



**Minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council
held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted
Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at 7:00pm**

Present: Cllr Richard Ash MBE (Chair)
Cllr Vall Springett
Cllr Pat Catt
Cllr David Hall
Cllr Denis Spooner

Also, in attendance was the Clerk, Joanne Upton, visiting member Cllr Sean Turner and 3 members of the public.

Reports from member of the public.

There were no reports. The members of public wish to speak at items 13 & 14d.

1. Declaration of intention to record.

The Chairman declared the Clerk would be recording the meeting for minuting purposes.

2. Apologies and absence.

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Kaushik

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations or Lobbying.

Cllr Springett declared she had been lobbied by a resident regarding item 13, parking on Ashford Road.

4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting of 24th June 2025 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

5. Reports

- a) Clerks Report: The Clerk advised the vegetation over hanging the 30mph sign on Lilk Hill has been reported and the repainting of the zigzag lines and fence in front of Madginford School will need to be reported to KCC. Cllr Turner mentioned two signs in front of the school, one saying no stopping and one saying no idling. The Clerk will contact MBC to have the 'no idling sign' removed as believes this was installed there in error. Cllr Turner suggested children signs for the road to prevent parents parking there. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.
- b) Chairman's Report: The Chairman reviewed the budget, there is £22,657 remaining, £4666 is to allocated to next year's cost of the shopper bus service.
KCC are looking to reduce the speed limit from Lilk Hill to the J8 roundabout on the A20 to 40mph.
MBC have agreed in principle to change the parking spaces opposite the train station to B1 permits, freeing these for resident and visitors to the library to use. This will need to go out to public consultation.
The A249 Notcutts road works have begun. Cllr Springett proposed to arrange a traffic count survey on Ware Street before the main works start and then once the works have been complete to gather evidence of potential increase to traffic through Bearsted. This was seconded by Cllr Hall and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: Cllr Springett

The M20 has been closed over night 9pm-7am increasing the number of HGV's passing through Bearsted, but travelling through Roundwell, The Street and Ware Street. National Highways have agreed to put signs and cones out to divert HGV's via Ashford Road, on Sunday evening this was not done and caused many vehicles to use the Roundwell route. National Highways are meeting legal requirements. Cllr Hall explained the official diversion only caters for traffic headed to Dover and not those headed for Ashford and Folkstone. Therefore, neither National or KCC Highways are meeting their responsibilities and proposed the Council write a formal letter to request more collaboration and an alternative official diversion is created for other traffic to use the A20.

One resident asked if we could liaise with sat nav companies to remove Roundwell/Ware Street as a route. Cllr Springett explained this was done a few years ago for HGV sat nav but some companies use standard sat nav systems. Cllr Springett suggested we post in newsletter and social media that residents write letters of complaint to National & KCC Highways.

Action: Office

The Chairman reported they had attended a meeting with Network Rail to pursue the installation of a light under the railway bridge on Thurnham Lane and a white line to be added at the bottom of the ramp where pedestrians cross, to access the station, clearly indicating where the road is.

6. SID Resident Engagement

Cllr Ash advised there were 38 responses to the community engagement, 30 in favour and 8 against. Several queries and concerns were raised by residents, which BPC will provide feedback via the newsletter, noticeboards and social media.

7. HIP (Highwaysupdate)

Cllr Ash gave an update:

1. The Landway – Single yellow lines opposite Roseacre school entrance. KCC have ordered the TRO, which should be issued in the next 2-3 weeks.

2. Roundwell – Pedestrian Crossing. This is still being investigated by KCC.

3. Ashford Road 50m east of Esso – £1124 design fee paid for island east of Tesco Express. This is still with the KCC design team.

4. Manor Close – DYL extended into Manor Close to prevent dangerous parking. The TRO has been ordered and should be issued in the next 2-3 weeks.

6. Sandy Mount – This will be considered at the Joint Transport Board meeting on the 15th October and a report is expected to be available soon.

Cllr's Ash and Springett and the Clerk will be meeting KCC in October for a HIP review and update.

8. Madginford Shops Parking

Cllr Springett advised that a public engagement was undertaken with the residents living opposite the shops and the businesses regarding introducing time limits to parking. Only 4 responded, Cllr Springett believes the engagement should have included residents living further from the shops, those likely to need parking. So will continue to work with MBC on this issue.

ACTION: Cllr Springett

9. Coordinated Parishes Traffic group

Cllr Springett advised there are no updates.

10. Informal Consultation on no waiting restrictions at the bottom of Thurnham Lane

Cllr Springett advised KCC are considering options to reconfigure the junction at Thurnham Lane and the Street. MBC are also considering changing the parking restrictions to include "no parking blips" which will prevent parking for short periods without enforcement. Cllr Springett proposed we undertake a public engagement, this was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour.

Action: Office

11. Speed watch

Cllr Ash thanked the team of volunteers who have carried out 10 sessions between 7th of July and 23rd September and recorded 106 incidents of speeding, which have reported to the police, most incidents were captured on the A20.

12. Tesco Express Traffic & Parking Concerns

It was agreed that BPC will arrange a site meeting with KCC to review the situation and look at possible solutions and extend the site visit to review the on-road parking situation from the Tesco garage down the A20 to Lilik Hill. Cllr Hall suggested asking the police to give their view on the parking and traffic in this area.

Action: Cllr Ash & Office

13. Parking on the Ashford Road near Church Lane Entrance

Two residents spoke of the dangers faced by residents living on the A20 to exit their driveways into traffic often travelling at 40-50mph. People often blocking driveways or parking so close, it forces residents to pull out at a right angle almost to the centre of the road before being able to turn and the parking reduces visibility of oncoming traffic. There have been 3 serious accidents within last 12 months including emergency service vehicles.

Cllr's Ash and Springett raised concerns that installing double yellow lines would move parking further down the road, and the parked cars act to reduce speed. Cllr Springett also noted that KCC will likely resolve that the road is wide enough to accommodate parking on both sides of the road. KCC no longer install the white lines (dog bones) over drive entrances, so this not an option. If parking spaces are introduced this would greatly reduce the number of spaces available and traffic calming measures are not permitted on A roads.

It was agreed that BPC will write to all the clubs on the Church Landway and ask that they forward a letter requesting all members park responsibly and legally.

Cllr's Ash and Springett will arrange a site meeting with KCC to discuss the dangers and possible solutions for this area.

Action: Cllr's Ash/Springett/Office

14. General correspondence.

- a) Willington St/Ashford Road Speeding: Following concerns raised by a resident, our local Beat Officer carried out 2 separate sessions with a speed gun and found no issues with speeding in this area.
- b) Shell Garage Request: The Committee agreed this request should be approved by KCC and the company pay for the installation of a path over the grass verge to the rear of the garage.
- c) School Run Pavement Parking: Madginford Area, including Ragstone Road. Cllr Turner has agreed to liaise with Madginford School to ensure they have a school travel plan and that they have joined the responsible parking campaign. BPC will investigate the costs of road signs that can be put out to encourage parents not to park on pavements or restricted areas. The school will need to agree to put signs out and manage this initiative and costs can be considered at the next Committee meeting.

Action: Cllr Turner/Office

- d) Bearsted – solutions to reduce through traffic: This was already discussed under the Chairmans report. Cllr Springett will request portable led signs from KCC to direct motorway traffic to the A20 and not via Roundwell & the Street.

Action: Cllr Springett

15. Future Agenda Items

Standard items

Remove CPTG from future agenda's

Report on roads from Cllr Spooner

16. Date of next Meeting: 18th November 2025

With no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 20.54 hr

Signed.....

Date.....