

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION & STREETLIGHTING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2022, 7.30PM
AT 9 HIGH STREET WEST MALLING

Present: Ms Sara Margetts (Chair)
Ms Gwyneth Barkham
Mr David Thompson (until 8.23)

Mr THOMPSON LEFT THE MEETING AT 8.23 AT WHICH POINT THE MEETING BECAME INQUORATE SO ALL MATTERS ARE SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
22/221	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none			
22/222	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none			
22/223	MINUTES of the meeting held on 20 th December were approved and signed			
22/224	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>[21/677] Parking enforcement – the Clerk to ask Mrs Dean if she had been able to obtain clarification from T&MBC as to how the parking data is collated</p> <p>[21/677] King Hill speeding complaints & speed data - speed data had been obtained from KCC as follows:</p> <p>King Hill and St Leonard Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeds in the 20mph section are acceptable (average speed mostly <20mph) • Speeds Along King Hill (A228 roundabout to Teston Road) are below the 40mph (both average speed and 85th). • Speeds in the 30mph section of St Leonards Street are (average of <33mph) <p>King Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean speeds are largely under the 20mph limit. Although in the section closest to West Street mean speeds are above 20mph. <p>Swan Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean speeds are slightly high compared to the 20mph limit between the 20mph gateway and Police Station Road but across the entire length (19.8mph Mean). <p>Members were surprised by the data, in particular Swan Street and King Hill and noted that due to the building works associated with Lancaster Park on King Hill, that temporary traffic lights have been in situ for a number of months which may have possibly resulted in</p>	Clerk / TD		

	inaccurate data.			
	<p>It was agreed that WMPC would send their Speedwatch data to KCC.</p> <p>Complaints from King Hill residents about speed and safety issues were noted and it was agreed that in view of the new development that consideration ought to be given to reducing the 40mph stretch to a 30mph. Clerk to speak with Mrs Dean .</p> <p>[21/680] – Parking outside of Tesco and loading bay misuse – Clerk to write again to T&MBC regarding a consultation a possible consultation about parallel parking.</p> <p>[21/682] – Green space by Scared Crow / Churchfields – the Clerk reported that she had emailed T&MBC requesting that consideration be given to fencing being installed on the green space in an attempt to stop cars parking on the grass and causing damage to the tree roots – the Clerk has not received an answer. It was agreed that the Clerk chase a response and suggest that wooden bollards or fencing be considered.</p> <p>[21/683] – Pavement parking on High Street – it was reported that the shop owner has been asked to report incidents on the KCC portal (KCC will take a view as to whether or not this is a safety issue) and that KCC have also advised the Parish Council to add the issue to their Highways Improvement Plan.</p>	Clerk		
22/225	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN			
	<p>The following Neighbourhood Plan policy themes were discussed: Parking Public transport Speeding Streetlighting</p> <p>Ms Margetts had produced a draft set of responses which were discussed.</p> <p>Clerk to obtain parking data for Mondays to Fridays and parking data for those that park for 30 minutes and under.</p> <p>Clerk to obtain estimate costs for a traffic warden solely employed to serve West Malling.</p>			
22/226	KCC BUS CONSULTATION			
	<p>Following on from the April Full Council meeting at which it was agreed to object to the proposed termination of the 58 and 502 services, the committee considered the detail of the comments to be submitted.</p> <p>Members thanked Ms Barkham for initiating the door to door leaflet drop and the Clerk was pleased to confirm that a number of residents had attended the parish office to collect a paper questionnaire which could then be sent freepost to KCC.</p> <p>The following points to be addressed in the Parish Council's response: Cuts in services will increase isolation especially for the elderly and vulnerable, this is the case for all West Malling routes. Route 58 is essential service as this is the only bus from West Malling to the hospital. The walk from Barming train station to the hospital is a long one and not suitable for an elderly person or a person with poor mobility. Residents may not be in a position to pay for a taxi to the hospital, especially considering the current economic climate. Route 502 – essential service for children trying to get to Wrotham school. Carbon footprint – cuts in services will result in residents needing to use either a car or taxi.</p> <p>Deadline 20th April 2022 - Bus Funding Reduction Let's talk Kent</p> <p>Clerk to draft</p>	Clerk	✓	
	Mr Thompson left the meeting at 8.23 and at this point the meeting became inquorate.			

