



Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council
held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Richard Ash MBE (Chair)
Cllr Kapil Kaushik
Cllr Denis Spooner
Cllr Val Springett

Also, in attendance was the Deputy Clerk, Amy Bush.

Reports from member of the public.

No reports.

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. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 5th November 2024 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

5. Reports

- a) Deputy Clerks Report: Nothing to report.
- b) Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported that himself and Cllr Springett met with a KCC representative on Friday 14th February to discuss the HIP. Updates will be included during item 6.

6. HIP update

Cllr Ash and Cllr Springett gave an update:

1. Landway – A white line opposite school entrance and yellow zig zags extension on corners of entrance. KCC will propose to their planning team and are hopeful this will be approved.

2. Roundwell – Buildout to enable safe crossing rejected due to sightlines. Signage to alert drivers will be explored. Speed watch team to monitor area. Cllr Kaushik suggested illusory speedbumps that are seen in London. Cllr Springett to query design with KCC.

Action: Cllr Springett

3. Ashford Road 50m east of Esso – Request for a traffic island to be changed to pedestrian refuge. KCC not able to prioritise at this stage. Will remain on HIP for future consideration.

4. Manor Close – DYL extended into Manor Close to prevent dangerous parking. KCC will propose to their planning team and are hopeful this will be approved. Funding will be considered once agreed.

5. Sandy Mount – DYL on both sides of the road at the bend. KCC are conducting formal consultation.

6. Church Lane – Signage warning of pedestrians in the road. Currently installed in car park by BPC. Position for further signage just before cars turn right to the church are being explored.

7. Ashford Road east – Pedestrian refuge island on the A20 near to Otham Lane or west of 30mph gateway. Due to underground cables at the suggested site an island installation was rejected.

7. Operation Mini-Brock

Barrier and traffic management during operation brock is currently activated at Junction 7 due to staff safety. Traffic heavily increases through Bearsted as many drivers opt not to use the A249. Cllr Springett advised the committee that a proposal for a mini-brock was being considered. This would stack lorries later and

nearer to Junction 9 meaning the M20 could close at Junction 8. The committee are hopeful this may be implemented when possible. Cllr Springett to seek updates before the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Springett

8. Report on Parish Seminar

Cllr Ash and Cllr Springett attended and reported some good speakers were present. Cllr Ash raised a query with the bus service as the 10X and No4 buses run within 10 minutes of each other. Residents then wait a full hour for the next service. He suggested Stagecoach and Arriva should coordinate a better interval between their services on the A20.

9. Highway issues

Several issues reported by former Cllr Day had already been actioned. Cllr Spooner to visit the outstanding areas over the next two months and report back to the committee in April.

Action: Cllr Spooner

10. Coordinated Parishes Traffic group

Cllr Springett updated the committee. The Parishes are still hoping to coordinate sharing SID's which will allow each Parish to run a camera for 8 weeks each on a rolling basis. The next meeting will be held at Madginford Hall 17th April at 7.30pm.

11. Speed Watch

The Speed watch team were unable to complete any surveys in January due to the weather. They conducted their first survey in February on the A20 east of Tesco Express. They reported 9 speeding vehicles. Another volunteer joined to group and they will plan their next survey in Ware Street.

12. Local road schemes

a) Bearsted Road by Notcutts

This work and the Willington Street upgrade are still scheduled for Spring 2025 however Cllr Springett advised KCC have still not appointed a contractor, and this was currently out for tender.

b) A20 speed limit

KCC conducted a full survey of the A20 from Turkey Mill to Lenham. A 40mph speed limit 300m from the J8 roundabout to the Bearsted Gateway was agreed as part of this review. The committee note this conclusion was drawn from the same data used to reject calls for a 50mph limit in previous years however they hope the new restrictions will please residents who have campaigned for some time. BPC await an update on when this will be implemented.

13. Shopper bus update

The committee discussed an update from Cllr Hall and noted the application for funding had been submitted.

Action: Cllr Hall

14. Transport South East Draft Transport Strategy Consultation

Cllr Springett responded to the consultations in her capacity as a Borough Councillor. The committee agreed that it was not necessary to respond from the Parish Council.

15. Madginford shops parking

After issues were raised with all day parking at Madginford shops, MBC parking services have been surveying the parking bays to determine if restrictions are required. Cllr Springett to chase for updates.

Action: Cllr Springett

16. General correspondence.

a) Spot Lane - parking on verges

Verge parking was reported with tyre marks observed. No reports recently, BPC will continue to monitor and discuss solutions if the problem starts again.

b) Ragstone Road – pavement parking.

The Committee had explored various avenues but conclude no official solution would be approved by KCC.

c) Lambourne Road – double yellow lines.

The car reported is shown as off road on the DVLA website and should not be there. The committee do not support double yellow lines as this would just push the problem elsewhere.

d) Gault Close – parking complaint

Double yellow lines would be the only solution however this would remove visitor parking and push the problem elsewhere.

17. Future Agenda Items

- Sandy Mount update.
- Reports from Cllr Spooner on local highway issues.
- Speed Watch.
- Co-ordinated Parishes Traffic Group.
- Bearsted Road and Willington Street works.
- A20 speed limit update.
- Shopper bus update
- Mini-Brock.
- Madginford shops parking.

18. Date of next Meeting: 22nd April 2025

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 20.58hrs

Signed.....

Date.....