



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council
held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 7:30pm

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

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

One member of the public requested to speak at item 7.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

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

2. Apologies and absence.

There were none.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations or Lobbying.

There were none.

4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 6th February 2024 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

5. Reports from the chairman

- a) Clerks Report: The Clerk had nothing to report.
- b) Chairmans Report: The Chairman stated all items to discuss were on the agenda.

6. A20 Speed Survey Results

Cllr Ash advised the speed survey had been completed in February over a seven day period and the results showed the number of vehicles travelling in the East direction was 39853 with an average speed of 34 mph and 47037 vehicles travelling West at an average speed of 32mph. KCC are undertaking a further 8 speed surveys on the A20 between Bearsted and Lenham.

Cllr Springett noted that the survey did record a few vehicles travelling at much faster speeds and advised BPC has been investigating the option of average speed cameras through Bearsted, however this needs to go through KCC. The Committee agreed a speed indicator device is unlikely to deter those already breaking the speed limit. Cllr Springett advised the Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group are working together to reduce the speed limit on the A20 and once all the speed surveys have been completed, they will arrange a meeting with KCC to discuss options. Cllr Ash proposed to wait until all speed surveys are completed before taking further action, this was seconded by Cllr Springett and resolved with all in favour.

7. Speed Watch

Cllr Springett suggested supporting a speed watch initiative. These are good as they pop up where unexpected, it is a scheme run through Kent Police who provide training. The Parish Council would like to support this, but it would require volunteers to run it.

A member of the public advised he had previously been involved with two local speed watch groups which were very effective and those breaking the speed limit will receive a letter from the Police followed up by a visit for repeated offences. Cllr Springett will raise this with the Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group, to include volunteers in other parishes where the speed watch can also be used.

Cllr Springett proposed the office advertise for volunteers and will support but not run the scheme. This was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: OFFICE

8. Review Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Ash reported he attended a meeting with Cllr Springett and KCC in March. The Capsewood/Cavendish/Yeoman Way consultation for double yellow lines ended on the 25th March. 19 comments were received from residents, 16 in support and 3 objections, therefore it does not need to go to the Joint Transport Board for approval, but KCC will liaise further with the residents to discuss concerns before completing the works.

The Otham Lane signage and road markings is underway with the KCC design team.

The request for double yellow lines on Sandy Mount has been refused at this time as KCC have suggested other options to the resident, this will stay on our HIP until all avenues are investigated.

The request for double yellow lines at the Roseacre Lane/Ashford Road junction is under review with KCC, suggesting up to 14 meters only so it does not push parking further up Roseacre Lane.

The request for signage on Church Lane has been refused by KCC as there is no suitable location. This will be removed from the HIP.

9. Bearsted Station crossing

Cllr Ash confirmed this should be installed by the summer. BPC are still waiting for Southeast Trains to advise if they will contribute to the costs.

10. Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group

Cllr Springett advised the group consists of 8 local parishes working together on two initiatives. One to reduce the speed on the A20 and the other to reduce speed and weight limits on rural lanes. The group have a meeting next week regarding rural lanes. The group working on A20 speed limits will arrange a meeting with KCC designers and planners once all 8 speed surveys have been completed on the A20.

11. Budget

The Committee reviewed the spending for the last financial year.

12. School Parking Update

The Clerk advised the Committee of an incident outside of Roseacre/Thurnham School. The schools met with KCC and are assisting with advertising for the patrol crossing job. The office has been working with KCC looking at various solutions, including double yellow lines and pedestrian crossings, none are suitable for this area. KCC suggested single yellow lines to restrict parking only during school drop off and pick up times. This would then enable Maidstone Parking Services enforcement, as currently there are no restrictions. The office is working with parents and the school to gather evidence to support single yellow lines. This would need to be funded by BPC and added to the HIP. Cllr Ash proposed to support this, which was seconded by Cllr Springett and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: OFFICE

13. Bearsted Road Improvements

Cllr Springett confirmed work has commenced on the new entrance to Notcutts and Cllr Spooner advised there is a great deal of work underground, with utilities, to be done before residents will see much work on the widening of the road.

10. General correspondence.

- a) Pavement Parking, Ragstone Road: Cllr Ash reported that the pavements have now been repaired. The resident had been advised by Dept of Transport that Local Authorities are responsible for parking restrictions, Cllr Spooner advised that KCC have not invoked that power. It was noted that some roads need to allow pavement parking for example Royston Road. Cllr Springett suggested we speak to KCC about potential bollards on Ragstone Road to prevent pavement parking and add this to our HIP.

ACTION: CLLR ASH & SPRINGETT

- b) Mobility: The Committee noted the residents' concerns, and that parking is an issue at school times. BPC will continue to request Maidstone Parking Services to patrol.

ACTION: CLLR SPRINGETT

- c) Parking around the village Green: A resident has requested on street parking on the West & East side be made resident parking only. A main concern is that a local business is parking its vehicles and leaving them there all weekend. Cllr Springett has looked into this option, but local businesses are entitled to apply for permits and would still be able to use the resident only bays. MBC are looking at increasing the number of bays on the North and South side. The Committee feel that parking should be available to all residents to encourage use of the Green and the current 2 hour limit with no return

within 2 hours restriction is sufficient. Cllr Springett proposed no further action to be taken, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: OFFICE

11. Future Agenda Items

- HIP review.
- A20 speed surveys results.
- Speed Watch.
- Bearsted station crossing.
- Bearsted Road improvements.
- Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group.
- General Correspondence.

12. Date of next Meeting: 4th June 2024

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 20.31hrs

Signed.....

Date.....