

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Lighting Committee held on
Monday 7th April 2025 at 7.00 pm at Russell House,
Market Square, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Mr M Bortolozzo - Chair (MB)
Mr I Breminer (IB)
Mr N Proudfoot (NP)
Mr K Thompson (KT)

In attendance: Asst Clerk: Mrs J O'Sullivan (JO)
One member of the public (item 5.1 and 5.3)

Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Bird – business commitment.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u> None.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd February 2025</u> Were approved at the Council meeting on 17 th March 2025.	
4.	<u>Information items arising from the minutes of the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda</u> None.	
5.	<u>Highways</u> 5.1 Community Speedwatch Campaign – Eight Speedwatch sessions had taken place since February: five in Hosey Hill, two in Westerham and one in Crockham Hill. Further Speedwatch sessions were planned in London Road, Westerham, following a representation from a member of the public who attended the meeting to raise the issue of speeding here. The Chair asked what happened to the data reported to Kent Speedwatch. The Assistant Clerk would circulate details. 5.2 Kent Police Speed Checks – Kent Police reported the following visits from the mobile unit (sited at junction of Hosey Hill and French Street, all	JO JO

	visits 1hr 20 mins): January 2025: 3 visits – 24 offences. February 2025: 3 visits – 26 offences. 5.3 Highways Improvement Plan (HiP) 2025/2026 - The Committee noted the updates to the HiP, and agreed to remove the following: • <i>Black Eagle Close / junction with A25</i> – consultation for double yellow lines, removed due to lack of support and cost prohibitive. • <i>Main Road, Crockham Hill</i> – reduction in speed from 60mph to 40mph, KCC investigated (summer 2024) and found no evidence that supported reduction. • <i>Farley Nursery</i> – consultation for double yellow lines, removed due to lack of support and cost prohibitive. A member of public attended the meeting and raised concerns regarding speeding on London Road in the 20mph zone. Concerns were also raised as to the number of overweight vehicles using the road despite the weight restriction. The Chair outlined the Council's role in lobbying KCC for Highway Improvements. The Assistant Clerk would organise Speedwatch sessions in London Road and contact KCC for advice. Cllr Proudfoot expressed frustration with the supply of vehicle / speed data by KCC. The Assistant Clerk would forward detailed data when received. 5.4 To agree quote for camera survey at Croydon Road slip road (Marlborough Court) and consider next steps The informal consultation carried out by the Council had shown full support for the Croydon Road slip road (Marlborough Court) to be made one way. KCC had advised the Council that the next step would be for a traffic survey of vehicle movements to be carried out at three entry/exit points. The cost of a one-day survey would be £550 (excl VAT) for 12 hours or £650 (excl VAT) for 24 hours. KCC advised that a Wednesday be selected as a typical day over a 24-hour period. Data from this would enable KCC Highway Engineers to ascertain the direction that the one-way should be. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to fund the traffic survey (£650). The Committee expressed concern regarding the total cost of the project, and it was noted that a clearer picture of costings would be expected from KCC following the traffic survey. 5.5 To note KCC's response to concerns at Goodley Stock Road – A resident had been in touch regarding safety measures on Goodley Stock Road including concerns over speed. The Assistant Clerk had responded with information on how WTC lobby KCC for road improvements. The resident had also been in touch with KCC directly who had considered the issues and reviewed telematics speed data for the road (from GPS and sensors inside some vehicles) which indicated good compliance with speeds under 40mph (in a 60mph zone). The	JO JO JO
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	Committee noted that KCC were investigating whether 'road narrows' signs should be installed. 5.6 To consider request for a footpath at Hosey Hill - A resident had been in touch to ask about the possibility of extending the footpath at the top of Hosey Hill (to the junction of French Street). This proposal had been examined in detail by the H&L Committee over the course of 2021/22 and had not proceeded as the Council did not have the budget to fund it. KCC had been approached again, and they confirmed that they would not narrow the road to accommodate a footpath at this point and would not consider a footpath that did not meet their specification. In addition, costs had increased significantly. The Committee agreed that their position had not changed, and they did not have the budget to fund this. 5.7 To note request for a drop kerb at Crockham Hill – The Committee noted that KCC would investigate the request for a drop kerb to be installed on one side of Deanery Road. Item to be added to the HiP. 5.8 To consider reports of traffic / speeding issues on A25 (Farley Lane to Mill Lane) – The Committee agreed to add this to the HiP as part of the aspiration to extend the 20mph zone in Westerham. The Assistant Clerk would contact KCC to ask about the possibility of speed strips. 