



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish
Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Tuesday 3rd October 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 Administrator Lauren White and 9 members of the public.

One resident spoke seeking help for parking on Ragstone road. Recent double yellow lines on Greensand Road turning have solved one issue and transferred parking onto the spur on Ragstone road, with people parking on corners. One resident raised concerns on Button Lane and Cavendish Way with people parking on the pavements, bushes, and double yellow lines. One resident reiterated the parking on pavements and the safety concerns it poses. Residents on mobility scooters, and pedestrians are having to pass on the road. One resident highlighted the car dealership and the number of cars parked on the pavements. Cllr Springett confirmed that she has investigated this and it not illegal to park on pavements. One resident highlighted the fact some vehicles are untaxed. Cllr Springett advised these should be reported to DVLA.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

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

2. Apologies and absence.

None.

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

None.

4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 4th July 2023 were agreed and duly signed.

5. Reports from the chairman

- (i) Cllr Ash reported that members had received by email the live Bearsted highway improvement plan (HIP) priorities. It showed 3 items of which the A20 gateway had been installed on 9th July 2023.
- (ii) Members had also been given the historical priorities record.
- (iii) Members had received a hard copy of the HIP information pack.
- (iv) The chairman had reported he had kept fully informed since he had the meeting at Tudor Park in June
- (v) Cllr Springett is looking into increasing car parking around the green, working with Charlie Reynolds MBC.
- (vi) The Leeds/Langley Road closure work by southern water should be completed by early November.
- (vii) There will be a meeting with MBC and the police on Friday 3rd November at the Downswood community centre, looking at traffic and policing matters.

Councillor Ash requested that item 6 came after item 9.

7. Parking concerns, Cavendish, Shirley and Copswood Way

- a) Cllr Ash reported that following the consultation results have now been collected by MBC. They received 44% response rate. It was 47% for parking restrictions and 47% against parking restrictions. Remaining 6% were unaware of current problems. MBC have advised due to no clear result they are unable to go ahead to put any restrictions in place. Due to the response received, it will be at least 2 years before another parking consultation. Bearsted Parish council are aware of issues raised by members of Public. Parking will be included in next newsletter. Cllr Springett gave an update on the meeting with MBC who strongly do not recommend double yellow lines on Cavendish way/Copswood way. Confirmed if members of public are blocked in can call police. If unable to get onto drive unfortunately this is not illegal.
- b) Cllr Ash will pursue further action on Cavendish way, Copswood way, Yeoman way with KCC. The police BEAT officer to check parking in the meantime. Possible yellow lines on road corners at Ragstone Road. Cllr Ash reported that if BPC offer to pay this may possibility speed up but confirmed that it is high on the list of Priority. Cllr Springett to speak with Community police officer Mitchell regarding parking on Cavendish and issuing parking tickets.
- c) Cllr Springett has constructed a standard response to members of public for office to use when necessary. To finalise response.

Action: Office/Cllr Springett/Cllr Ash

8. Bearsted Station crossing

Cllr Spooner advised that he last had contact with Nina Peak in July 2023, still no response, and awaiting further information.

Cllr Spooner To attend meeting with Helen Whately MP to explain disappointment with no response to.

9. Parishes meeting

Cllr Ash reported a productive meeting with KCC, Hollingbourne and Thurnham parishes. It has been advised that a pedestrian refuge island is not possible at Otham Lane or Bearsted Caravan Park.

However, a possibility for a pedestrian refuge island at Tudor Park.

Greg McNicoll currently looking into moving Maidstone bound Bus Stop from Tudor Park golf course to front of Tudor Park Hotel with new footpath.

6. Review Highways Improvement Plan

Committee discussed having a Blanket 20 mph speed limit on residential streets and Ashford Road 30 mph to add to HIP.

Priority is having double yellow lines on the corners as first choice Landway/Fauchons Way, Landway/Ames Avenue, Roundwell/Sutton Street. Copsewood way, Cavendish Way, Yeomans way, Ragstone Road Sandy Mount Bend, Roseacre Lane/Ashford Road.

HIP to be updated October 2023. Proposed by Cllr Springett, seconded by Richard Ash, all in favour.

ACTION: CLLR ASH

10. Coordinated Parish Traffic groups

Cllr Springett has proposed a collective of Bearsted, Thurnham, Downwood, Boxley, Otham, Leeds, Kingswood and Broomfield, Detling and Hollingbourne to join as a coordinated traffic group. As a collective they can work together to mitigate traffic issues had by all Parishes.

Letter to be sent to all Parish Clerks inviting Parish to join the group.

ACTION: CLLR SPRINGETT

11. Community Bus

a) Helen Whately MP will be visiting the community bus on 3rd November 2023.

b) Usage is improving and getting back to service levels prior to road works. Reliability is also improving.

12. Otham Lane

Otham Lane is actively being looked at on HIP, although will not be included until 2024 for KCC funding. It has been advised that Leeds Road due to reopen in November 2023 which will hopefully ease traffic volume along Otham Lane.

13. Bearsted Road Improvements

Cllr Springett received an update from KCC- Colas. It has been advised that Crematorium drainage works have now finished. It has been advised that drainage works to the West of Newnham Court should have minimal impact on Bearsted. Main works to take place in October/November however they are looking at reducing the length of time.

The KCC are currently finalising updates and sending Newsletters to wide area hoping to include Parish Council with details of development and roadworks.

14. Traffic matters concerning the Green

- a. Sewage repairs have been completed. Unsure if it has been successful yet.
- b. MBC Parking Services are increasing availability around the Green but are expanding one at a time.
- c. Committee agreed it is a possibility to have 2 or 3 cycle racks placed on the Green behind the Fed café. BPC will fund this. Proposed Cllr Ash, Seconded Cllr Springett, All in favour.
Office to add picture of Cycle Racks to Newsletter to encourage use.

15. National Highways

Cllr Springett attended along with Cllr Hall and a resident meeting with National Highways regarding mitigating Bearsted traffic issues.

National Highways has agreed to a Trial closure at Junction 8. HGV Sat Nav database have been added that Bearsted is an unsuitable diversion route. Possibly to also be added to the Car Sat Nav Database.

16. KCC statement on roads

Cllr Spooner apologised he has yet to complete.

To defer to next committee meeting on 5th December 2023.

ACTION: CLLR's SPRINGETT/SPOONER

17. KCC consultation

Committee decided they will not participate in consultation. No further action required.

18. Budget

Cllr Ash requested Cllr Springett investigates a CIL query.

ACTION: CLLR's SPRINGETT

19. General correspondence.

- a) Church Lane – A Give Way sign to be added with priority to those to the traffic coming up the road.
- b) Copsewood Way road surfacing - Cllr Ash to contact Greg McNicol for an explanation as to why the road surfacing has been completed with exposed concrete and not been replaced with a layer of tarmac.
- c) Ashford road parking concerns – BPC to respond as we cannot see any major concerns with parking. We are aware of parking issues, however but having cars parked reduces the speed of traffic.

ACTION: OFFICE/CLLR ASH

20. Future Agenda Items

Update of coordinated Parish group
Bearsted Station update
HIP
Update on KCC statement on roads
General Correspondence

21. Date of next Meeting: 5th December 2023

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.29hrs

Signed.....

Date.....