

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Lighting Committee held on
Monday 10th June at 7.00 pm at Russell House,
Market Square, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Dr J Lord – Chair (JL)
Mr M Bortolozzo (MB)
Mr N Proudfoot (NP)

In attendance: Asst Clerk: Mrs J O'Sullivan (JO)
Town Clerk: Mrs A Howells (AH)
Two members of the public (item 5.4)
Three members of the public (item 5.11)

Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies were received from Mrs L Bird and Mr K Thompson.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u> None.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd April 2024</u> Were approved at the Council meeting on 20 th May 2024.	
4.	<u>Information items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</u> Item 5.14 - Cllr Proudfoot expressed disappointment with the response to the Town Council survey and the Committee discussed how to generate greater participation. All ideas to be passed to the Town Clerk.	
5.	<u>Highways</u> 5.1 Community Speed Watch Campaign – During May two Speed Watch sessions had taken place in Hosey Hill and one along the Croydon Road within the 20mph zone. Summary statistics for Hosey Hill showed that 18% of vehicles were over the 30mph limit (total 214 vehicles passing). At the Croydon Road location 38% of vehicles were over the speed enforcement threshold (25mph and above). The Chair noted the success of the Hosey Hill Speedwatch group and expressed thanks for their work. The Assistant Clerk planned to contact all registered volunteers of Speedwatch to confirm that they wished to continue to be involved and	

	timetable new sessions. Delivery of the new Speed Indication Device was expected in June. 5.2 Kent Police Speed Checks - In April, there were two visits by the mobile unit (sited at junction of Hosey Hill and French Street) with 11 offences recorded. 5.3 Highways Improvement Plan (HiP) 2024/2025 - The Committee noted the updates to the HiP, and following discussion agreed: • <i>20mph in Westerham – more signs / road markings</i> – to continue to lobby KCC for improved, larger, signage particularly as entering the 20mph zone. The Assistant Clerk would contact KCC to establish the cost / maintenance of installing red tarmac on entering the 20mph zone. • <i>Pootings</i> – Pootings Residents Association had put forward a new request to KCC to reduce the speed to 30mph through Pootings. The planned painting in the mid areas of Pootings was on hold while the 30mph was investigated. The Committee agreed to support the new request for speed reduction and would add this to the HiP. 5.4 To consider Highways Improvements on Croydon Road – Two members of the public attended and outlined concerns following a serious accident that occurred on the A25, close to the junction with Buckham Thorns Road/Rysted Lane and within the 20mph zone. The resident reported that several accidents had occurred in this location over the last few years and would like the Committee to consider highway improvements in this area. The Chair outlined the process that KCC follows to consider highway improvements including looking at crash data for the area, as well as the Council's aspiration to expand the 20mph zone. Further Speedwatch sessions are planned in Croydon Road which would assist in alerting drivers to the speed limit and provide more evidence to KCC for improvements. The Committee agreed to raise this issue with KCC with a view to adding this to the HiP. 5.5. Update on Farley Nursery Consultation – Cllr Bird and the Assistant Clerk had been in contact with KCC regarding alternative solutions to installing double yellow lines at the end of Farley Nursery given the number of objections that had been received. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to explore the possibility of removing a section of double yellow lines on Westbury Terrace to provide another parking space that would alleviate the pressure on parking around Farley Nursery. The Committee agreed to conduct a further informal consultation to ascertain whether residents supported this. 5.6 Update on Westerham Hill and Pilgrims Way junction – The Assistant Clerk had contacted KCC and there were no plans to re-surface the road at the junction of Pilgrims Way. 5.7 To consider speed reduction on Main Road, Crockham Hill to Edenbridge – No further updates had been received from KCC or Edenbridge Town Council. The Assistant Clerk would follow up. 5.8 To consider Highway Improvements on Main Road, Crockham Hill (New Road) - Residents around Main Road had responded positively to the suggestion of siting a traffic mirror to assist drivers who are exiting	JO JO JO JO JO JO JO
--	---	---

