

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & STREETLIGHTING COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2020, 7.30PM AT 9 HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING

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

Also Present Norman Kemp – Nu-Venture Bus Company
Chris Jenkinson – Nu-Venture Bus Company

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
20/107	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none			
20/108	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Mr Thompson declared an interest in the Police Station Road item [minute number 112.2] as he is a resident of Police Station Road.			
20/109	MINUTES of the meeting held on 21 st October and 16 th December were approved and signed.			
20/110	MATTERS ARISING – 19/581– Land Adjacent to K2 Carpets – the Clerk confirmed that the land is not owned by KCC but does fall within the public highway. The Assistant Clerk has contacted the County Council's Highways Directorate with regards to WMPC taking on the maintenance of the land and is awaiting a response.			
20/111	NU-VENTURE			
	Members welcomed Mr Kemp and Mr Jenkinson (a Nu-Venture driver) to the meeting. The following issues specific to West Malling were discussed: U turn in West Malling High Street – on a regular basis cars are parked in the turning circle making it impossible to turn the 11m long bus. Cars parked nose to kerb outside Tesco (and reversing into the High Street) and cars parked in the bus stop on the other side of the road is not a new problem but has been noticeably worse since the car parking charges were introduced. If the bus cannot get close to the kerb, passengers cannot get on and off the low level access bus easily. In the past, Nu-Venture have approached the relevant authorities to discuss the space outside of Tesco being parallel parking or goods vehicles only. Mr Jenkinson reported that drivers who are creating an obstruction can be aggressive when asked to move. Vehicles parked outside of bays – this is particularly noticeable near the Swan Street & High Street junction and is not only dangerous to all road users but restricts turning space.			

	<p>Enforcement – general agreement that more enforcement is necessary. Mr Kemp is concerned that the point may be reached where the route will need to be altered with the possibility that buses will not be able to service West Malling.</p> <p>WMPC are keen to assist where possible. It was agreed that Nu-Venture will continue to send photos to the parish office which will then be sent to T&MBC. It was further agreed that WMPC use the local press and social media to highlight the issues.</p>			
20/112	<u>STREETLIGHTING</u>			
112.1	<p>Column 91, Churchfields – rather than replacing the streetlight with an LED unit at a cost £1150.00 plus VAT, it was agreed that a repair be undertaken to the current SON streetlight in the sum of £203.75 plus VAT.</p> <p>Clerk to notify Streetlights</p>	Clerk	✓	
112.2	<p>Police Station Road – additional streetlight – the sum of £1125.00 had previously been safeguarded from the 17/18 financial year for additional streetlighting. On considering this safeguarded sum, it was agreed not to replace the lantern which was previously attached to 16 Police Station Road as this was continually knocked by lorries and that a new streetlight column could not be erected due to insufficient space.</p> <p>It was agreed that the safeguarded sum of £1125.00 be released into general reserves.</p>			
20/113	<u>T&MBC CAR PARK CHARGES CONSULTATION</u>			
	<p>The following comments sent to T&MBC on 10th February were ratified:</p> <p><i>West Malling Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed increase in charges in West Malling High Street and Ryarsh Lane car parks.</i></p> <p><i>Since the introduction of charges in the High Street car park, businesses have noticed a drop in trade. It is worth noting that we currently have 3 empty shops in the town. Should the fees be increased, more shoppers will undoubtedly go to supermarkets, where they can park for free. The 'browsing shopper' who would come to West Malling for a particular shop, but then browse through the rest of the town, could all but disappear.</i></p> <p><i>The Ryarsh Lane car park is used by staff who work in the various shops and offices in the town. An increase of £80 for an annual ticket is incredibly steep, and will impact greatly on businesses who are already noticing a downturn in trade. There has been a comparison made by TMBC between the Ryarsh Lane car park and the station car park. The station is predominantly used by people who are going into London to work, and therefore earning a London wage. The Ryarsh Lane car park is used by people who work in West Malling, and are on a significantly smaller income.</i></p> <p><i>In the future, further effort should be made by TMBC to communicate with the business in the town, who are the ones at the greatest risk, and understand the impact that these charges have.</i></p> <p><i>Exceptions to charges - we ask that exceptions to charges be made for GP type mobile clinics such as units used for breast screening and Diabetes eyes checks.</i></p> <p><i>With regards to Martin Square, Larkfield, we strongly object to the proposed introduction of charges and concur with the comments submitted by East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council.</i></p>			
20/114	<u>SPEEDWATCH</u>			
	<p>The following Speedwatch sessions have taken place since the last meeting:</p> <p>Frog Lane, 3rd January - 107 cars passed and 51 were recorded speeding Frog Lane, 10th January - 238 cars passed and 92 were recorded speeding Town Hill, 19th January - 266 cars passed and were 64 recorded speeding</p>			

