

## WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Lighting Committee held on  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.00 pm at Russell House,  
Market Square, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Mr M Bortolozzo - Chair (MB)  
Mrs L Bird – Outgoing Chair (LB)  
Mr I Breminer (IB)  
Mr N Proudfoot (NP)  
Mr K Thompson (KT)

In attendance: Asst Clerk: Mrs J O'Sullivan (JO)  
Two members of the public (item 5.3)  
One member of the public (item 5.5)

| Item |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Action |
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|      | <p><b><u>Election of a Chair</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Breminer proposed that Cllr Bortolozzo be appointed Chair of the Highways and Lighting Committee; this was seconded by Cllr Proudfoot. There were no other nominations. Voting unanimous. Cllr Bortolozzo was duly elected as the new Chair. The Committee thanked Cllr Bird for all her hard work in her role as Chair.</p>                                      |        |
| 1.   | <p><b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |        |
| 2.   | <p><b><u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |
| 3.   | <p><b><u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024</u></b></p> <p>Were approved at the Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |
| 4.   | <p><b><u>Information items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Proudfoot questioned the use of average speed data by KCC. The Assistant Clerk would share data when received from KCC.<br/>Cllr Proudfoot queried the safety of crossing Beggars Lane to Squerryes / Westerham Brewery. Cllr Bird agreed to raise this with Squerryes.</p> | LB     |

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| 5. | <p><b>Highways</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Community Speedwatch Campaign</b> – Two Speedwatch sessions had taken place since November: one in Hosey Hill and one in Westerham. Three planned sessions had been cancelled due to bad weather. Further Speedwatch sessions would be planned once the weather improved.</p> <p><b>5.2 Kent Police Speed Checks</b> – Three visits by the mobile unit (sited at junction of Hosey Hill and French Street, all visits 1hr 20 mins) had taken place:<br/> October 2024: 2 visits – 19 offences<br/> November 2024: 3 visits – 38 offences<br/> December 2024: 3 visits – 11 offences</p> <p><b>5.3 Highways Improvement Plan (HiP) 2024/2025</b> - The Committee noted the updates to the HiP, and following discussion agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>20mph improvements</i> – that the Committee wished to extend the 20mph zone in Westerham.</li> <li>• <i>Spout Lane, Crockham Hill</i> – following concerns raised by residents at the meeting, the Assistant Clerk would contact KCC regarding the possibility of the removal of cat's eyes and add white lines identifying and highlighting the narrowness of the road for drivers. The Assistant Clerk would continue to seek updates from KCC regarding the possibility of appropriate signage / road markings e.g. narrow lanes.</li> <li>• <i>Church Lane/Main Road, Crockham Hill</i> – that the Assistant Clerk would schedule Speedwatch sessions in Crockham Hill.</li> <li>• <i>Pootings</i> – TRO had been advertised, and Councillors would respond. LB reported she had informed the Chair of Pootings Residents Association that the TRO consultation had been advertised.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.4 To receive results of Black Eagle Close consultation and consider next steps</b> - A questionnaire had been circulated to residents and businesses in Black Eagle Close and along the A25 High Street. A total of 19 responses had been received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Eagle Close residents – 10 (53%)</li> <li>• Black Eagle Close commuters / business – 2 (10%)</li> <li>• High Street / Westerham residents – 7 (37%)</li> </ul> <p>The Assistant Clerk reported that 14 respondents were in favour and 5 against. Where there are 5+ objections the case would be required to be presented at the Joint Transportation Board which followed the formal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). This could result in KCC deciding not to proceed but would cost the Council a non-refundable £3,700 just to explore the option with ultimate costs up to £7,000. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that there was not enough support to proceed and that the associated costs were prohibitive. The Committee agreed that they would continue to lobby KCC to extend</p> | <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> |
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|    | <p>enforcement threshold with no crash/injury collision data. KCC would not fund replacement signs: previously estimated at £7,000 but had increased significantly.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that Speedwatch sessions would be organised for Main Road during the Spring. The Assistant Clerk would keep a record of any reported incidents / accidents that occurred on Main Road.</p> <p><b>5.8 To consider a bus shelter at London Road</b> – The Assistant Clerk had been in contact with KCC Public Transport team who would be providing advice as to the feasibility of a bus shelter at the London Road stop (by the Crown building towards Biggin Hill).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>JO</p> <p>JO</p> |
| 6. | <p><b><u>Street Lighting</u></b></p> <p><b>6.1 Repairs and responses</b> – The following repairs / work had been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streetlight 65 (Grange Close) replaced photocell, cost of £97.75 + VAT</li> <li>• Streetlight 68 (High Street) replaced photocell (painted over), LED driver and tested (£162.75 + VAT)</li> <li>• Streetlight 147 (High Street) replaced driver unit, cost £106.25 + VAT</li> <li>• Streetlight 131 (Quebec Avenue) replaced photocell, cost £97.75 + VAT</li> <li>• Streetlight 23 (Granville Road) corroded and required replacement of the whole unit at a cost of £1,232.50 + VAT. This also required UKPN to disconnect and reconnect the electricity supply at a cost of £2,283 + VAT.</li> <li>• Streetlight 141, Quebec Avenue – supplied and fitted front shield to lantern following complaints of light pollution from resident at neighbouring property, cost £66.75 + VAT.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.2 Renewal of Electricity Contract</b> – The Assistant Clerk provided an update on the status of the streetlight electricity contract renewal as the contract with Yu Energy would expire on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025. There had been no market interest for a fixed rate (unmetered supply) contract. In addition, there was an industry wide requirement (Ofgem) to modify the way in which unmetered electric supplies are settled, and the Council's streetlight supply didn't meet this. The Council would need to stay with Yu Energy, but on the variable rate, until they had been upgraded by the supplier. At this point the Council would be able to find an alternative and more competitive contract. The Assistant Clerk would continue to liaise with the Council's energy broker regarding this matter.</p> <p><b>6.3 Church Floodlights</b> – The Assistant Clerk reported that four of the agreed floodlights had been ordered.<br/>An invoice for £300.34 had been received from the Church office for the</p> | <p>JO</p>           |

