

WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highways and Lighting Committee held on
Monday 22nd September 2025 at 7.00 pm at Russell House,
Market Square, Westerham

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

In attendance: Asst Clerk: Mrs J O'Sullivan (JO)
 Fourteen members of the public (item 5.4)

Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies were received from Cllr Thompson – personal reasons.	
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest not previously declared</u> None.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th June 2025</u> Were approved at the Council meeting on 7 th July 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 – Eleven Speedwatch sessions had taken place: four in Hosey Hill, six in Westerham and one in Crockham Hill. At Hosey Hill, over two sessions, 26% of vehicles were recorded 35+mph and two over 50mph. In Westerham: at Croydon Road over three sessions 35% of vehicles were recorded over 25mph in 20mph zone with a top speed recorded of 42mph, and in London Road 14% of vehicles were recorded 35+mph with a top speed of 46mph. In Crockham Hill 5% of passing vehicles were over the speed enforcement threshold (35mph) with a top speed of 42mph. The Westerham group were joined by the Community Engagement Officer for Speedwatch Kent on 12 th September as part of the 'all out' day for West Kent. It was noted that further Speedwatch volunteers are required and any residents who are interested should contact the Assistant Clerk.	

	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 visits 1hr 20 mins): June 2025: 2 visits – 24 offences. July 2025: 4 visits – 30 offences. August 2025: 3 visits – 19 offences. 5.3 Highways Improvement Plan (HiP) 2025/2026 - The Committee noted the updates to the HiP, and highlighted: • <i>Westerham Hill/Pilgrims Way</i> – new STOP signs had been installed on Pilgrims Way, but road markings had not been refreshed on Westerham Hill. Vegetation had been cut back, but visibility remained an issue. The Assistant Clerk had been in touch with KCC Highways maintenance and requested lines to be remarked. A further accident had occurred on 18th September. The Assistant Clerk had notified KCC and requested feedback. The Chair would write to KCC again to express concerns. • <i>Westerham 20mph improvements (Croydon Road)</i> – The signage had been installed, SLOW signs repainted, and new roundels were awaited. • <i>Extension of 20mph in Westerham</i> – The Chair had contacted Cllr Irene Roy, Otford PC, to discuss their experiences introducing 20mph. • <i>Croydon Road (Marlborough Court)</i> – The Chair, Cllr Breminer and the Assistant Clerk would meet KCC on 24th September to discuss the proposed scheme following KCC's initial suggestions. • <i>Main Road/Church Road, Crockham Hill</i> – KCC Community Engagement Team had submitted a request to Highway Engineers to install '20mph advisory signs' on the school signs on Main Road. Decision awaited. • <i>Vicarage Hill</i> – KCC suggested road markings be refreshed. The Assistant Clerk would investigate and ask if further markings would be considered e.g. dragon's teeth, following minor low level damage to residence on the junction. • <i>Footings</i> – 30mph signs now installed, roundels awaited. To be removed from the HiP once completed. 5.4 Update on London Road issues – Fourteen members of the public attended the meeting and expressed their collective concern regarding the speed of vehicles travelling on London Road, in the 20mph and 30mph stretches. Several residents had experienced road traffic accidents outside their homes causing damage to their property. Following lengthy discussion, the Committee asked the residents what improvements they would like to see - improved signage, 20mph roundels, traffic calming measures, speed bumps were highlighted. The Assistant Clerk reported that KCC had been contacted and had agreed to order automatic traffic count surveys for the road (to record number of vehicles and speeds over a 7-day period). The Assistant Clerk would contact KCC for an update. Cllr Breminer suggested that residents join My Community Voice, operated by Kent Police, and that traffic incidents are reported via 101 or online.	MB MB/IB/ JO JO JO
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	5.8 To consider additional bike rack(s) in Westerham – The Chair had proposed the provision of an additional bike rack by Costa in Westerham in response to requests from cyclists and the traders. The Assistant Clerk had arranged to meet a potential supplier on site on 24th September. As the location was within the Conservation Area planning permission may be required from SDC as well as a license from KCC. The Assistant Clerk would investigate. 5.9 To consider Speed Limit Repeater Sign on Hosey Hill – Residents had asked whether a speed repeater sign could be placed with the speed camera sign on Hosey Hill (heading up the hill, opposite the church). The Assistant Clerk had raised this with KCC who stated it wasn't necessary as motorists should be aware that the speed was 30mph due to the presence of streetlights. However, KCC could review on a case-by-case basis and the Committee agreed to add this within the Westerham 20mph improvements item on the HiP. 5.10 To consider changing Hosey Hill streetlight from part-light to all-night – There had been a serious road traffic accident on Hosey Hill where a car had driven into a parked vehicle that was facing towards the oncoming traffic. The accident happened at night and Cllr Bird asked if it would be possible to keep one or two streetlights on overnight to ensure the road was well-lit. This would be possible but would involve a cost. Cllr Bird to find out if residents would wish lights to be on overnight. 5.11 To consider 'illegal to use e-scooters' signs - A resident had been in touch to raise concerns about the illegal use of e-scooters on the public highway and had enquired whether it would be possible to have signs installed (as seen in LB Bromley). The Assistant Clerk had contacted KCC who confirmed that they were not installing these in Kent. The Assistant Clerk would notify the resident and ask KCC if they had a policy on e-scooter use and ask if this matter had been raised by other district, town and parish councils in Kent.	JO JO LB JO
6.	<u>Street Lighting</u> 6.1 Repairs and responses – The following repairs / work had been undertaken: • Replacement light on Granville Road (£1,232.50 +VAT) installed on 3rd June. • Column 141, The Green – replaced driver unit and tested (£120 + VAT) • Column 83, London Road – replaced fuse and tested (£65 + VAT) • Column 107, Madan Road – replaced vandalised lantern (£365 +VAT) • Column 71, Fullers Hill – replaced fuse and tested (£65 + VAT) 6.2 Service Inspection Report – to approve Category 1 and Category 2 work - The Council had received the annual service inspection report from the street lighting contractor regarding the Council's stock of streetlights. Four items had been marked as Category 1 priority of which two required new columns with the associated UKPN cost to disconnect	

