

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.



HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

8.00 p.m. on Thursday 21 June 2012

Village Hall Committee Room

Minutes

Present: **Councillors** - Ken Huddart (*Chairman*), Anthony Sheppard, Nick Hayes, Geoff Herbert, Jimmy Cartwright
 Co-opted members- Caroline Stevenson, Bill Chilcott
 Parish Clerk- Freda Collins
 Surrey County Councillor: Mike Bennison

Cllr Huddart as the past Chairman opened the meeting.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Huddart asked for nominations for Chair.

Cllr Sheppard proposed Cllr Huddart. Seconded by Cllr Cartwright.

There being no other nominations, Cllr Huddart was duly elected Chairman.

He was congratulated. He thanked the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Kate Hallett who was on holiday

These were accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Herbert who is also a Borough Councillor.

Cllr Cartwright who is also a Borough Councillor.

4. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Huddart noted that Cllr Hallett is willing to stand again as Vice Chair.

He asked for nominations. Cllr Huddart proposed Cllr Hallett. Seconded by Cllr Herbert.

There being no other nominations, Cllr Hallett was duly elected Vice Chairman.

It was agreed that she is very hardworking.

It was agreed that the H&T Committee is a formidable team.

5. Constitution of the Committee

5.1 From 10 May the appointed H&T Committee is Ken Huddart, Anthony Sheppard, Kate Hallett, Nick Hayes, Geoff Herbert and Jimmy Cartwright. The quorum is therefore three.

5.2 The co-opted members are currently Bill Chilcott, David Cowie, and Caroline Stevenson. Bill and Caroline confirmed that they wish to continue as co-opted members. The Committee agreed they should continue.

6. Remit

The remit was reviewed and it was agreed to remove the word 'commuter' from item 10.

7. Risk Assessments

7.1 The PC has a risk assessment for gardening work, which would be relevant to our Highway Garden Sites. This was agreed

7.2 It was agreed that we will not consider a risk assessment for Speedwatch, as this is managed under police procedures.

7.3 The Risk Assessment for tree planting was reviewed and agreed.

8. Duplicated item

9. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9 May 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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10. To report on the actioning of items from previous minutes.

AP37. *The Parade planter* Cllr Hallett has requested that it not be repaired until after Claygate in Bloom. Cllr Bennison understands this and is offering alternative designs which will take some time to resolve, see item 12d.

AP38. *Location of tree stump in Simmil Road.* Cllr Sheppard apologised that he had not yet done this. Cllr Sheppard will email Cllr Bennison directly. Action outstanding

AP39. *Location of two close spaced lamp columns in Foley Road opposite Albany Crescent.* Cllr Huddart looked for these, but could find nothing fitting this description.

AP40. *Cllr Sheppard to interview residents of Meadow Road experiencing obstructive parking outside their driveways and to advise of the procedures for Access Protection Markings.* Cllr Sheppard spoke to a resident of Meadow Road. She thought that a solution may be yellow lines. She agreed that she should discuss this with her neighbours.

AP41. *Debris in the ditch past Elm Farm.* Cllr Huddart inspected the ditch and could not identify the offensive debris. Caroline reported that she had removed all the debris.

AP42. *Condition of BW33 (Bridle Road to the A3 subway).* Cllr Huddart reported this to SCC Rights of Way. There has been a change of officer responsibility, so both new and old have visited the site. There is no agreement yet to fund repair. It was noted that a recent inspection found the footpath to be muddy but passable. The subway is still subject to flooding. The Lower Mole Countryside Project team recently inspected this site and found that the work was something that they could undertake. They would work on the route on both sides of the subway.

AP43. *Plantlock* This has been purchased, installed and planted

11. Public Transport

a. Bus shelters, Routes & Bus Stops

K3-Alex Coomes was recently elected as a Borough Councillor. He wrote a *thank you* letter which was circulated with the current *Focus*. The letter refers to re-instating some level of bus service down Coverts Road. The current PC position is that there should be no changes to the K3 route, which would be unduly put at risk.

This position was re-affirmed by the meeting.

