

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
23/246	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mrs Dean			
23/247	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none			
23/248	MINUTES of the meeting held on 20 th February were approved and signed.			
23/249	MATTERS ARISING - none			
23/250	STREETLIGHTING			
250.1	The Clerk reported that the 2 remaining column installations are to take place on 10 th May (columns 6 and 111). Once this work has been completed the phased repair work for 23/24 will commence.			
250.2	Clerk provided members with an update on the installation of the new column in Swan Street.			
23/251	SPEEDWATCH			
251.1	<p><u>Speed Indicator Device (SID)</u></p> <p>Following a fatality in Larkfield, there is the possibility that KCC will fund a Speed Indicator Device which can be moved between the parishes of West Malling and East Malling & Larkfield. Mrs Dean has recruited a number of volunteers who are willing to move the device from site to site. Mrs Dean is awaiting an update from KCC.</p> <p><i>Subsequent to the meeting, Mrs Dean confirmed that the SID will only be in situ in Larkfield and will be moved between three posts in areas which should assist in slowing down traffic as it approaches New Hythe Lane. The SID will not be moved to West Malling.</i></p> <p><u>Speedwatch hand-held device</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Kent Police regarding the scheduled roll out of the hand held device.</p> <p>It was further agreed that a meeting of volunteers would be arranged but that the existing</p>	Clerk	√	
		SM/		

	device would not be used for Speedwatch sessions for the time being.	Clerk		
251.2	<p><u>Police Speed Enforcement</u></p> <p>Further to the KALC T&M meeting, Inspector Stubberfield has advised WMPC that a number of police speed enforcement sessions have taken place in West Malling. Members of the committee are aware that checks have taken place on the bypass.</p> <p>The Clerk has advised the police of the areas of concern within the town, namely, Swan Street, St Leonards Street and Town Hill. It was agreed that the Clerk ask for clarification as to where the recent sessions have taken place and to request that sessions take place within the town itself.</p>	Clerk	√	
23/252	<p><u>EXTENSION OF 20MPH ZONE</u></p> <p>Members of the committee considered Mrs Dean's KCC proposal for the extension of the 20mph zone.</p> <p>The following was agreed, the committee support the extension of the 20mph scheme with consideration of other speed reduction measures. This is the recommendation to be made to Full Council.</p> <p>It was agreed that if Full Council accept the recommendation, that this item will be added to the Highways Improvement Plan at the next review date which is November 2023. Consideration will also be given to the inclusion of this item on the Parish Infrastructure Statement.</p> <p>Clerk to note Full Council agenda.</p>	Clerk	√	
23/253	<p><u>HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN</u></p> <p>Receipt was noted of the revised plan.</p> <p>On consideration of the updated HIP the following was noted and actions to be taken as follows:</p> <p>1) Chocolate Umbrella – cars / vans mounting pavement. It was noted that KCC is satisfied that wooden bollards can be installed to stop cars mounting the pavement.</p> <p>2) Slope on the junction with Swan Street / Police Station Road. The committee noted the KCC advice that the gradient of the slope was not excessive or dangerous; the gradient is considered safe and in accordance with design standards. No further Highways action.</p> <p>3) St Leonards Street – crossing near St Leonards Tower. WMPC had asked if a gateway could be positioned further South along St Leonards Street to slow the traffic down before coming around the bend; KCC has advised that due to a lack of verge and other highway land, as well as there being warning signs in situ and two SLOW markings on the bends, that a gateway cannot be installed at this position. KCC suggested that reflective verge marker posts may be able to be installed in this area.</p> <p>On consideration of the above, the committee agreed that marker posts would probably not slow the traffic down sufficiently or provide an attractive entrance to the town. As an alternative, the committee agreed to suggest to KCC that a feature gate could possibly be sited on the grass area near the Teston Road / St Leonards Street junction; this site is further away from St Leonards Tower, but the committee is of the opinion that a gate may slow traffic down and make drivers aware that they are entering a historic town. Suggestion to be made to KCC.</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, any works will need to be funded by WMPC. Costs in the region of £1500 have been quoted. It was agreed that a recommendation be made to Full Council that the costs of these works be taken from reserves.</p>	Clerk / SM	√	

