

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & STREETLIGHTING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2021, 7.30PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

Present: Mr N Stapleton (Chairman)
Ms G Barkham
Mr K Bullard
Ms S Margetts
Mr D Thompson

Also Present Mr Peter Stevens

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
21/104	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> – none			
21/105	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – none			
21/106	<u>MINUTES</u> of the meeting held on 19 th October were approved and are to be signed at a later date.	NS		
20/107	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>[20/446] Churchfields Parking Questionnaire – the Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the emergency services to ask if they had encountered issues with access to Churchfields when making emergency calls, she is awaiting an answer.</p> <p>Due to Covid restrictions it has not been possible to hand out questionnaires door to door in Churchfields.</p> <p>It is possible that the issue of parking in Churchfields will be discussed at the March T&MBC Joint Transportation meeting and it was agreed to review the matter following this meeting.</p>			
20/108	<u>STREETLIGHTING</u>			
108.1	<u>Phased repairs 20/21</u> – it was noted that the phased repairs had been completed and invoiced.			
108.2	<u>Streetlight 36, 107 High Street</u> – it was noted that the Clerk has suggested to the owner of the property that the existing lantern can be retained and an LED gear tray inserted, this is on the basis that the existing lantern can be successfully sealed. The Clerk is awaiting a response from the property owner.			
21/109	<u>WMPC HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN</u>			
	It was noted that the Parish Council is awaiting an update from KCC following the submission of the WMPC plan and the joint meeting with KCC in July 2020.			

21/110	<u>SPEEDING / MEETING WITH KCC</u>		
	<p>The Clerk has been notified that KCC will not participate in a joint WMPC / KCC / public meeting to discuss speeding issues within West Malling. KCC have indicated that they will hold a meeting with WMPC to discuss the Highways Improvement Plan and speeding.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk would contact KCC to try to ascertain if the resident petition has been considered by KCC.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the Clerk would contact those residents that initiated the petition and would ask them if they could put together a list of their concerns, street by street, which could then be discussed at a potential KCC / WMPC meeting; members were happy to either receive resident comments by email or to invite residents to a Highways meeting.</p> <p>It is to be stressed that KCC is the Highways Authority that can facilitate / introduce speeding measures and not WMPC.</p>	Clerk Clerk	
21/111	<u>RISK ASSESSMENT</u>		
	<p>Following a typo amendment- 'flood sacks' - the updated Risk Assessment was noted and agreed. The assessment now lists the arrangements for WMPC provided salt bins and KCC provided flood sacks.</p> <p>To be agreed by Full Council</p>		
21/112	<u>A20 LONDON ROAD, AYLESFORD JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT SCHEME CONSULTATION</u>		
	<p>Consultation was noted. General discussion as to whether or not any new roundabout should have traffic lights.</p> <p>It was agreed that members would provide comments to Mr. Stapleton via email.</p> <p>www.kent.gov.uk/a20londonroadaylesford Deadline 18th March</p>		
21/113	<u>VISION ZERO</u>		
113.1	<p>The KCC consultation was noted Deadline 15th March 2021. Link to consultation - https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/visionzero/consultationHome</p> <p>Mr Thompson noted that there is the suggestion of average speed cameras at the entrances to villages. Mr Thompson agreed to draft comments.</p> <p>Clerk to note Full Council agenda in view of deadline.</p>	DT	
113.2	<p>It was noted that consultation workshops are taking place on Wednesday 24 February & Wednesday 3rd March. See - https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Training_and_Events_21677.aspx</p>		
21/114	<u>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</u>		
114.1	<p>It was noted that Southeastern has released its new Accessible Travel Policy – see link: https://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/about-us/our-policies/accessible-travel-policy</p>		
114.2	<p><i>Kent Rail Strategy 2021 – response sent to the Chairman of the KCC Scrutiny Committee was ratified. See below:</i></p> <p><i>Dear Sir,</i></p> <p><i>We refer to the publication of Kent County Council's Kent Rail Strategy 2021.</i></p> <p><i>Following a meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 1 February 2021, we write to express disappointment that the strategy does not push more strongly for the introduction of the services to St Pancras and beyond as originally promised. The failure to include this in the</i></p>		