Church Road bus seat- Alex Coomes has provided, and Cllr Huddart has fitted, the Brian Rhodes plaque to the new seat at the Rec bus stop. The Clerk has informed Brian's family.

b. Trains

No report

c. Claygate Station

No report

12. Liaison with SCC

a. Road Maintenance and Footpaths

i. Alex Coomes' *thank you* letter circulated with the current *Focus* also refers to a provision for the safe passage of pedestrians at the end of Telegraph Lane. The provision of a footway in the section between Langbourne Way and Brookfield Gardens has been raised periodically and rejected in surveys of residents, most recently carried out by Councillor Michael Courtney. It was agreed that this matter should not be revived.

ii. The footway bollards outside Champions are repeatedly knocked down. It is suggested, but not known, that the miscreants include the many school buses turning from Oaken Lane to Hare Lane, and delivery vehicles. It is believed the bollards were provided to deter footway parking but they are not effective. A discussion took place as to whether they should be removed as they do not seem to serve any purpose and are an eye-sore when they have been damaged. Cllr Bennison confirmed that they serve no public safety issue (P1 or P2). If they did they would have been replaced already. They are on the list for replacement as category P4. It was agreed that this Committee would prefer that they were removed and not replaced.

iii. It was noted that the bollards in Hare Lane by the Co-op also regularly get knocked over, especially the one nearest the Co-op entrance.

iv. The bollard on the small island on Foley Road/Claremont Road also gets knocked. There used to be a streetlamp situated there but this was knocked down. In line with an EU directive, it was not replaced but relocated to a safer place. The bollard is supposed to be one which is capable of being bumped without falling over.

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v. There have been several complaints regarding the current fashion to maintain road surfaces with surface dressings, such as the road surfacing in Oaken Lane by Woodbourne Drive. Concerns include the noisy traffic, and the loose stones everywhere, including in gullies. Malcolm McKenzie finds that the resultant road surface is slightly higher than the inspection covers, so that heavy vehicles create noise and vibration (possibly damaging houses), and has taken this up with SCC. Prior to this maintenance fashion, there had been a move to planning off and applying thin surfacings, which is much more expensive, and had disadvantages of early life skid resistance (which is particularly relevant to horse riders) and premature failure (as happened in St. Leonards Road and Red Lane). The advantages of surface dressings are that it tends to slow the traffic and because it is cheaper, more roads can be repaired.

vi. We regard The Parade planter, outside Fruit World, as being SCC's street furniture. Mike Bennison has identified funds for its repair, and has created a photo-montage of an alternative design, based on a circular planter in Cobham, and having seats all round. He is concerned at the unauthorised footway use for display by Fruit World, but reckons the alternative design will make the seating more readily available and use less of the resultant limited space available to pedestrians. This matter was debated at the Environment Committee and a preferred design was communicated to Cllr Bennison. Cllr Bennison has agreed that no work will take place until after 1 Aug 2012. *Post meeting note: Fruit World merchandise now occupies only the delineated forecourt.*

vii. Cllr Sheppard attended the Elmbridge Local Committee meeting and has circulated the Highways paper which includes the allocations for highway repair. It was noted that Cllr Bennison has allocated £1000 to be spent on the Hare Lane slip road and island.

viii. Cllr Bennison has prepared a spreadsheet showing every item required in Claygate.

ix. The Highways Officer reports that road inspections are about every 3 months for an A road, and about every 12 months for a cul-de-sac.

x. The safety matrix is included in the Highways Cabinet report of Nov 10.

b. Highway Tree Replacement and Maintenance

Thanks were given to Mike Bennison who has undertaken to remove tree stumps in Claygate; some have been done, and more listed. Cllr Bennison will pay for the removal from his personal allowance.

It was noted that tree work has been carried out in Foxwarren, including removal of a dead tree, and trimming of others. It is not known who is responsible. It was noted that Elmbridge Housing Trust own the east side of the road and SCC owns the other side. The report included a request for a further tree, which we should investigate for our annual planting programme.

c. Street Lighting

Little seems to have happened on the SCC refurbishment programme recently. It was noted that EBC have arranged for heritage lights in Conservation Areas. In other areas, if the lights are deemed fit for purpose, then extra payment is required for heritage lights. Gordon Road and Telegraph Lane residents continue negotiation with SCC to have heritage lights with swan neck columns, but could be facing a charge of £3-4,000 for three or four columns. The preferred design, as negotiated by EBC is Iffley, being alternative G on the SCC website.

d. Snow Wardens

Cllr Hallett is keen that the Parish Council considers such a scheme, possibly based on that of Devon where villages can get cut off when it snows. She has circulated information on this. It was agreed that the scheme, as a social action, seems a good idea, but has limited highways impact. This matter will be debated at full Council.

