

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



HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

8.00 p.m. on Thursday 30 October 2014

Village Hall Committee Room

Minutes

Present: Councillors - Ken Huddart (*Chairman*), Kate Hallett, Anthony Sheppard, Helen Maguire
Surrey County Councillor: Mike Bennison
Co-opted members- Bill Chilcott, Caroline Stevenson
Parish Clerk- Freda Collins

Cllr Hallett was not present at the start of the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mark Sugden (*ex-officio*)
David Cowie
Geoff Herbert with reason
These were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Huddart declared that he is Chairman of the Trustees of Claygate Village Hall Association, President of the CVA and Acting-Chairman of the Claygate Conservation Areas Advisory Committee.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

Two corrections were made to the minutes of the meeting on 28 Aug 2014:-
i. After AP6- it should read 'SCC' not 'CC'.
ii. Item 14 the date of the next meeting should read '30 Oct 2014'.
The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

Cllr Hallett arrived at the meeting.

AP45 *Safe routes to school, walking bus.* Dave Cowie and Helen Maguire to consider.

AP46. *102 Hare Lane bus stop.* Thanks to Cllr Mary Marshall for getting the seat installed. She did very well to get it from Elmbridge for free and to get frontager agreement to putting it there.

AP52/AP3. *Parking survey.* The working party including all councillors of H&T has met, and notes circulated. Lead members will meet Surrey C.C. on 14 Nov.

AP1. *Village Sign repair.* Satisfactorily completed by Glenn Hunt's company; Courier article drafted

AP2. *Trees in The Avenue.* Cllr Sugden consultation in hand, report in item 8b.

5. Bridleway Proposals & Rights of Way

Cllr Bennison arrived at the meeting.

Northern Section. Surrey C.C. has established that this land is owned by RBKT (probably acquired decades ago for road works), and will not consider any action until permission is obtained. Cllr Mary Marshall is adamant that the ditch is the problem. If so, it puts the work beyond Claygate P.C.'s likely available funding, otherwise, we could provide scalplings. Although there are reservations as to whether those normally available would be to the liking of the horse riders. They could be distributed by a volunteer team for free, or a contractor might be available for about the £1000. This figure has been included in the H&T budget, for rights of way generally.

Central Section. FP31 alignment. Relatively little patching is needed, but it could do with a thorough vegetation cutback to improve the width. Hence there is scope for Surrey C.C. work, but the problem is unlikely to compete with its priorities elsewhere.

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At, and south of, Elm Farm. The problem is limited, so provision of scalplings could be feasible, if suitable ones are obtainable, and there could be scope for volunteer distribution, or limited contractor expenditure.

Horse crossing- Cllr Marshall is dealing separately with the crossing point at the northern end to allow riders to link to The Waffrons and the travellers' sites. Cllr Marshall sent a report as she was unable to attend the meeting.

Last week I met with SCC and their engineer that is going to put the crossing in place. We agreed the optimum position possible under the circumstances, moving it slightly further away from the bridge. I was advised by SCC that if we wish to move it any further down then it would be considered a new build and not a replacement. If this is the case planning permission will be required and to seek this from three different authorities (KBC, SCC and EBC) would delay the crossing considerably (another 18 months possibly if not more) There are also further problems on the other side of the road if the crossing is moved too far down, as more trees and shrubs would need to be cleared which would considerably increase the price. I have now managed to raise the £2600 required to build the crossing. CPC £500, Cllr Mike Bennison £1000, the rest has come from the equestrian community and the generous residents of our village. I am still collecting donations and any money that remains will eventually go towards improving the drainage by clearing the ditches and the surface of the bridleway where necessary. I believe if the ditches are cleared the drainage will improve which will in turn help to improve the surface of the path. In the long term this will be more cost effective than just trying to repair the surface. Obviously there may still be some surface areas that will need attention: -

1. The crossing will be set back from the highway behind the line of tarmac that is already there. The same will apply on the other side of the road. I believe this was of concern to Cllr Huddart.
2. There is a small round 40 mph sign on a post that is almost exactly at the point of the crossing. This will be removed by SCC.
3. SCC has agreed to paint 'SLOW' on the road in both directions on the approaches to the crossing.
4. SCC is fixing a broken roadside sign light that has not been working for some time.
5. SCC have agreed that if the new signs are too close to the crossing once it is in place they will move them further down the road.
6. Reflectors will be put on the outer posts on both sides of the road for the benefit of drivers approaching the crossing.