	<p><i>Summary of Recommended Actions on page 61 is unacceptable.</i></p> <p><i>It is, however, our fervent hope that the comments made in paragraphs 4.14 and 4.15, and the service patterns set out in table 11 on page 42, are vigorously lobbied for as an absolute minimum. It is imperative that West Malling is included in the completion of the whole Thameslink service programme – many residents have moved to the area to avail themselves of the promised services and the continued delay will only put more pressure on existing services, and may ultimately lead to residents moving away. Although members would prefer to see services extended to St Pancras and beyond, as originally promised, at the very least all-day services must be introduced to Blackfriars once normal service levels are restored post-lockdown, and no later than the December 2021 timetable introduction. This is even more essential with the suspension of Eurostar services from Ebbsfleet and Ashford until at least 2022, where residents have to travel to St Pancras first.</i></p> <p><i>We welcome the acknowledgement in paragraph 7.3 that West Malling is a high-growth area, and thus the failure of the Strategy to not push more forcefully for the full introduction of Thameslink services through central London is both puzzling and disappointing.</i></p> <p><i>Although we welcome much in the report, the continued failure to introduce the promised Maidstone East to Cambridge services does much to diminish any benefit to the residents of West Malling and surrounding towns and villages, and urge the Council to reconsider its strategy to push more vigorously for the introduction of the originally promised services.</i></p> <p><i>Finally we look forward to receiving more information regarding the Maidstone East Line CRP as set out in paragraph 9.15 since communication and interaction with the communities it is supposed to represent appears to have been lacking to date.</i></p>			
21/115	<u>JOINT PARISH COUNCILS TRAFFIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP</u>			
115.1	Receipt was noted of the draft minutes of the meeting held in September.			
115.2	It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for 15 th April. Ms Margetts hoped to be in attendance.			
115.3	<p>It was agreed that WMPC would continue with its membership of the group and that 3 representatives would be confirmed.</p> <p>The membership fee is to be £30 for 2021.</p>			
21/116	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> - none			
21/117	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>Mr Thompson and Mr Stevens raised concerns regarding the clearance of snow during the recent severe weather, in particular Swan Street (both road and pavement) and Mill Yard.</p> <p>It was agreed that Swan Street, as a main route to the railway station should be a priority for clearance and that the response by authorities to the snow on this stretch was too late. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact KCC to raise this issue with them.</p> <p>Mr Stapleton confirmed that he had spoken with T&MBC and that Swan Street (pavement) had not been on their list of paths to be gritted and that this has now been rectified. The road sweeper undertakes the gritting of many of the pavements as part of his role and it was agreed that he had done a good job.</p> <p>Mill Yard – it was noted that Mill Yard had not been gritted and it was agreed to discuss this with the landowner once the shops are fully open.</p> <p>Salt bins – it was agreed that in future, the Council will publicise the fact that there are parish owned salt bins in the town which can be used by residents to grit pathways. It was agreed that there be a further discussion later in the year about providing a dustpan in each bin to enable residents to collect the salt.</p>	Clerk	✓	

21/118	FINANCE			
	The committee budget year to date was noted – see below.			
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm			
	Signed.....			
	Date.....			

Highways and Transportation Committee					
		Budget 2020-21	YTD	Budget 2019-20	End of Year
Income					
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expenditure					
Energy		7489.00	3129.10	7489.00	6748.85
Maintenance		5000.00	3481.44	5000.00	4641.44
Painting & numbering of columns		1408.00	1056.00	1408.00	1408.00
Phased repair programme		7530.00	7530.00	10190.00	9025.00
Additional Swan Street Streetlight		5993.00			
Town Hill					4599.00
One off repairs		2000.00	1106.75	2000.00	1435.75
(Repairs using safeguarded sums)			689.50		
Seasonal (Salt, Floodsax)		300.00	100.00	300.00	291.70
Fingerposts and Noticeboard			1175.85		
Speedwatch materials (safeguarded)		100.00		100.00	155.48
Speedwatch Equipment					24.22
	Total	29820.00	18268.64	26487.00	28329.44
Surplus/-deficit		-29820.00	-18268.64	-26487.00	-28329.44

Safeguarded
(128.70 postage)