

#### **15. KCC statement on roads**

Cllr Springett proposed that she and Cllr Spooner would discuss concerns regarding the managed decline of our highways and the issues regarding new housing developments, with KCC and MBC colleagues will prepare a draft letter for BPC to send to the KCC Cabinet Member to highlight the Parish Council's concerns.

**ACTION: CLLR's SPRINGETT/SPOONER**

#### **16. KCC meeting update**

Cllr Ash reported that he, Cllr Spooner and Cllr Springett met with two KCC Highways Officers, Cllr's from Thurnham and Hollingbourne Parish Council's and a resident from Otham Lane on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. They discussed the option of central reservations near Otham Lane, The Tudor Park, the Caravan site and one in Hollingbourne to help reduce the speed of traffic. We may have to settle with a 50mph speed limit. Otham Lane and Pilgrims Way was also discussed, suggestions of using signage to help slow traffic. It was agreed that KCC will come back with some options. Cllr Springett has also suggested extending the cycle path from Roundwell to Majors Lake along the A20.

#### **17. General correspondence.**

- a) Request for dropped kerb. The Committee confirmed that the resident needs to contact both MBC and KCC to request this. BPC cannot give permission for this. Cllr Ash advised he spoke to the neighbour who has a dropped kerb and she would be happy to give the resident advice on how to apply for this.
- b) Sat Nav Enquiry. Cllr Springett advised that KCC Highways Freight Officer may be able to assist with this.
- c) Otham Lane. This item has already been discussed.
- d) Parking on Ware Street. The Committee feels these parking bays assist with reducing the speed of traffic on Ware Street and would not consider the removal of these bays.
- e) Parking on the Green. Cllr Springett suggested the parking bay outside of the shops nearest Thurnham Lane be removed and a side bay added in front of the phone box, she will discuss this option with MBC Parking Services. A resident suggested we could install bike racks where the first bay is. This could prevent people parking there anyway if the bay is removed.

**ACTION: CLLR SPRINGETT**

- f) Ragstone Road. This item has already been discussed.
- g) Madginford Hall car park. Cllr Ash stated this is a KCC car park and we are unable to monitor or police it.
- h) Additional cycle racks. The resident asked for racks at the Oak end of the Green and by the play area. It was agreed that the Committee would consider cycle racks at the Oak end of the Green providing the resident could investigate a suitable location that does not conflict with other users of the Green.
- i) The Street, traffic concerns. The Committee noted the concerns but agreed that speed bumps would actually be too noisy and chicanes were not an option.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

#### **18. Future Agenda Items**

Community Bus  
Bearsted Road Improvement update  
Parking concerns  
20mph speed limit options  
HIP  
Sustainability and Procurement statements

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**Minute Ref: 1024**

Cllr Ash requested Parking Zone updates to be removed from the agenda.

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

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.18hrs

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....