

WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Mrs Camilla Bridgeland
Mr Keith Mann
Ms Sara Margetts (Chair)

Minute		Action by	Action taken	Response
24/101	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Ms Gwyneth Barkham and Mr Peter Stevens.			
24/102	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none			
24/103	MINUTES of the meeting held on 18 th December were approved and signed.			
24/104	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>23/709– TRO on A20 – the Clerk advised members that she was in discussions with Ryarsh Parish Council to agree a way forward. It was agreed that the Clerk would update members once the matter could be progressed.</p> <p>23/716 – TMBC parking consultation – it was noted that white spray paint markings had appeared on the High Street and Swan Street, these markings correspond to the identified locations of Pay & Display machines should parking charges on those streets be introduced.</p> <p>Members requested that the Clerk write to TMBC to express their disappointment that markings had appeared before the consultation had been discussed at TMBC committee or Cabinet level. Residents, businesses and councillors were concerned by this action which appeared to suggest predetermination and has thrown into question the consultation and democratic process.</p> <p>Clerk to write to TMBC</p>	Clerk	√	√
24/105	STREETLIGHTING			
105.1	<p>Annual survey – to receive the annual survey.</p> <p>Resolved: it was agreed that the following works be undertaken within the current financial year:</p> <p>Column 44 - £45 (Pruning) Column 52 - £350 + Vat. (SL8 LED lantern) Column 71 - £110 + Vat. (Pruning + Secondary Isolation) Column 86 - £45 (Pruning)</p>			

	Column 89 - £45 (Pruning) Repair to column 20 (£1295) to be undertaken in March and invoiced in the next financial year. Clerk has requested that the contractor timetable and cost other works to be undertaken.			
105.2	Column 53 King Hill – it was noted that Crest Nicholson have advised that they will not negotiate with WMPC over the removal of the column, the column being removed without the express consent of the council. The council streetlight contractor has advised that the lantern could have been re-used and that the lantern would cost the sum of £350.00 Resolved: it was agreed that the Clerk write a final, formal letter to Crest Nicholson asking that the council be paid the sum of £350.00, drawing their attention to the fact that Fernham Homes, when in a similar situation, sought permission from WMPC for the removal of a column as well as paying for the removal of the lantern so that it can be re-used by WMPC.	Clerk	√	
105.3	Water Lane – it was noted that the Clerk had received a complaint regarding poor streetlighting in Water Lane. It was noted that a repair to column 71 had been undertaken and that pruning to an overhanging tree is to take place within the next set of works. Resolved: it was agreed that should there still be a requirement for additional lighting on Water Lane that the request should be made to KCC, WMPC being unable to fund. Clerk to advise complainant.	Clerk	√	√
105.4	Energy costs – it was noted that projected energy costs had now been received from Laser, the projected costs being up until September 2024			
24/106	HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN			
106.1	Installation of a handrail by the steps on the raised footpath in Ryarsh Lane. Resolved: it was agreed to proceed with this installation, it was however noted that KCC have not specified costs or whether they will fund the work. Ms Margetts to speak with KCC.	SM	√	
106.2	Junction of Offham Road / Norman Road / West Street – having reviewed this junction, KCC will not raise the dropped kerb and apart from repainting the 20 roundels are unable to undertake any other modifications. Members expressed their ongoing concern about the safety of this junction, particularly for parents taking their children to and from school or those who wish their children could walk to school independently. Resolved: it was agreed that members wished to impress on KCC their ongoing concerns about this junction and that Ms Margetts will write to the officer to suggest a site visit between the hours of 8.30 & 9am.	SM	√	
106.3	Parking bays outside of Tesco Resolved: that this be deleted from the HIP. Ms Margetts to advise the officer.	SM	√	
24/107	LITTER BINS			
	The issue of insufficient litter bins had been raised at a recent Amenities meeting and it was agreed that this would be discussed at Highways. Ms Margetts had provided a map of both borough and parish owned bins to committee members and it was agreed that there was not an obvious gap where a new bin could be positioned. Resolved: it was agreed to monitor the litter situation and in the meantime to ask TMBC how often the bins are emptied, to advise them that 2 bins are in a bad state of repair and to ask if TMBC will be considering installing bins which have separate areas for general waste and			