	Clarification to be sought from KCC that this would be a single centre white line. Clerk to note agenda 5) High Street parking bays outside of Tesco. It was agreed that as there appears to be no workable solution to this issue that the Parish Council is unable to take this matter any further.	Clerk / SM Clerk	√ √	√
23/254	<u>PARISH INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT</u>			
	TMBC has asked that parish councils review their infrastructure statements. It was agreed that the Highways element of the document be amended to reflect the current advice that parish owned streetlights cannot be used for EV charging due to supply issues. This document will be reviewed at Full Council before submission to TMBC.			
23/255	<u>SNOW / ICE</u>			
	Following the last meeting, Andy Watson, Highway Manager has provided the following information and update regarding snow and ice clearance. <u>Footpath clearance map</u> – KCC has agreed to amend the map so as to include Swan Street to Lucks Hill. Amended map provided to WMPC. <u>TMBC and town snow clearance</u> – Mr Watson has advised WMPC that he has had ‘successful discussions’ with TMBC regarding additional hand snow clearing services in West Malling. It is understood that TMBC will assist with snow clearance in the same way that it has assisted in Tonbridge town centre. TMBC would clear snow as per the now amended footpath map. <u>Additional salt bags for retailers</u> – Mr Watson confirmed that an additional salt bag could be delivered to either the usual parish drop off point (village hall) or to a new designated site. <u>Snow clearance by retailers / residents</u> – KCC have asked that this be encouraged. On addressing concerns about liability, Mr Watson has provided a link to the Department of Transport ‘Snow Guide’ which provides guidance for members of the public relating to the risks and liability of clearing snow and ice on the public highway. Clear snow from a road, path or cycleway - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) It was agreed that the Clerk share this link with the Chamber of Commerce. <u>Primary Salting Route map</u> – the committee has requested that Swan Street be added to the primary route as this street is used by commuters getting to and from the train station. Mr Watson responded as follows: <i>‘The likelihood is we will not be adding any new requests for additions to existing primary routes as KCC will be shortly reviewing all the primary routes for winter 24/25 as part of the recent winter budget update. We simply cannot agree or guarantee adding new roads moving forward. However, I can advise Swan Street has been added to the Snow Routes as per your recent communication emails with Jez Massy with the aim to treat these roads during snow emergencies once primaries are satisfactory complete.’</i> It is understood that both Lucks Hill and Swan Street will be treated once the primary routes are under control and gritter resource is available, it is further understood that there has been a recommendation that West Street and Offham Road be added to the snow routes and that in the meantime a request will be issued for them to be gritted whenever Lucks Hill and Swan Street are gritted.	Clerk	√	
23/256	<u>HIGHWAY / PAVEMENTS</u>			
	Ms Margetts reported that there are 28 outstanding West Malling repairs / faults on the KCC portal.			
23/257	<u>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</u>			

	<u>Buses</u>			
	There is no update on the new services.			
	The Clerk confirmed that she had written to both Cllr. Taylor and Norman Kemp expressing the Council's dissatisfaction that Maidstone Hospital had not been included within the new 58 timetable, this being a condition of WMPC's involvement in the joint parish scheme.			
23/258	<u>FINANCE</u>			
258.1	Receipt was noted of year to date budget statement – see below. It was noted that no payments had been made from the 23/24 budget.			
258.2	Safeguarded sums – the Clerk reported that subsequent to the last meeting, it was agreed that the sum of £100 (Speedwatch budget) from the 22/23 financial year be safeguarded.			
23/259	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> - none			
23/260	<u>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</u>			
	Ms Barkham reported that the Highway drains outside Douces Manor are blocked causing the road to flood. Ms Barkham agreed to take a photo to enable Ms Margetts to submit a fault report to KCC.	GB		
	Mr Thompson reported that the damage to the footpath caused by deliveries to 25 West Street has not been repaired by the developers. It was agreed that Ms Margetts would report via the KCC portal.	SM	√	
	Mr Mann asked if the Clerk had received any further update from Laser regarding options to move to a 'Green' electricity tariff for the streetlight electricity supply. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received an update but would contact Laser again.	Clerk	√	
	Ms Margetts reported that she would enquire with Mrs Dean as to whether or not the triangle of land at the junction of lavenders Road and Swan Street is to be cut during the month on 'no mow' May.	SM	√	
	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> – 19 th June			
	There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.38			
	Signed.....			
	Date.....			