	New Road. The Committee agreed that the next step would be to arrange an onsite meeting to ascertain where the mirror could be located and to liaise with KCC as appropriate. 5.9 To consider Marlborough Court – access road to be made one-way The Assistant Clerk reported that a resident had canvased opinion amongst neighbours in the flats and houses by Marlborough Court. Twenty-one responses had been received and all respondents agreed that the access road should be made one way. The Committee supported the proposal and agreed that this would be added to the HiP for discussion with KCC on how to proceed. 5.10 To consider Highway Improvements at junction of Farley Lane/Goodley Stock – The Assistant Clerk had been in contact with SDC regarding refreshing bus stop markings on the A25 near Farley Lane/Goodley Stock. SDC had confirmed that this would be scheduled for June/July. In addition, a further request for new bus stop marking on the opposite side of the road would be made to KCC via the Parking Services Manager at SDC. The Town Clerk noted that there used to be a driving mirror positioned opposite Goodley Stock Road and the Chair agreed to check whether this was still the case. The Assistant Clerk would look to schedule some Speedwatch sessions in this area. 5.11 To consider request for resident's parking at Black Eagle Close – Three residents attended the meeting to outline their concerns regarding the difficulties turning out of Black Eagle Close (particularly towards Oxted) due to cars being parked on the A25 around the entrance of the Close. The residents requested that the Committee considered supporting the proposal for double yellow lines to be extended on the A25 to the first drop kerb. The Chair reiterated the process by which highway improvements are progressed with KCC and the Council's aspiration to extend the 20mph zone. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would undertake a site visit and would schedule some Speedwatch sessions at the designated site along the A25. In addition, the Assistant Clerk would provide a suitable survey template for the resident to use to canvas opinion from neighbours to the proposal.	JO JO JL JO JO
6.	<u>Street Lighting</u> 6.1 Repairs and responses – Nothing significant to report. 6.2 Church Floodlights – quote for LED The Assistant Clerk and Town Clerk had met with the street lighting contractor to discuss the replacement of the church floodlights with LED bulbs. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the floodlights would be replaced in phases over 4-5 year rolling programme as the current bulbs expired and this would be reflected in next year's budget. The Town Clerk suggested that any surplus within the church floodlight budget was moved to reserve at the end of the financial year to provide contingency for this. Cllr Bortolozzo would check which church floodlights were working.	MB

7.	<u>Sevenoaks District Council</u> 7.1 Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board - Nothing to note of relevance to Westerham.	
8.	<u>Public Transport</u> 8.1. Go Coach - Nothing to note.	
9.	<u>Financial</u> 9.1 Financial Statement up to 31st May 2024 – Noted by the Committee.	
10.	<u>Climate Change/Environmental & Bio Diversity</u> 10.1 ECO Policy Action Plan – The Committee noted the updates to the action plan. The Assistant Clerk would add further detail to the LED lights at the church in terms of timescale and next steps.	JO
11.	<u>Correspondence</u> The Committee noted the enquiry from a resident about the removal of cat's eyes from Goodley Stock Road. The Assistant Clerk had contacted KCC who confirmed that the cat's eyes had been removed prior to resurfacing works and would be reinstated in September/October.	
12.	<u>Reports from Councillors</u> Cllr Proudfoot updated the Committee about the sewage issue on New Street. Cllr Proudfoot had been investigating hospital transport for Westerham residents and highlighted that more volunteer drivers were required. Other issues he had been involved with included lobbying regarding parking charges. Cllr Bortolozzo reported that he had completed Speedwatch training (6.6.24) and had visited other villages within the area to observe / compare their road signage with Westerham's.	
13.	<u>TN16, Edenbridge Magazine, Website, Social Media and Crockham Hill Newsletter</u> It was agreed that information about season tickets for parking at Darent car park would be included.	JO
14.	<u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u> All Highways issues.	
15.	<u>Further matters for consideration at the next meeting</u> To consider adding the following item to the HiP: extending 30mph speed restriction up Goodley Stock Road.	
16.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 2 nd September 2024 – t.b.c.	

The meeting was concluded at 9.49pm

Minutes confirmed as a correct record:

Chair