



**Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council
held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7:30pm**

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

Also, in attendance was the Clerk, Joanne Upton and 3 members of the public.

One resident spoke about the increased number of vehicles using Spot Lane, concerns are speeding vehicles, noise levels, arguments at chicanes, drivers mounting the kerb as unable to reverse. The resident had previously approached MBC asking for the chicanes to be replaced with speed ramps but was advised these are unsafe for ambulances and fire engines. The resident would like to see the chicanes replaced with speed ramps or designated a 20mph road.

A second resident spoke about the lack of parking for residents around the Green. One local business is parking multiple vehicles in the limited spaces. The resident would like a ban on commercial vehicles parking there after 6pm and the spaces on the Yeoman Lane and Oak on the Green side made resident parking only. A third resident spoke about parking concerns in Sandy Mount, the road is being used as a car park by residents who live on Ware Street. Driveways are being blocked, he is unable to push a wheelchair along the pavements. The inconsiderate parking causes a danger to road users and pedestrians, and they have been unable to sell their property due to the parking issues. The resident has requested double yellow lines on the second bend of Sandy Mount.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

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

2. Apologies and absence.

Apologies and reasons were received and duly noted for Cllr Val Springett.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations or Lobbying.

None.

4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 3rd October 2023 were agreed and duly signed.

5. Reports from the chairman

- a) Clerks Report: The Clerk reported that KCC have confirmed the works to relocate the lamp post on Tower Lane, should begin in February 2024. The Clerk confirmed all Parishes contacted about joining a co-ordinated working group have now responded and Cllr Springett will arrange a meeting to discuss traffic concerns.
- b) Chairmans Report: Cllr Ash advised he had attended the Transport meeting for Mid Kent, the Cycling initiative consultation was discussed. KCC are facing tight financial constraints, the HIP can be displayed on the website and Councils are encouraged to seek support from County Councillors for issues on the HIP. The Development Planning process can only refuse developments on highways grounds if the impact is unacceptable and deemed severe. The Government needs to define severe. KCC has a vision to bring down the number of deaths and serious injuries on the roads.

Cllr Ash proposed to move straight to item 11f, this was seconded by Cllr Spooner and resolved with all in favour.

11f. General Correspondence

Spot Lane Traffic Concerns: Cllr Ash confirmed that Otham Lane are experiencing the same problems, which has been exaggerated due to the housing developments at Sutton Road and Otham. Cllr Ash was previously advised that the bottom part of Spot Lane was too steep for speed ramps. Cllr Spooner advised the resident that BPC looked at this issue recently, BPC decided removing the first chicane would encourage speeding at the A20 end of Spot Lane and it was impossible to relocate the chicane due to the driveways. The resident suggested replacing them with speed ramps. The Committee agreed to keep monitoring the situation.

6. Review Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Ash confirmed he is attending a meeting with Cllr Springett and KCC tomorrow to review the HIP. He proposed to put the following traffic issues forward to KCC for approval, Otham Lane, double yellow lines for Copsewood/Cavendish/Yeoman Way, double yellow lines Ragstone Road, double yellow lines on Roseacre Lane/A20, double yellow lines Sandy Mount and a single lane/give way sign for Church Lane. This was seconded by Cllr Spooner and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: CLLR's ASH / SPRINGETT

7. Bearsted Station crossing

Cllr Spooner noted that it is section 106 money we are looking to claim towards the Station crossing not CIL funds. Cllr Ash advised that the design has been through the stage one audit, but Cllr Springett has some queries about the design which will be discussed at the meeting with KCC tomorrow. Providing the design is finalised, Cllr Ash proposed to accept the cost of £6495, this was seconded by Cllr Rowe and resolved with all in favour. KCC will invoice BPC, BPC need to send the design and costs to SE Trains for them to consider contributing from the section 106 monies, which if agreed MBC will pay directly to BPC.

ACTION: CLLR's SPRINGETT / ASH

8. Bearsted Road Improvements

Cllr Spooner advised the drainage works has begun and the main works will begin in the new year. The Willington Street junction works will not begin until this project has been completed.

9. KCC statements on roads

Cllr Ash advised the statement has been superseded at a recent meeting by the new member Neil Baker who confirmed there will be 'no managed decline'.

10. Community Transport Grant Scheme

Cllr Ash advised Cllr Hall is looking into making an application for funding, this can only be for capital projects. The Committee suggested supporting an application for a new bus, as the current one used by Compaid is 7-8 years old. Cllr Spooner suggested we review the data for usage of the service before investing further funds. The Clerk advised the grant application needs to be submitted by the 18th December 2023.

ACTION: CLLR HALL

11. General correspondence.

- a) M20 closures: Cllr Ash confirmed National Highways will trial a closure at junction 8. There is no further update on this.

ACTION: OFFICE

- b) Copsewood Way road surface: Cllr Ash advised that KCC have explained this is a superior road surface which should last longer. The Clerk advised that the resident is concerned that water is not draining away. The Committee agreed that the resident needs to report this to KCC and copy in Sir Paul Carter.

- c) Ashford road parking concerns: The Clerk advised the resident was due to send photo's which have not been received. The Committee still believe the parked cars help to reduce the speed of traffic but the resident could approach KCC directly for sight lines at the drive entrances.

ACTION: OFFICE

- d) Congestion at school times: The Committee have reviewed options and concerns many times with no solution to the problem. BPC will continue to ask MBC for increased patrols.

ACTION: OFFICE

- e) A20 Cycle Path: Cllr Ash noted the section of the cycle path referred to by the resident is in Thurnham Parish and the resident would need to speak to them.

ACTION: OFFICE

- f) Spot Lane: This item has already been discussed.

- g) White lines repainting: Cllr Ash advised white lines need to be 75% gone before they will be considered for repainting. Cllr Ash will raise with KCC at the meeting tomorrow.

ACTION: CLLR ASH

12. Future Agenda Items

- Bearsted station crossing.
- HIP.
- Bearsted Road improvements.
- General Correspondence.
- Community Transport Grant.

13. Date of next Meeting: 6th February 2024

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 20.59hrs

Signed.....

Date.....