

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & STREETLIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2019, 7.30PM AT 9 HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING

Present: **Mr N Stapleton (Chairman)**
 Miss G Barkham
 Mr K Bullard
 Mr D Thompson

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
19/100	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Borough Councillor Luck			
19/101	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Mr Stapleton and Mr Thompson are both residents of Police Station Road which is discussed at minute number [19/107]			
18/102	MINUTES of the meeting held on 17 th December were approved and signed.			
19/103	MATTERS ARISING from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda (18/586), Miss Barkham reported that the temporary tarmac in the High Street (near Zebra crossing) is breaking up again. Clerk to report to KCC Highways. In addition there is a pot hole on St Leonards Street near the turning to Manor Farm. Clerk to report to KCC Highways.	Clerk	✓	
19/104	STREETLIGHTING			
104.1	Phase 5 Phase 5 works as per the budget were noted – see attached. Emphasis for the coming financial year is on converting the mercury lights in the High Street to LED. Clerk to notify Mr Bonner that works can commence in April 2019. Clerk to draft a letter to those residents/businesses who have lanterns on their properties and will be affected by the phase 5 works	Clerk Clerk	✓	
104.2	UMS Certificate It was agreed that the certificate be updated after the phased repair works have been completed.			
104.3	Repairs It was agreed to obtain a quote for the repair of the one remaining Son streetlight in the Churchyard which has broken panels. It was agreed that this work should be timetabled for before the end of the financial year. Lantern to be converted to LED. Clerk to obtain quote	Clerk		
104.4	Public Safety Dark stretches within the town were discussed and it was agreed that the bend in Swan Street was an area of concern. In the first instance, it was agreed that Mrs Dean be asked to meet			

	with Mr Stapleton at the site and the recommendation of that site meeting will then be reported to the next Highways meeting.			
19/105	<u>SPEEDWATCH</u>			
	Mr Stapleton reported that there have been 2 more Speedwatch sessions since the last meeting. Town Hill – 161 cars out of which 27 were recorded speeding Swan Street – 174 cars and 40 were recorded speeding. One more resident has volunteered – Clerk to arrange a convenient date for training. General discussion regarding the need for more volunteers and for more regular/consistent sessions. Buses have been noted exceeding the speed limit. Clerk to contact bus company to ask for the make of their vehicles so that the details can be recorded.	Clerk Clerk	✓	
19/106	<u>PROHIBITION OF RIGHT HAND TURN FROM BIRLING ROAD LEYBOURNE</u>			
	It was noted that following the public consultation, the project sponsor has decided not to proceed with the proposed prohibition.			
19/107	<u>ROAD SAFETY – SWAN STREET AND POLICE STATION ROAD</u>			
	Members agreed to look at the recently distributed KCC guidance on road calming measures and to consider this further at another meeting of the Highways Committee. It was agreed that a site meeting be convened with Mrs Dean and at a future point with KCC to discuss options.			
19/108	<u>THE BIG CONVERSATION – NUMBER 58 FEEDER BUS</u>			
	Response sent on 7 th February was ratified. See below. <i>Please find below the views of West Malling Parish Council on the proposal to replace the current 58 service with a feeder bus terminating either at Martin Square or Maidstone General Hospital, Hermitage Lane.</i> <i>Our unanimous view is that the bus should terminate at Maidstone General Hospital. Our reasons for this view are as follows:</i> <i>1. The 58 service is the only public transport service which serves Maidstone General Hospital from the villages of Wrotham Heath, Addington, Trottiscliffe, Birling, Ryarsh, Trottiscliffe, Leybourne, West Malling, East Malling, Larkfield, Ditton and Aylesford. There is no commercial bus from A20 to the Hospital. The cessation of this service would mean that people would have to travel the very long journey into and out of Maidstone again to get to the hospital. This is extremely inconvenient, and for some people not in the best of health, impossible and would drive people into their cars.</i> <i>2. Though Barming Station is on Hermitage Lane, it is at some distance from the Hospital, uphill, and not a manageable walk for anyone with mobility problems, or not in full health.</i> <i>3. If people have no car available therefore, the only alternative is to engage a taxi, which from West Malling costs around £14 each way. At this cost, the risk must be increased that patients may be forced to do without treatment not because it is not available, but because they cannot afford to access it.</i> <i>4. Your consultation document refers to the need to retain the original purpose of the bus route. If the 58 were to no longer serve Maidstone Hospital, that commitment will have</i>			