	recycling.			
	Clerk to speak with TMBC	Clerk	√	
24/108	<u>BUS SHELTER, STATION ROAD NORTH</u>			
	<p>Consultation on the potential removal of the bus shelter at Station Road North.</p> <p>Following discussion it was resolved that the Committee would respond as follows:</p> <p><i>Thank you for advising the council about the possible removal of the bus shelter at Station Road North.</i></p> <p><i>Councillors discussed this at a recent meeting, and they do not have a strong opinion as to whether or not the shelter should be removed. Councillors noted the concerns of Councillors Roud and Tatton and are happy to be guided by the feedback received from those responding to the consultation.</i></p> <p><i>Councillors are concerned by the large amount of litter in the area and would ask that a litter bin be installed regardless of whether the shelter is removed.</i></p>			
24/109	<u>BUS SERVICES</u>			
	Receipt was noted of the passenger and revenue summary for routes 58 & 70 – previously circulated. Members thought that the figures were encouraging and there was a general discussion regarding further potential KCC cuts to bus services.			
24/110	<u>SAFETY CONCERNS RAISED BY COMMUTER</u>			
	<p>The Clerk reported that she had received an email regarding concerns about speeding and pedestrian safety on leaving the train station and entering West Malling.</p> <p>Resolved: it was agreed to respond to the complainant stating that members of the committee also share concerns about safety at this stretch of road. The approach road is already a 10mph zone and it is hoped that the extension of the 20mph scheme on Lucks Hill/Swan Street will help to reduce speed. Further that KCC as the Highways authority are responsible for modifications such as crossings and therefore KCC Councillor Dean will be made aware of the concerns raised.</p>	Clerk		
24/111	<u>KCC PLAN TREE STRATEGY</u>			
	<p>Trees in urban landscapes project. Ms Margetts has been in discussions with KCC regarding potential sites on Town Hill and the green space at the St Leonards Street/Teston Road junction.</p> <p>The Town Hill site is unsuitable due to a percentage of the pavement being privately owned, however KCC will make further enquiries regarding the St Leonards Street/Teston Road junction whilst being mindful of potential visibility and drainage issues.</p>			
24/112	<u>A BOARDS & PAVEMENT CLUTTER</u>			
	Clerk to speak with KCC regarding A Boards which are still in situ on the High Street.	Clerk	√	
	Clerk to speak with KCC regarding the A Board and charity donations outside the Hospice in the Weald charity shop in Swan Street, these items significantly reduce the width of the pavement making it difficult for those in wheelchairs/mobility scooters to pass.	Clerk	√	
24/113	<u>FERNHAM HOMES</u>			
	Mrs Bridgeland having attended an open day event at Fernham Homes was in receipt of an email regarding the developers aspirations to improve the visual appearance of the Town Hill roundabout and the implementation of a walking route from the Orwell Spike/Lancaster			

	<p>Lancaster Park developments.</p> <p>It was agreed that although these were matters for KCC, both footpath and roundabout improvements would be welcomed by WMPC and the committee would ask to be kept up to date as to how discussions with KCC progress; in particular the committee would be keen to see any designs for the Town Hill roundabout improvements. Clerk to liaise with Fernham Homes moving forward.</p>			
24/114	<u>HIGHWAYS / PAVEMENTS / DRAINAGE / SALT BINS</u>			
	<p>Ms Margetts provided an update on the Manor Park/Frog Lane flooding issue.</p> <p>Blocked drains in St Leonards Street – all 3 have been reported via the KCC portal and are still waiting to be done.</p> <p>Brickwork outside of Boots still to be re-instated following recent utility works – to monitor.</p> <p>King Hill – KCC are aware of the state of the road and the road is now on their 3-5 year projected works schedule for re-surfacing. Individual pot-holes should be reported on the KCC portal.</p>			
24/115	<u>FINANCE</u>			
115.1	Receipt was noted of year to date budget statement – see below			
115.2	Potential sums to be safe-guarded from the 23/24 budget: Unspent repair monies and consideration to be given to safeguarding some unspent energy monies.			
115.3	Accounts for payment in the sum of £5,743.38 were agreed – see below.			
24/116	<u>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> - none			
23/117	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS</u></p> <p>Mrs Bridgeland reported the dents and general disrepair of the railings by the zebra crossing and the potholes in the school approach road. Clerk to speak with KCC</p> <p><i>[Subsequent to the meeting the school approach road pot holes were repaired].</i></p> <p>Ms Margetts reported on the High Street/ King Street accident involving a cyclist – it was noted that this would be a matter for Police investigation if appropriate. Comments about the safety of the zebra crossing on social media were noted.</p>	Clerk	√	
	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> – tbc			
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.41</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>			

Highways, Transportation and Street		Receipts		Payments		Current Balance	
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
50	Energy				10,273.00	5,726.43	4,546.57
51	Maintenance				4,874.92	3,656.19	1,218.73
52	Painting & Numbering c				1,408.00	1,056.00	352.00
53	Phased Repair Program	1,900.00			4,560.00	6,460.00	
54	Light Swan Street						
55	One Off Repairs	245.00			2,000.00	293.25	1,951.75
56	Seasonal				150.00	150.00	
57	Speedwatch Materials				100.00		100.00
124	planning application Fir						
127	Advertising						
148	Additional Streetlights	5,762.00				-231.00	5,993.00
166	Speedwatch	100.00					100.00
167	Signage - TMBC	6,289.15					6,289.15
168	Highways signage	5,000.00					5,000.00
169	Light on Vets	1,165.00					1,165.00
171	Village Gateway					1,621.00	-1,621.00
		£20,461.15			23,365.92	£18,731.87	25,095.20

West Malling Parish Council

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<u>Accounts for Payment 19th February 2024</u>			cheques to be drawn
<u>Section 137 donation</u>			
We Are Beams (cheque 2683) (Donation agreed at February Full Council minute number 24/68.1)			£ 300.00
Streetlights (single cheque 2684) (invoice 14215 payment 4 (of 4) 2023/24 streetlighting maint. contract) (maintenance £1218.73 + painting of columns £352)			1570.73 £ 1,884.88 314.15
(invoice 14244 repair column 71 Water Lane - replacement LED driver)			106.25 £ 127.50 21.25
Kent County Council (Laser) (single cheque 2685) (Electricity supply period January 24 at 5% VAT)			18.40 £ 19.32 0.92
Kent County Council (Laser) (Electricity supply period January 24 at 20% VAT)			720.57 £ 864.68 144.11
West Malling Village Hall (single cheque 2686) (annual contribution)			£2,000.00
(committee room hire charges - July - Dec 23)			£ 78.00
Mr M Doyle (cheque 2687) (reimbursement for padlocks and keys for Macey's Meadow)			£ 47.00
Mr Luisi (cheque 2688) (allotment rent refund Plot 17)			£ 44.00
Down To Earth Trees Ltd (cheque 2689) (invoice RF20638 - allotment tree survey)			315.00 £ 378.00 63.00
TOTAL			5,743.38