It is hoped that this work will start in November. As soon as I have a date I will of course let you know. There is, as you have no doubt observed new signage warning drivers horses are crossing in both directions which are a considerable improvement on the previous signs or lack of them.

Cllr Huddart has recommended that it should be about 25m south of its present position, and it must have ride on the west side to link it to the northern section of Woodstock Land South. Some riders need to link over the A3 e.g. to the Equestrian Centre. The footway is already paved there; although Caroline says this is unsafe for riders, they do in practice use it, or ride in the road alongside. It was noted that riders could link to the Commons by using BW32 so they don't have to ride over the bridge. Plus, riders from the Waffrons will still use Woodstock Lane South in preference to crossing the bridge to use BW 32.

It was noted that RBKT should really help to fund repairs as the Equestrian Centre is in their area. Caroline noted that RBKT Councillors and Officers are conducting a site visit in the area on Monday. It was agreed that this was a good opportunity to speak to them, so Caroline and Cllr Huddart will go along.

Cllr Huddart estimates the repair of the drainage could cost in the region of £10k. A figure of £1k has been put in the CPC draft budget for bridleways- this could be used to get the work started. A bid for extra funding of £500 may be considered.

Thanks were given by the meeting to Cllr Bennison for his generous contribution to the project and to Cllr Marshall for all her work.

6. Cycling

No report from David Cowie.

Cycle parking- CPC have arranged or funded cycle parking in Hare Lane, at the Rec, at the village hall and at the station. It was noted that the double-decker SWT's racks at the end of The Parade are now full. The stands at the other side of the station are underused.

Cycle Routes- cycling is being heavily promoted as being healthy.

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It was noted:-

- i. the BOAT at the end of Coverts Road becomes narrow and muddy at the Princes Coverts end, but this is not in Claygate.
- ii. Littleworth Road is dangerous to cycle down as traffic is travelling at speed and there are ditches next to the narrow roadway. There is a route from near the Cafe Rouge through the Common which is used by walkers and cyclists. Logging is taking place in the Common at the moment so the route is muddy. The route is not in Claygate but it is used as a route to and from Claygate. Cllr Huddart will request the EBC reinstate the path once the logging is finished.

AP8 Cllr Huddart to action.

7. Public Transport

a. Bus shelters, Routes & Bus Stops

The resurfacing of Milbourne Lane this week (Tue to Sat) has required all traffic to Esher, including buses, to be diverted through Manor Road South, Kingston Bypass and Portsmouth Road. We are fortunate that TfL has decided to retain the bus service through Claygate, including The Avenue and Oaken Lane as part of the diversion route.

It was noted that our website no longer includes bus and train timetables. For the bus, TfL has rearranged the timetable information, presumably to suit mobile phone users, so the traditional bus time table giving, on two sides, the complete route timetable both ways on weekdays, Sat and Sun cannot be downloaded. Instead one has to specify one's stop and direction, and be told the times for this for the relevant type of day.

b. Trains

Some of the new trains are now in service through Claygate. All Down trains now stop well down the platform, which Anthony says is desirable to avoid the previous exit gate jam.

c. Claygate Station

A substantial group of about 12 volunteers from various parts of SWT recently joined CIB volunteers to make significant improvements to the station. We should thank SWT for honouring its offer to do this.

