

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & STREETLIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER 2018, 7.30PM AT 9 HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING

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

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
18/713	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> – Mr Bullard</p> <p><i>Subsequent to the meeting the Clerk was advised that Borough Councillor Luck had been unable to attend the meeting as the front door of The Clout had been locked by another tenant and she was therefore unable to gain access.</i></p>			
18/714	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – Mr Stapleton Mr Thompson are both residents of Police Station Road which is discussed at minute number [18/724]</p>			
18/715	<p><u>MINUTES</u> of the meeting held on 15th October were approved and signed.</p>			
18/716	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u> from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda</p> <p>(18/586), Miss Barkham reported that the roadworks had been completed outside Malling Place.</p> <p>(18/587.3) Following on from the last meeting Miss Barkham had undertaken some research into the use of solar panels for streetlighting and it was agreed that they are expensive and would be unsuitable for our purposes.</p>			
18/717	<p><u>STREETLIGHTING</u></p>			
717.1	<p><u>Phase 3</u></p> <p>Awaiting update re Police Station Road. Mr Bonner of streetlights has suggested that a corner/side lantern will not be suitable as it will be knocked by passing lorries as was the case with the previous lantern.</p>			
717.2	<p><u>Column 97, outside Church Centre, Churchfields</u></p> <p>Expenditure of £1030 was ratified. Lantern replaced and now in working order.</p>			
18/718	<p><u>DRAFT BUDGET 2019/20</u></p> <p>Draft budget figures were discussed.</p> <p>The anticipated streetlight phased work consists of replacing a number of Mercury streetlights in the High Street. It was agreed that the painting of columns be included in the draft budget. Budget to be considered further at F&GP/Full Council meeting.</p>			

18/719	<u>SPEEDWATCH</u>			
	<p>Mr Stapleton reported that at a recent Speedwatch session on Swan Street, 30% of cars recorded were speeding. It was noted that drivers of speeding cars who also do not have road tax are sent a letter about this in addition to the letter regarding speeding.</p> <p>More volunteers are needed to ensure that the scheme is successful. It was agreed that after Christmas an email be sent to the parish council database requesting volunteers.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the scheme be re-started towards the end of January.</p>	Clerk	✓	
18/720	<u>PROHIBITION OF RIGHT HAND TURN FROM BIRLING ROAD LEYBOURNE</u>			
	<p>KCC are seeking views on the prohibition of the right hand turn from Birling Road Leybourne. Following discussion the response below was agreed.</p> <p><i>At this stage, West Malling Parish Council neither supports or opposes the proposed no right turn at the junction of Birling Road and London Road, Leybourne. However, there are a few points which Councillors raised.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The Parish Council is unsure how the prohibition of the right hand turn would be enforced. By simply having signage, we felt that drivers will often ignore the no right turn - especially if they wanted to use Parkfoot Garage. We were unsure if an island in the middle of London Road, for example, was being considered as a preventative measure.</i> 2. <i>The roundabout at the junction of Town Hill and London Road would therefore be busier, with those people having to turn left out of Birling Road, then having to go completely round the roundabout if they wished to go in the other direction. This roundabout can sometimes be incredibly busy, and Councillors were concerned this could possibly lead to it becoming more hazardous.</i> 3. <i>The Parish Council questioned why the no right turn proposal was put forward in the first place. The reasons given by KCC was that it's in the interest of public safety, but no Councillor was aware of there ever being much of an issue with turning right out of Birling Road. The only time it can be a little congested is during peak traffic times, usually at 5pm in the evening, but never more than a few cars are waiting. There's also a very good line of sight in both directions when waiting to exit the junction.</i> 			
18/721	<u>HIGHWAYS ENGLAND LOWER THAMES CROSSING</u>			
	Response to be finalised by Mr Thompson and circulated for comment before submission.			
18/722	<u>RE-INSTATEMENT OF FOOTPATHS/ROADS FOLLOWING UTILITY WORKS</u>			
	<p>There have been a number of utility works completed within the town which have not been re-instated back to brick work; in particular, the works near the High Street zebra crossing have caused a number of residents to complain about the lack of reinstatement as well as the poor quality of temporary tarmac resurfacing.</p> <p>The Clerk had contacted KCC Highways and was advised that utility companies have a maximum period of 6 months within which to make good roads and footpaths. Companies will often opt to fill the surface with tarmac in the first instance as they will need to employ a specialist team to re-lay block paving.</p>			
18/723	<u>REMEMBRANCE PARADE ROAD CLOSURES</u>			
	Stewards reported that a number of motorists had been unhappy about the road closures that were in place during the recent Remembrance Day parade. In particular, motorists were frustrated that they were unable to turn right out of Swan Street as this stretch of road would have been clear once the parade had passed through. It was agreed that the committee recommend that the road closures be altered in 2019 and that a right turn out of Swan street be allowed.			