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|     | cost of electricity for the floodlights for 2024/25.                                                                                                                                             |    |
| 7.  | <b><u>Sevenoaks District Council</u></b><br><b>7.1 Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board</b> – Nothing to report. The next meeting would be on 25 <sup>th</sup> March.                            |    |
| 8.  | <b><u>Public Transport</u></b><br><b>8.1. Go Coach</b> – nothing to report.                                                                                                                      |    |
| 9.  | <b><u>Financial</u></b><br><b>9.1 To receive the Financial Statement up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</b> – Noted by the Committee.                                                           |    |
| 10. | <b><u>Eco Policy Action Plan</u></b><br>Noted by the Committee.                                                                                                                                  |    |
| 11. | <b><u>Correspondence</u></b><br>11.1 Enquiry for pelican crossing in London Road – noted.<br>11.2 Report of speeding on A25, High Street – noted.                                                |    |
| 12. | <b><u>Reports from Councillors</u></b><br>Cllr Breminer had completed Speedwatch training.<br>Cllrs Bird, Bortolozzo and Breminer had attended the Annual meeting of Westerham Town Partnership. |    |
| 13. | <b><u>TN16, Edenbridge Magazine, Website, Social Media and Crockham Hill Newsletter</u></b><br>It was agreed that information on where to report issues (e.g. potholes) should be included.      | JO |
| 14. | <b><u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u></b><br>To ask about funding options.                                                                                                       | JO |
| 15. | <b><u>Further matters for consideration at the next meeting</u></b><br>None.                                                                                                                     |    |
| 16. | <b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b><br>Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025.                                                                                                                         |    |

The meeting was concluded at 8.55pm

Minutes confirmed as a correct record:

Chair