8. Liaison with SCC

a. Road Maintenance and Footpaths

Village Sign- the Village Sign was satisfactorily repaired by Glenn Hunt's company; the *Courier* article drafted

Drain in The Green- the drain is still running. Cllr Huddart spoke to Nick Stafford, manager, and Mark Plummer, EBC Environment. Nick Stafford reckoned that it was not H&H responsibility, the blockage being in a common drain in the road. He reckoned that he has been paying £70 a time, some 20 times a year to have it cleared, but the person who did it for him is no longer available, and so he is not doing it again. He has been in touch with EBC. Cllr Huddart warned him that he should have to do speak to EBC whether in its capacity for Environmental Health or as Licensing Authority. They agreed that there was a need for real professional involvement, such as Dynorod, to get to the bottom of the problem. Cllr Huddart spoke to EBC Officer, Mark Plummer. Mark was well informed, and undertook to speak to Nick Stafford. He said that Thames Water reassessed their responsibilities for feeder drains a couple of years ago, and took on drains which jointly served several properties. In exchange, drains serving only one property clearly became the responsibility of that property, to the point where they discharged into the sewer. He said that the Thames Water assessment found this particular drain to be a single service for the H&H, which is therefore responsible. Mark undertook to tell this to the H&H, and to help it with the installation of a grease trap.

Drains in Church Road- Bill saw men working on these drains today.

Drains in Meadow Road- the drains were blocked with tree roots. EBC wanted to fell the willow on the island, but Cllr Bennison intervened. The tree has been saved and all the drains unblocked by cutting the roots in them. Thanks were given to Cllr Bennison.

b. Highway Trees

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This winter's planting programme is coming together; the Courier article has been drafted 6 trees are proposed, as requested by donors, or to replace losses (died or vandalized), so some of these will be funded by the Parish Council.

Surrey C.C. recently felled 5 large trees in Foley Road and Claremont Road. Residents were unhappy as the trees appeared to be healthy, but the PICUS test showed decay. Picus Sonic Tomography is a non-invasive tool for assessing decay in trees. It works on the principle that sound waves passing through decay move more slowly than sound waves traversing solid wood. By sending sound waves from a number of points around a tree stem to a number of receiving points, the relative speed of the sound can be calculated and a two-dimensional image of the cross-section of the tree can be generated. We shall ask SCC to replace the 4 in Foley Road. We are currently consulting residents, with some good responses. We hope to use the same system that was used in Trystings Close, where SCC pays us to plant the replacements.

Cllr Sugden is consulting residents in The Avenue; this seems likely to result in suggestions and donors for up to 9 trees. as at today on the status. Residents have been given until 29th to respond but here is status as at 26th.

Overall resident commitment for 8 new trees, from 7 householders (1 resident committing to 2), mostly towards the Hare Lane end of The Avenue.

- 4 Cherry Prunus hillieri Spire
- 2 Cherry Prunus sargentii Rancho
- 2 Rowans

Other residents have responded very nicely in the negative because they already have trees in their gardens which would compete, but that they appreciate the 'project' to improve the appearance of the street and protect our grass verges.

It would seem that overall we will need 12-15 trees this season for planting.

c. Street Lighting

Cllr Sugden has been in touch with Skanska direct. Two of the columns on The Green have received heritage style lights, appropriate to a Conservation Area, as negotiated by Elmbridge B.C. A discussion took place as to whether we should request this to be done to the columns in High Street and Elm Road which are traffic lighting. It was agreed that the heritage lighting is not bright enough for this important junction, so we should leave the lighting as is.

Surrey C.C. has funded heritage lights for Claremont Road and part of Beaconsfield Road in the Conservation Area. Heritage lights have been installed in Gordon Road, The Avenue and Telegraph Lane, funded by residents.

9. **Parking**

a. Off-street parking.

This is to be discussed at the PC/EBC Liaison meeting on 5 Nov. We are seeking the first half hour free. Cllr Hallett will do a search of the text in survey responses for any narrative on 'first half hour free parking'. Cllr Sugden will ask EBC for financial information under FOI about how much revenue EBC gets from the first half hour of parking, i.e. how many 10p tickets are sold.

b. On-street parking

The working party including all councillors of H&T has met, and notes circulated. Lead members will meet Surrey C.C. on 14 Nov. Suggestions include limited extra controls in Church Road to facilitate through traffic movement, and perhaps in Foley Road, which was found in a series of snapshot visits to be the road with significant commuter parking problems.