22/227	<u>STREETLIGHTING</u>			
	<p>Works to be undertaken within the 22/23 financial year as previously agreed.</p> <p>Column 6 – Starting to show signs of corrosion – column to be replaced. Column 11 - Capping on the wall has been broken off exposing the Mains cable, new capping required. Column 58 - Undersized tails Column 61 - Heavily corroded frog under an old Sodium JW Windsor lantern. Undersized Live tail. Column 62 – Heavily corroded frog under an old Sodium JW Windsor lantern Column 101 - Live & Neutral cables were ringed too deep and have exposed the inner cores Column 111 - Solid column at present but starting to show signs of deterioration with corrosion on the inner wall – column to be replaced.</p> <p>Clerk to notify streetlights</p>			
		Clerk	✓	
22/228	<u>SPEEDWATCH</u>			
	<p>Further to the last meeting, enquiries have now been made with Kent Police regarding a new hand held device which would be lightweight and more efficient than the existing equipment.</p> <p>Kent Police have advised that the new equipment is priced from £1300 and that the devices are currently being trialled; website developments are to take place before a wider roll out can take place. The Clerk has requested further clarification on this.</p> <p>It is hoped that Mrs Dean's KCC member's fund could be used for a new device.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council has very few Speedwatch volunteers at present.</p> <p>Current scheme not to be re-started in the immediate future.</p> <p>Ms Margetts to draft an email to Kent Police regarding new equipment.</p>			
		SM		
22/229	<u>HIGHWAY INSPECTIONS</u>			
	<p>It was agreed that moving forward the parish would be split into zones with a member of the Highways committee undertaking to note within their zone issues such as potholes, uneven bricks in the pavement, overhanging foliage and twisted / dirty road signs. These will then be reported to KCC with a note being taken of the date the fault was reported.</p> <p>Ms Margetts to log faults.</p>			
		SM		
22/230	<u>ST LEONARD'S TOWER</u>			
	<p>It was noted that Ms Margetts, Mr Parrin and Clerk met with a KCC employee (Mr Moon) to discuss the culvert at St Leonard's Tower. Mr Moon was able to clarify KCC responsibility.</p> <p>It was agreed that the culvert would benefit from clearance but that the Parish Council needed to be clear on ownership. An English Heritage document appeared to suggest that the culvert (pond) was within their Guardianship.</p> <p>Clerk to speak with Mike North regarding a previous clearance of the culvert and his knowledge about ownership of the culvert.</p>			
		Clerk		
22/231	<u>LAND NEXT TO K2, HIGH STREET</u>			
	<p>It was noted that a cultivation licence had been applied for to enable West Malling Parish Council to maintain the piece of land.</p> <p>It was further noted that if granted, this licence would need to be renewed on an annual basis.</p>			
22/232	<u>HIGH STREET CLOSURE</u>			

	It was noted that the High Street would be closed to traffic on Sunday 29 th May to enable KCC to repair the dip in the road located at the Church end of the High Street.			
22/233	<u>JOINT PARISH COUNCILS TRAFFIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP</u>			
	The draft minutes of the meeting held on 31 st March were received.			
22/234	<u>FINANCE</u>			
	It was noted that there had been no expenditure from the 22/23 Highway's budget to date.			
22/235	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> - none			
22/236	<u>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</u> Ms Margetts commented that for reasons of biodiversity, she would like to request that KCC do not mow the small triangle of grass at the junction with Swan Street and Lavenders Road. Clerk to contact KCC.			
	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> – 20 th June 2022			
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.29pm Signed..... Date.....			