5.9 To consider quotes for a bus shelter at London Road – Two quotes had been received to supply and install a bus shelter at the bus stop by the Crown building on London Road. The Assistant Clerk had contacted KCC who would provide advice on the quotes and what permissions would need to be obtained. The Committee were supportive and favoured the lower quote but would wait for input from KCC. 5.10 Update on meeting with KCC Highway Engineer/Steward – The Chair provided a summary on the recent meeting with KCC Highway Engineer and Steward. Items on the HiP were discussed and, in addition, concerns about Beggars Lane were raised. KCC would not introduce a permanent reduction in the speed limit. The temporary speed limit could only be in force for a short length of time and there would need to be a considerable gap between any new restriction due to legal reasons. KCC would carry out regular inspections and if they feel that the limit needed to be reduced then they will apply for this again. The remedial works that are necessary for the road will cost over £1.5M and it had, in the past, been added to KCC's unfunded/problem site list (this list highlights risks across the county that go above and beyond day-to-day maintenance) but had been unsuccessful to date. Once Highways funding had been confirmed for 2025/26 KCC will be in a better position to provide an estimate on when Beggars Lane could feature in their programme and where it would sit in terms of other priorities in Sevenoaks.	JO JO JO
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6.	<u>Street Lighting</u> 6.1 Repairs and responses – The following repairs / work had been undertaken: • Streetlight 83 (Madan Road) replaced fuse and tested, cost of £60.25 + VAT. 6.2 Renewal of Electricity Contract – The Assistant Clerk reported that the March invoice had been received which included three weeks at the variable rate. The cost was comparable to the fixed rate monthly invoice; however, would be higher next month when the whole month on the variable rate would be included. The Assistant Clerk continued to liaise with the energy broker for the upgrade necessary to move supplier. 6.3 Church Floodlights – nothing to report.	JO
7.	<u>Sevenoaks District Council</u> 7.1 Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board – A meeting was held on 25 March 2025. The Committee noted the KCC Highway Works Forward Programme 2024/25 and 2025/26. Items mentioned in Westerham: • Resurfacing of Goodley Stock Road – completed July 2024. • Road service preservation (treatment to be confirmed) - Mapleton Road, Hosey Common Road to Pootings – 2025/26.	
8.	<u>Public Transport Issues</u> Nothing to report.	
9.	<u>Financial</u> 9.1 To receive the Financial Statement up to 31st March 2025 – Noted by the Committee.	
10.	<u>Review of Committee Scope</u> Following discussion, the Committee agreed that 'Highways and Lighting' should continue as the Committee's name. The Committee agreed that the terms of reference reflected the Committee Scope with one minor amendment – 3.1 to include 'Highways, pavements, parking and public transport'.	
11.	<u>Action Plan from Strategic Business Plan – update</u> The Committee noted the items raised in the Action Plan. Some of the items were already being investigated, namely the proposed bus shelter at London Road and the potential one-way at Croydon Road slip road (Marlborough Court). The Chair asked Cllr Thompson if he would investigate buses servicing Westerham and their associated timetables, in relation to the matter 'improved bus services in Westerham/Crockham Hill'.	KT

12.	<u>Eco Policy Action Plan</u> Noted by the Committee. Cllr Proudfoot suggested that the Plan be reviewed. The Chair asked for any comments to be forwarded to the Assistant Clerk in advance of the next meeting.	ALL
13.	<u>Correspondence</u> 13.1 Report of inconsiderate parking, London Road (opposite Wolfe garage) - noted. The Assistant Clerk had contacted SDC parking, but they would not take any action as there are no parking restrictions there, the resident had been updated.	
14.	<u>Reports from Councillors</u> Cllr Bortolozzo reported that he had spoken to the owners of Mill Water on London Road and that they had agreed to a 20mph banner being placed on the railings by their business. Cllr Bortolozzo had attended a meeting with the Assistant Clerk and KCC regarding the Highways Improvement Plan.	
15.	<u>TN16, Edenbridge Magazine, Website, Social Media and Crockham Hill Newsletter</u> Information on where to report highway issues, this would include where to report parking issues (Assistant Clerk to contact SDC to clarify).	JO
16.	<u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u> None.	
17.	<u>Further matters for consideration at the next meeting</u> None.	
18.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 16 th June 2025.	

The meeting was concluded at 9.30pm

Minutes confirmed as a correct record:

Chair