

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Ms Gwyneth Barkham
Mr David Thompson
Mr Keith Mann
Ms Sara Margetts (Chair)

Also Present: Mr Peter Stevens

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
23/108	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none			
23/109	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none			
23/110	MINUTES of the meeting held on 19 th December were approved and signed.			
23/111	MATTERS ARISING - none			
23/112	STREETLIGHTING			
112.1	Ms Margetts reported on the recent climate change meeting which was attended by James Maguire. Mr Maguire owns a company which installs and maintains electric car vehicle charging points and he attended the meeting initially to discuss the possibility of using the streetlights columns (owned by WMPC) as charging points. Unfortunately this will not be possible due to supply issues.			
112.2	Clerk provided members with an update on the installation of the new column in Swan Street, repairs currently being undertaken and outstanding works under the phased repairs budget.			
23/113	SPEEDWATCH			
	It was noted that the Clerk is now aware of one new volunteer. A campaign to recruit more volunteers is to be undertaken once funds to purchase new equipment have been confirmed. Clerk to speak with the new volunteer.	Clerk	√	
	The Clerk to become the co-ordinator of the scheme on a short-term basis and speak with the current co-ordinator.	Clerk	√	
23/114	HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN			
	Receipt was noted of the revised plan.			
	On consideration of the updated HIP, it was agreed that the following comments be sent to			

	<p>KCC.</p> <p>1) Chocolate Umbrella – cars / vans mounting pavement. The committee is very pleased that KCC are in agreement that bollards should be installed at this site and that additionally KCC are looking to fund this scheme. The committee would ask that if at all possible that the bollards be wooden which would be in-keeping with the bollards recently installed at the other end of the High Street. Wooden bollards would also be a more environmentally friendly option as well as more fitting for the Conservation Area.</p> <p>2) Slope on the junction with Swan Street / Police Station Road. The committee appreciates that a trip hazard has been identified and is pleased that this is to be repaired, however, councillors are of the opinion that this slope has become steeper over the years as the block paving continues to be re-set on a regular basis. Police Station Road has a reasonably high population of elderly residents, and therefore the committee asks if the slope could be altered to assist the elderly.</p> <p>3) St Leonards Street – crossing near St Leonards Tower. The committee understands the potential difficulty in placing heritage gates near to the Tower, but would ask if there is a possibility of placing them further South along St Leonards Street; this would slow the traffic down before coming around the bend. It was noted that a number of residents that have recently moved into Lancaster Park drive into West Malling rather than walk as they are concerned about the speed of traffic.</p> <p>4) Two 90 degree bends in the road near St Mary’s Church (cars cutting across). It was noted that KCC are in now in agreement that white lines can be painted on this stretch of road and would ask KCC to advise how this would be progressed and funded. It is presumed that KCC will only progress this if it is thought safe to do so.</p> <p>5) High Street parking bays outside of Tesco. The committee notes the KCC suggestion to adjust this area so that one section is a loading bay and the other section is parallel parking, however, members of the committee are of the opinion that this would be unworkable as the Tesco lorries need the full length of the bay to manoeuvre. The committee would ask KCC to consider if the horizontal 45 degree bays can be changed to face south instead of north so that drivers can see oncoming traffic easier?</p>			
<p>23/115</p>	<p><u>SNOW / ICE</u></p>			
	<p>Due to a number of complaints received during and after the December snow, the Clerk has approached KCC asking for guidance as to who is responsible for gritting / snow clearance and in what specific areas of the town.</p> <p>The Clerk was provided with the following documents / information by KCC: Farmer’s snow routes – areas of clearance undertaken by farmers (Betts). Footpaths which are treated by KCC. KCC Primary Salting Routes and in addition, Lucks Hill and Swan Street will be treated once the primary routes are under control and gritter resource is available – this is to be extended to West Street and Offham Road.</p> <p>Members raised the following points: The footpaths were not cleared in accordance with the footpath map – most of the town footpaths were not cleared except by residents and a few shop-keepers. The footpath map shows a gap which is not treated between Swan Street and Lucks Hill – this is of concern as commuters use this stretch to get to and from the train station. Members were of the committee requested that consideration be given to Swan Street being added as a Primary Salting Route as this road is used by commuters to get to and from the train station.</p> <p>It was noted that shop-keepers and residents are concerned about clearing ice and snow from the front of their properties for fear of being sued should somebody have an accident. It was suggested that advice be sought from the KCC legal team on this matter.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>		
<p>23/116</p>	<p><u>MANOR PARK / CASCADE / FROG LANE BLOCKAGES AND FLOODS</u></p>			
	<p>Ms Margetts reported that no works had been undertaken by KCC which could have caused</p>			

	the recent minor flooding; it is presumed that a lodged log had caused the flooding on becoming free. It is understood that a referral has been made to KCC drainage department.			
23/117	<u>HIGHWAY / PAVEMENTS</u>			
	A number of issues were discussed and progress noted. Ms Margetts is continuing to log issues on the KCC portal.			
23/118	<u>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</u>			
	<u>Buses</u> There was a general discussion regarding the joint parishes initiative to assist with funding a revised service for the numbers 58 and 70, WMPC having expressed in principle their agreement to take part in the scheme. Mr Stevens explained to members that further enquiries need to be made as to under which power parish councils can assist bus contractors as the services will be run by a commercial company be it for the good of the community. It was further noted that the number 70 bus is running on a Monday only and that the number of Bank Holidays (in particular in the month of May) will impact on the usage figures. Residents are encouraged to 'use it or lose it' however they will be unable to use the bus on a number of Mondays. Clerk to speak with Mr Kemp of Nu-Venture.	Clerk		
23/119	<u>FINANCE</u>			
119.1	Receipt was noted of year to date budget statement – see below.			
119.2	Safeguarded sums – members considered underspends within the Highways 2022/23 budget that may need to be safeguarded and the following underspends were identified. Phased repair programme - £1700, which is the cost of 2 replacement columns. Repairs - £811.75 which is the cost of pruning works to be undertaken as identified in the annual maintenance report.			
23/120	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> - none			
23/121	<u>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</u> - none			
	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> – 17 th April 2023			
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.35 Signed..... Date.....			

Budget 22/23 – year to date

Highways and Transportation Committee					
Income		Budget 2022-23	YTD	Budget 2021-22	End of Year
Written Back Cheque					
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expenditure		Budget 2022-23	YTD	Budget 2021-22	End of Year
Energy		6500.00	4824.39	7000.00	4510.52
Maintenance		4641.92	4641.92	5000.00	2320.96
Painting & numbering of columns		1408.00	1408.00	1408.00	704.00
Phased repair programme		6000.00	4096.25	8086.00	6987.00
One off repairs		2000.00	445.00	2000.00	341.50
Seasonal (Salt, Floodsax)		100.00	100.00	100.00	
Fingerposts and Noticeboard					
Additional Streetlight (planning fee)			231.00		
Speedwatch materials (safeguarded)		100.00		100.00	
	Total	20749.92	15746.56	23694.00	14863.98
Surplus/-deficit		-20749.92	-15746.56	-23694.00	-14863.98