	<p><i>been broken.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Whilst visiting Hospital is not a daily activity, when a bus service is required by people who have no car, or are too unwell to drive, it becomes an essential service. Many patients pointed out that visits to outpatients appointments are often at regular intervals, and cancer patients in particular may receive treatment daily for several weeks or months.</i></p> <p>6. <i>The current 58 service is infrequent and not at a regular time after each hour, and this deters people from using it. The recent halving of the frequency of the number 72 bus has resulted in many complaints of unreliability and cancellations of this service. Nu Venture have however recently taken over the 58 service and passengers comment that the buses are on time, and passenger numbers have increased as a result of the loss of some 72 services and the more accurate time keeping.</i></p> <p>7. <i>We agree that it would be acceptable to cut out that part of the journey which simply takes passengers into Maidstone Town Centre, since alternative commercial routes are available.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, we would like to add the following points concerning the consultation:</i></p> <p><i>Firstly the consultation information being made available chiefly on line reduces the ability of those people most likely to be using the bus, i.e. the elderly, being made aware of the exercise.</i></p> <p><i>Secondly the document is misleading in that it is based on the passenger changing service at Maidstone Hospital to pick up another service to Maidstone Town and calculates the journey time accordingly. In practice, unless passengers particularly wanted a destination on the A26, they would highly unlikely to do this. They would probably choose to transfer onto another commercial service opposite Wealden Hall, which would be a more direct and faster route into town centre.</i></p> <p><i>Thirdly the open session at East Malling Village Hall was not very helpful to the public. We expected to see the consultation maps, timetables and other material on display boards for the public, but they were not. 40 people attended this meeting and fewer than 30 consultation response forms were available for them to complete. We were also concerned to learn that people had been advised they need not opt for either Option 1 or 2 but could simply say they wanted the service to stay the same.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst we understand that this is true, it is not very helpful when one is trying to establish a preference between option 1 and 2. If there was a real possibility of the service staying the same, then three options should have been offered, preferably asking for a 1,2,3, vote in order of preference. As it is, we know that some people intend just to oppose the change, rather than making their preference as between the other two options clear, which is not helpful.</i></p> <p><i>We would be grateful if you could keep us informed on the progress of the feeder bus project.</i></p>		
<p>19/109</p>	<p><u>KCC HIGHWAY STEWARD</u></p>		
	<p>Vacancy was noted</p>		
<p>19/110</p>	<p><u>JOINT PARISH COUNCILS TRAFFIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP</u></p>		
<p>110.1</p>	<p>Draft minutes of the meeting held on 26th November were received</p>		
<p>110.2</p>	<p>Next meeting date of the 5th March was noted. Mr Bullard hoped to be in attendance.</p>		

110.3	Future meeting dates scheduled as follows – 20 th June, 23 rd September & 26 th November			
19/111	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC & COUNCILLORS –</u></p> <p>Ms Barkham commented that she thought that the bus timetable boards were too high. Clerk to discuss in the first instance with KCC.</p> <p>Mr Thompson reported that he was aware that the closure of Police Station Road to enable yellow lines to be repainted was to be followed by utility works to rectify a dip in the pavement caused by standing water; the utility works will presumably ruin the newly painted yellow lines. Mr Thompson to discuss with Mrs Dean/KCC.</p> <p>Mr Thompson further reported that spray paint markings on Swan Street (outside Went House) would indicate that work is about to begin to rectify the uneven pavement caused by tree roots.</p>	Clerk		
	Next meeting of this committee –15th April 2019			
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.31</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>			

Streetlights Phase 5

Phase 5 works							
27	King Street	Opposite toilets	Replace lantern/LED	1030			Heritage Lantern kit
33	High Street	On the Hungry Guest restaurant	Replace lantern/LED	1030			Heritage Lantern kit
34	High Street	On Hicks Estate Agents	Replace lantern/LED	1125			Heritage Lantern kit
35	High Street	On Andrew Smith Jewellers	Replace lantern/LED	1125			Heritage Lantern kit
36	High Street	On the Five Pointed Star Pub	Replace lantern/LED	1125			Heritage Lantern kit
37	High Street	On No.107	Replace lantern/LED	1125			Heritage Lantern kit
39	High Street	Opposite No.117	Replace lantern/LED	1125			Heritage Lantern kit
40	High Street	On No 127	Replace lantern/LED	1125			Heritage Lantern kit
72	Lavenders Road	Opposite junction with Water Lane	RTV and replace lantern/LED	1380			Heritage Lantern kit
			Total Cost	10190			

Highways and Transportation Committee						
Income		Budget 2018-19	YTD	Budget 2017-18	End of Year	
Members Grant - Speed Equipment		600.00			600.00	
Members Grant - Speed sign					6000.00	
	Total	600.00	0.00	0.00	6600.00	
Expenditure		Budget 2018/19	YTD	Budget 2017/18	End of Year	
Energy		6656.00	4803.16	7500.00	5307.90	
Energy (Oct-March)				3139.36	3139.36	safeguarded 2016/17
Maintenance		5000.00	4554.81	6000.00	4375.48	
Phased repair programme		10000.00	9624.00	20000.00	11845.00	
Phased repair programme 17/18			5095.00			
Phased repair programme 16/17				11146.00	11146.00	safeguarded 2016/17
Visual structural inspection					7340.74	
One off repairs		4200.00	1051.65	3000.00	611.50	
Seasonal (Salt, Floodsax)		300.00	100.00	400.00	245.50	
Speedwatch materials		200.00	4.40			
Speed Sign					6979.04	
Salt Bin			149.10			safeguarded 2017/18
Speed watch equipment			600.00			
	Total	26356.00	25982.12	51185.36	50990.52	
Surplus/-deficit		-25756.00	-25982.12	-51185.36	-44390.52	