	Town Hill, 29th January - 230 cars passed and 16 were recorded speeding PCSO James Robinson has agreed to take part in a WMPC Speedwatch session and will provide suitable dates for the month of March.			
20/115	<u>HIGH STREET BRICKWORK</u>			
	The bi-monthly inspection of the High Street had not taken place due to the recent site meeting with KCC. A temporary fix of the 'dip' at the St Leonard's Street end of the High Street had been scheduled for the 16 th February but was cancelled at short notice due to the forecasted storm. A new date has been requested from KCC. The email received from KCC detailing faults was noted.			
20/116	<u>NORMAN ROAD / ALMA ROAD JUNCTION</u>			
	Mr Stapleton reported that he had met with the occupier of one of the houses on the junction of Norman Road and Alma Road to discuss possible safety features for the junction. The occupier was agreeable to the possibility of having reflective strips on the brick pillar as a means of helping to highlight the junction. Prices to be obtained. The Clerk has not had a response from the owner / occupier of the house on the other side of the junction. Clerk to write again.	Clerk		
20/117	<u>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICY THEMES</u>			
	The following Neighbourhood Plan policy themes were discussed: Parking Public transport Speeding Streetlighting Representations to be drafted for consideration by the Planning Committee and or steering group.			
20/118	<u>LOWER THAMES CROSSING</u> – it was agreed that WMPC would not respond to this consultation See link - lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/consultation-2020 Deadline 25th March 2020			
20/119	<u>RESIDENT INFORMATION EMAILS</u>			
	All committees are drafting information emails which are to be sent to residents using the Parish Council database. It was agreed that the following subjects be used for the initial Highways Committee email: Streetlights – ownership, why LED upgrades are being undertaken and how to report a faulty streetlight. Reporting potholes – information on how to report a pothole via the KCC website.			
20/120	<u>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</u>			
	<u>Number 58 bus</u>			
	Minutes of the working group meeting held on 15 th January were received. The next meeting date of Wednesday 15 th April was noted. Mr Stapleton volunteered to attend.			
20/121	<u>JOINT PARISH COUNCILS TRAFFIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP</u>			
	It was noted that the next scheduled meeting date of 3 rd March had been cancelled – new date to be confirmed.			

<p>20/122</p>	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC & COUNCILLORS –</u></p> <p>Ms Barkham reported that cars are now regularly parking on the brow of the hill on St Leonard’s Street and it was agreed that this is a hazard. This was noted, but no action to be taken at this point.</p> <p>Mr Thompson reported that large amounts of paint had been spilt on the High Street outside The Joiners Arms. This was noted, but no action to be taken at this point.</p>			
	<p>Next meeting of this committee – Monday 20th April 2020</p>			
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05pm</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>			

Highways and Transportation Committee

	Budget 2019-20	YTD	Budget 2018-19	End of Year	
Income					
Members Grant - Speed Equipment			600.00		
Total	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	
Expenditure	Budget 2019-20	YTD	Budget 2018-19	End of Year	
Energy	7489.00	5697.83	6656.00	6526.86	
Maintenance	5000.00	4641.44	5000.00	4554.81	
Painting & numbering of columns	1408.00	1408.00			
Phased repair programme	10190.00	9025.00	10000.00	9624.00	
Phased repair programme 17/18				5095.00	
Town Hill		4599.00			Reserves
One off repairs	2000.00	1193.75	4200.00	3759.65	
Seasonal (Salt, Floodsax)	300.00	291.70	300.00	249.10	
Speedwatch materials (safeguarded)	100.00	155.48	200.00	4.40	(128.70 postage)
Speed watch equipment				600.00	
Total	26487.00	27012.20	26356.00	30413.82	
Surplus/-deficit	-26487.00	-27012.20	-25756.00	-30413.82	