	It was further agreed that it would be beneficial for there to be an individual present who was not on a designated road closure to liaise with other stewards.			
18/724	<u>ROAD SAFETY – SWAN STREET AND POLICE STATION ROAD</u>			
	<p>A complaint has been received from a concerned resident about the lack of visibility for drivers exiting Police Station Road onto Swan Street. The committee were in agreement that this is an issue which is made worse by motorists speeding on Swan Street/cars parked in the bays outside of Natwest Bank.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Speedwatch to continue on Swan Street.</p> <p>As a when the mobile SID is purchased, it is hoped that it will be situated for some of the time on Swan Street.</p>			
18/725	<u>FINGERPOSTS & NOTICEBOARDS</u>			
	<p>Following consideration of quotes from Broxap Ltd and Malcolm Lane & Son, it was agreed to proceed with the noticeboard quote from Malcolm Lane & Son.</p> <p>Post noticeboard 1500mm x 1000mm: Broxap - £4675.20 for 2 noticeboards Malcolm Lane & Son - £3688.00 for 2 noticeboards.</p> <p>Wall mounted noticeboard 841mm (w) x 1188 (H) Malcolm Lane & Son - £1198.00</p> <p>It was further agreed to proceed with Malcolm Lane & Son for the production of the fingerposts. Costs to be finalised depending on the depth and number of finger arms required.</p> <p>Posts: Broxap - £892.80 for 3 posts Malcolm Lane & Son - £849.00 for 3 posts</p> <p>Fingers: Single (per arm) Broxap - £146.88 Malcolm Lane & Son – £138.00 Double (per arm) Broxap - £185.28 Malcolm Lane & Son – £170.00 Triple (per arm) Broxap - £223.68 Malcolm Lane & Son - £212.00</p>			
18/726	<u>THE BIG CONVERSATION – NUMBER 58 FEEDER BUS</u>			
	<p>Response sent on 12th December was ratified. See below.</p> <p><i>Route Proposal for New Feeder Service.</i></p> <p><i>In essence we understand that the proposal presented at the meeting was to run the feeder bus on the same route as the 58 Wrotham Heath, to Larkfield only. From New Road East Malling it was proposed that the bus should travel via A20 along New Hythe Lane to Tesco at Leybourne Way. The intention is that people would pick up a service into Maidstone at the former Spotted Cow, opposite the Wealden Hall restaurant. The bus would be, as now, a single decker bus. The frequency would be increased from the present three services per day into Maidstone and six from Maidstone to Wrotham, to nine services daily, though we do not know the timings.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council is pleased that the service is proposed to be more frequent, and that it serves West Malling High Street which supports the vitality of our town shops and businesses. We also support the chosen route through East Malling old village, as this is the only route which serves these residents.</i></p>			

	<p><i>There are however a number of issues with the proposal which we list below.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The proposed route does not go to Maidstone Hospital, and neither do any of the alternative services along A20 from Larkfield. This is a vital part of the 58 service which should be retained.</i> <i>2. There is no bus stop on A20 between New Road junction and New Hythe Lane, and none at all on New Hythe Lane because no buses currently use NHL. It is also difficult to see where a bus stop could be placed in this exceptionally congested stretch of road, without being very disruptive of traffic.</i> <i>3. It is difficult to see why passengers from all these villages would find Tesco at Leybourne Way a particularly attractive destination.</i> <p><i>WMPC supports the consensus at the meeting which was that the bus should continue to deliver the current 58 route to a terminus at Maidstone Hospital . From that point, which is very well serviced with covered bus shelters, people can transfer to the number 3 service which is very frequent into Maidstone along the A26.</i></p> <p><i>That would mean that former 58 bus passengers wanting Maidstone town centre would need to transfer only once, either at Wealden Hall to catch a service along A20, or at the Hospital for services along A26. Both locations have covered bus shelters.</i></p> <p><i>Passengers wanting the Hospital would have, as now, a direct and more frequent service which is much more convenient both for patients, and visitors.</i></p> <p><i>We also suggest that since the A20 services into Maidstone are currently frequent from Larkfield, this feeder bus could save further time by, if possible, running express from Wealden Hall to the Hospital, picking up perhaps only at limited stops.</i></p> <p><i>Even without this express working, the route to Maidstone Hospital, could be achieved with only a few minutes longer in travelling time than the suggested route timings to Tesco.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Councillors also made the comments that there is a lack of clear signage at Maidstone Bus Station for the number 3 service, and as far as we could discover, no published timetable at either end of the route. The lack of up to date timetables for local services is something we have drawn attention to on several occasions, particularly in relation to the Station at West Malling. The Council would be grateful if, once the new service is agreed, attention could be paid to promoting it well, with clear information on route number , timetable and interconnecting services at bus stops as well as on the company website, which are often not accessible to older people. The Parish Council would be pleased to assist by displaying this information on our local notice boards and website.</i></p>			
<p>18/727</p>	<p><u>JOINT PARISH COUNCILS TRAFFIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP</u></p>			
	<p>Next meeting date of the 5th March was noted. Mr Stapleton hoped to be in attendance.</p>			
<p>18/728</p>	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC & COUNCILLORS –</u></p>			
	<p>Mr Stapleton reported that there was a hole outside the car park of the Five Pointed Star and that he had reported it to KCC as it was a trip hazard.</p>			
	<p>Mr Thompson reported that he had been in touch with Network Rail/South Eastern regarding Station Approach and the large pothole/fly tipping. Awaiting response.</p>			
	<p>Next meeting of this committee – tbc</p>			
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the</p>			

	meeting at 9.04		
	Signed.....		
	Date.....		

Highways and Transportation Committee					
	Budget 2018-19	YTD	Budget 2017-18	End of Year	
Income					
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	4212.24	7500.00	5307.90	
Energy (Oct-March)			3139.36	3139.36	safeguarded 2016/17
Maintenance	5000.00	3380.04	6000.00	4375.48	
Phased repair programme	10000.00	8594.00	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	580.50	3000.00	611.50	
Seasonal (Salt, Floodsax)	300.00		400.00	245.50	
Speedwatch materials	200.00				
Speed Sign				6979.04	
Salt Bin		149.10			safeguarded 2017/18
Speed watch equipment		604.40			
Total	26356.00	22615.28	51185.36	50990.52	
Surplus/-deficit	-25756.00	-22615.28	-51185.36	-44390.52	