



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council
held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Richard Ash MBE (Chair)
Cllr James Day
Cllr Denis Spooner
Cllr Val Springett

Also, in attendance was the Deputy Clerk, Amy Bush and 11 members of the public.

1. Declaration of intention to record.

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

2. Apologies and absence.

None.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations or Lobbying.

None.

4. To elect a Committee Chairperson

Cllr Spooner nominated Cllr Ash as Chairperson. With no other nominations Cllr Ash was elected with all in favour.

5. To elect a Committee Vice chair

Cllr Ash nominated Cllr Springett as Vice Chair. With no other nominations Cllr Springett was elected with all in favour.

6. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 4th June 2024 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

The Chairman proposed to move item 17 ahead of item 7. This was agreed with all in favour.

17. General correspondence.

a) A20 alternative speed restrictions.

The Chairman explained that repeater signs are not installed on 30mph stretches as street lights indicate the speed limit to motorists. The office will respond to the email.

ACTION: Deputy Clerk

b) Barty Farm, Roundwell Road.

Pedestrians are unable to cross the road safely to join the footpath due to the double height kerb. BPC to add this to their revised HIP in November. To propose traffic calming and a build-out for safe road crossing.

c) Ragstone Road parking concerns.

To prevent pavement parking BPC suggested installation of bollards. KCC will not approve as the width of the footpath does not meet guidelines. The residents will be informed.

ACTION: Deputy Clerk

d) Church Lane, speeding and safety concerns.

Concerns over safety due to an increase in traffic and pedestrian use. Blind corners and lack of footpath were highlighted. Cllr Springett commented that the sign just past Trapfield Close still needs repositioning and that KCC had turned down a request for a Pedestrians in road sign. BPC will seek a site meeting with KCC to review. Office to look at signage in the car park to remind vehicles to exit safely.

ACTION: Cllr Springett & Deputy Clerk

e) Thurnham Lane/Ware Street, parking concerns.

Cllr Springett has requested more parking enforcement visits and a review into the positioning of the parking bays.

f) Manor Close request for double yellow lines.

The committee discussed all of the feedback from residents who feel DYL are essential to improve safety. As this was previously refused by KCC, BPC will request a site visit to review. This will be added to the revised HIP in November.

g) Yeoman Lane, speed concerns.

Cllr Ash commented that a survey in 2021 did not highlight enough speeding for KCC to take any action. 20mph markings need refreshing.

The Chairman proposed to move item 15 ahead of item 7. This was agreed with all in favour.

15. Sandy Mount parking concerns.

The committee discussed the feedback received from the engagement survey. It was decided further analysis of the comments and suggestions were needed before reviewing with KCC.

ACTION: Cllr Springett & Cllr Ash

7. Speed watch

The Deputy Clerk updated the committee confirming that 5 out of the 7 volunteers were awaiting roadside training and thanked Mike Cuming who has offered to support with data entry and coordination. The speed watch team will be completing a risk assessment on the A20, Ware Street and Roundwell.

8. Reports

a) Deputy Clerks Report: The Deputy Clerk had nothing to report.

b) Chairmans Report: The Chairman noted the persistence of Cllr Springett and Carole Williams from MBC in helping secure the £8374 from South Eastern which contributed to the station crossing.

Cllr Ash advised the committee that the alterations to the signage at Otham Lane would be completed in November. He also commented that the Cavendish Way DYL were being observed however one resident has suggested they should be extended. The area will be monitored. The Spot Lane junction was also discussed. The improvements have not gone far enough to improve queuing traffic. Cllr Springett to monitor and report.

ACTION: Cllr Springett

9. A20 Speed Survey

KCC presented proposals at a recent meeting including changes on the A20 Maidstone – Lenham.

1. Moving A20 30mph sign to the west of the Fauchons Lane junction. - BPC do not support as could see no benefit.
 2. Changing the island opposite the Church Landway to a pedestrian refuge to improve safety. - BPC support.
 3. Extending the existing cycleway the runs from the M20 roundabout to Roundwell, to continue westward towards Major's Lake - BPC support.
 4. Reducing the speed limit to 50mph on the stretch from the M20 roundabout to where the 30mph starts – BPC strongly support.
 5. Moving the Tudor Park bus stop location and adding a refuge island for safer access. – BPC support.
- Cllr Springett suggested that an island west of Otham Lane just inside the 30mph area should be considered and this will be sent as part of the feedback.

ACTION: Cllr Ash

10. Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group

Cllr Springett updated the committee. There has been no meeting over the summer. The next meeting is scheduled for 3rd October. As improvements have been proposed by KCC for the A20 the group will focus on rural matters with SID's locations considered.

11. M20 closures

Cllr Springett had circulated data which she obtained highlighting the increase in traffic during the M20 junction 7 closures. With numbers increasing from 162 to 758 on Ware Street and 265 to 1300 on the A20 this is very concerning. A meeting with Helen Whately, Cllr Springett and Cllr Hall has been arranged with the hope to move the junction closure to junction 8.

ACTION: Cllr Springett & Cllr Hall

12. Budget

Cllr Springett to contact KCC to seek funding for SID project. Budget to be reviewed in detail at November meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Springett

13. Bearsted Road improvements

The committee discussed the road improvements in light of the Aldi store application being approved. The understanding is that the Newnham Court Way access will need to be completed before the store can open.

14. Highway issues

Cllr Day and Cllr Spooner have started to complete their surveys of the roads and footpaths within the Parish. Issues highlighted included surface repair and the need for refreshing road markings.

16. SID Units

The committee discussed possible locations and agreed on 3 suitable positions:

1. A20 west of 30mph.
2. Roundwell near to Barty Farm entrance.
3. Ware Street inside boundary.

17. Future Agenda Items

- Revise HIP document.
- Full budget review.
- Sandy Mount update.
- A20 improvements update.
- Reports from Cllr Spooner and Cllr Day on Parish road and pavement inspections.
- Speed Watch.
- Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group.
- General Correspondence.

18. Date of next Meeting: 5th November 2024

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.27hrs

Signed.....

Date.....