	and reconnect and one would be likely to additionally require 3-way traffic lights (at an additional cost to be advised by UKPN). In summary costs to the Council would be: <u>Category 1</u> - total streetlight cost £4,290 + UKPN cost + cost of 3-way traffic lights (UKPN asked to provide quotes). <u>Category 2</u> - total £1,700 of which £575 relates to pruning which ideally should be completed over the winter, otherwise the price would increase. The Committee approved Category 1 costs subject to the UKPN quotes for the two replacement columns and further investigation on the type of column for High Street/New Street. The Committee approved Category 2 costs. 6.3 Update on Electricity Contract – The Assistant Clerk had circulated a report regarding the streetlight electricity contract. The Council had remained with YU Energy following the end of the fixed contract in March 2025 and had moved to the variable rate as no suitable alternatives were available. In August the Council were notified that Yu Energy's variable rate would increase by 30%. At the same time the Council's energy broker identified a supplier (Drax) who could offer a fixed rate deal for 12, 24 or 36 months. Given that the current supplier's prices were increasing significantly from 23rd August – from around £13,184 per annum to equivalent of £17,536 per annum - a quick decision would be required. The Council's Town Clerk, RFO, Assistant Clerk, all members of the Highways and Lighting Committee and the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee all agreed that the 36-month fixed rate contract with Drax should be secured. Given that the move to a fixed rate contract was agreed, albeit with a different supplier, at Full Council on 20 January 2025 it was felt that sufficient approval had been achieved to move to Drax. The new contract with Drax started on 27th August 2025 and would expire on 18th August 2028. This meant that the Council only had to pay the higher rate with Yu Energy for four days. The new annual cost of supply with Drax would be £10,794.26 plus CCL and VAT. In addition, a broker fee of £389.12 pa would be charged. 6.4 To discuss and approve streetlight shield (Smiths Lane) – The Assistant Clerk had been unable to find out who owned the streetlight on Smiths Lane, Crockham Hill following contact with UKPN who were unable to help. The resident had subsequently been in touch to say that the hedge had grown sufficiently to provide a natural shield. The Committee decided to hold the installation of a rear shield given this and the other Category 1 and 2 work that was required (ref 6.2).	
7.	<u>Sevenoaks District Council</u> 7.1 Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board – next meeting 10th October 2005, no agenda was available at the time of the meeting.	
8.	<u>Public Transport Issues</u> The Chair had written to Metrobus to ask whether they had considered a dedicated bus route from Sevenoaks to Oxted. They had responded to	

	say that this was not viable for the following reasons: the long route would be unreliable; the County borders meaning one half supported by KCC and the other by Surrey CC; and both sections were primarily provisioned to cater for school movements in each county.	
9.	<u>Financial</u> 9.1 To receive the Financial Statement up to 31st August 2025 – Noted by the Committee.	
10.	<u>To review Risk Assessments</u> The Assistant Clerk and Chair had reviewed the Risk Assessments prior to the meeting, and no amendments were required.	
11.	<u>Action Plan from Strategic Business Plan – update</u> The Committee approved the updates to the Action Plan.	
12.	<u>Eco Policy Action Plan</u> The Committee noted the items raised in the Action Plan. Cllr Proudfoot asked that the Transport – Cycle issue be marked red as no progress had been made; however, the proposed bike rack meant progress had been made.	JO
13.	<u>Correspondence</u> 13.1 To note report of speeding around Quebec Avenue – The Assistant Clerk had responded. 13.2 To note report of inconsiderate parking around Madan Avenue – The Assistant Clerk would investigate and respond to the resident.	JO
14.	<u>Reports from Councillors</u> Cllrs Bortolozzo & Breminer had attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting. Cllr Proudfoot reported that there was significant erosion around the top of The Greensand Way close to the steps. The Assistant Clerk would check if this had been reported.	JO
15.	<u>TN16, Edenbridge Magazine, Website, Social Media and Crockham Hill Newsletter</u> How to report issues to KCC, SDC etc.	
16.	<u>Matters for District and County Councillors</u> The Assistant Clerk would update District and County Councillors on the Highway Improvement Plan.	
17.	<u>Further matters for consideration at the next meeting</u> None.	
18.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 10 th November 2025.	

The meeting was concluded at 9.40pm
Minutes confirmed as a correct record: **Chair**