13. Parking

a. Off- Street

The Comrades Club in the Old Village is up for sale and offers of the asking price are said to have been received, including one from Elmbridge B.C. It was noted that the footprint of the building is quite small. There is a right of access over the car park to the building. It was noted that the resident who intends to build a house in his back garden will require access from the car park over the HGS whilst building takes place. As CPC is not a principle, but an agent to EBC, we cannot interfere if they grant access.

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b. On- Street

Alex Coomes' thank you letter circulated with the current *Focus*, referred to excessive parking in The Avenue adjacent to Hare Lane. Following our last meeting, Anthony has written to residents on the corner seeking good evidence, by taking photos, that this occurs. He has not yet heard anything from the residents. Yet again Cllr Huddart has observed that parking is tidy, with one side completely clear for quite a distance. Because the road narrows as it approaches the Hare Lane junction, double yellow lines would be required for about 3 car lengths along the Avenue from the junction. It was noted that locals probably know there may be a problem and drive accordingly; but there may be difficulties with someone not familiar with the junction. The snag is that most of the time the junction is not tricky, but when there is an obstruction it could be dangerous. It was noted that there is a marked change in the parking from week to weekend. It was agreed to wait and see what photographic evidence the frontagers can produce.

14. Traffic Calming

Malcolm McKenzie continues to organise and carry out Speedwatches several times a month, at various roads, and plans to resume after a month's summer break. A vehicle at 59mph was recorded in Oaken Lane. It was noted that the Speedwatch is effective as it does slow down the traffic.

15. Bridleway Proposals & Rights of Way

15.1 There has been a change in officer allocation for maintaining Surrey C.C. Rights of Way. Anne Woods no longer deals with Claygate following a restructure and staff reductions in the department; Anne now covers Spelthorne, Runnymede, Surrey Heath and Guildford. Maintenance of Rights of Way in Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell and Mole Valley has been taken over by Hannah Gutteridge; Hannah is based in the Reigate office. Cllr Huddart is in touch with Hannah, and has reported the state of BW33 (Bridle Road to the subway under A3).

15.2 Regarding the Old Claygate Lane track, Cllr Huddart asked Gerald Abrahams to quote for strimming, and has received a quote for £170 plus VAT. This compares favourably with last year's quote. It was AGREED that the work should go ahead.

API Cllr Huddart to action.

Post meeting note: Gerald Abrahams knows this decision, is currently on holiday, and promises to start from about 1 July.

16. Cycling

16.1 The Clerk sent for a Plantlock; it has now been positioned on the island in Hare Lane and planted. Thanks were given to the Clerk, Cllr Hallett and Steve and Linda Wells for their work on this project.

16.2 Steve Wells has requested a further 3 Plantlocks to be positioned on the Recreation Ground located near the new Community Clubhouse. He believes that they would meet the needs of cyclists using the Rec., whilst providing an aesthetically pleasing feature. The cost of three units would be £352.20 + VAT, plus the cost of installation estimated at £100. The CRGT would be grateful if the PC could fund the provision of these three units.

It was agreed to purchase the three planters and to offer £100 towards the cost of the concrete base. This funding would exceed the amount in the budget provision for 'cycling' but the extra can be vired out of the 'Bridleways' budget. No action will be taken on this matter until David Cowie has been informed and offered his opinion. Steve Wells is away on holiday, so this matter will wait for his return.

17. Street Signage

Nothing to report.

18. Website

Nothing is being posted on the current website as it will soon be shut down. Cllr Huddart has to write a 200 word article for the Courier. It was agreed to include the Plantlock and a reminder about cheaper parking in the car parks and free parking in the station car park at the weekend.

19. Matters for Information Only

It was noted that large vehicles are going down Coverts Road and then realising that they have to turn round as it is not a through-road. It was agreed that little can be done. If signs are placed, drivers are unlikely notice them. Also the placing of signs may cause confusion.

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20. Date and place of the next meeting

8.00pm on 23 August 2012 in the Committee Room

Apologies from Cllr Sheppard as he will be on holiday.

Signed.....as a true and fair record of the meeting.

Date.....