It was noted that parking occurs on the double yellow lines in Church Road on Sunday mornings because the markings are worn and difficult to see. Cllr Hallett has reported this to SCC.

It was noted that Dalmore Avenue residents had successful meetings with SCC officers, so if residents of other roads with parking problems would like to meet SCC Officers, we will try to facilitate this.

The 'snap shot' site visits showed that some roads have problems most of the day, but some are only problematic for certain times during the day. This will be pointed out to SCC at the meeting. SCC will have to conduct proper surveys to ensure that the data is correct.

10. **Traffic Calming**

It was noted that, despite our requests to SCC for traffic calming in Hare Lane, we still do not have a raised cushion at the junction with The Parade.

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It was also noted that despite request from Cllr Huddart to SCC to improve the level of lights on the pedestrian crossing, no action has yet been taken.

(Post meeting note: - Extracts from minutes of 6 Dec 2012

API8 Raised junction at Hare Lane/The Parade. Cllr Huddart raised this again, and has an officer response that it would be very expensive, and there would be technical difficulties providing the drainage. Cllr Huddart has emphasised that there are reported accidents, so there should be a valid business case. We shall have to repeat this periodically.

9.2 David reported that several times he has had to wait at the pedestrian crossing while cars went across ignoring the waiting pedestrians. Cllr Huddart noted that the law states that vehicles only have to give way to pedestrians ON the crossing. It was noted that the illumination is poor on the crossing as one of the lights is off, so there may be a visibility issue. The current standard is for a high floodlight rather than a spotlight. Cllr Huddart has repeatedly asked for the west side light to be replaced as it keeps failing. It was agreed that this matter should be kept under observation, and if there is a problem it should be reported to the Police. Thanks were given to David for raising this matter.)

11. Electric vehicles

This is to be discussed at the PC/EBC Liaison meeting on 5 Nov. We shall recommend that Elmbridge B.C. does provide a charging point, which could be seen as an important use for a section of the Torrington Lodge car park, without significantly affecting the space remaining available for parking. Cllr Huddart spoke to the Leader of Elmbridge B.C. who appeared to be in favour of the scheme. The purchase of purely electric vehicles is not large due to the limited distance that they can be used for. Hybrid vehicles are much more popular. It was noted that mobiles can download an app which shows where the nearest charging point is.

12. Street Signage

It was noted that the street sign on Foley Mews states that is a private road, so the street has not been cleaned and the drains have not been maintained. The street is actually not private- but the residents like the sign as it discourages parking in the road. The residents need to decide whether they prefer no parking or no road maintenance. The situation is being addressed by Cllr Bennison.

13. Website & Courier

13.1 A piece about trees and the village sign will be included in the next Courier.
13.2 The website is out of date. It was noted that the K3 timetable is no longer on the site. The traditional timetable is also not available on the TfL site. It was noted that because many people use their mobiles to access such information, the entire timetable would be too large to fit on the screen, so information about individual stops is given.
An update of the parking survey will not be published until after the meeting with SCC.

14. Matters for Information Only

14.1 A preliminary budget for H&T has been agreed:-

Footpaths	£1500 (inc. contribution to Woodstock Lane South)
Bus shelter/bench	£250
Trees	£500
Cycling	£500
<u>Grit bins</u>	<u>£250</u>
Total	£2500

14.2 An air ambulance landed on the school grounds a few days ago to pick up a patient. It is not known if the cause was an accident.

14.3 It was noted that the drains of the Hook underpass are clogged with greenery. Caroline has attempted to report it, but cannot find anyone to take responsibility. It was agreed that this is the responsibility of the Highways Agency. Cllr Hallett reported the matter on-line during the meeting.

15. Date and place of the next meeting

8.00pm on 11 Dec 2014 in the Committee Room

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

Date.....