

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



## HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

8.00 p.m. on Thursday 19 December 2013

Small Village Hall

*Minutes*

**Present:**        **Councillors** - Ken Huddart (*Chairman*), Geoff Herbert, Kate Hallett, Anthony Sheppard, Mark Sugden, Shirley Round ( *ex officio*)  
                  **Co-opted members**- Bill Chilcott  
                  **Parish Clerk**- Freda Collins  
                  22 members of the public

Cllr Huddart welcomed the members of the public and introduced all the members of the Committee.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Caroline Stevenson.

### 2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

**Cllr Herbert** is also a Borough Councillor.

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

**Cllr Hallett** is Secretary to the CVA and an employee of TfL.

**Cllr Sugden** is a CVA Committee member.

### 3. Constitution of the Committee

Cllr Huddart explained the role of the co-opted member and asked the members of the public to consider putting themselves forward.

### 4. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 31 October 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The order of the agenda was changed to take **item 9 On-street Parking**. The meeting was closed to take public speaking about the problems with commuter parking in Foley Road and surrounding roads.

Helen Goodwin spoke about the underused car parks, yet Claygate streets suffer from commuter parking, including blocking driveways. The present situation only benefits commuters.

Nicola Maxwell spoke about safety of pedestrians and road users due to the density of parking. She also mentioned blocked gutters as they cannot be cleaned due to parked cars, blocked driveways, expansion of local schools, poor street lighting, and Conservation Areas.

Caroline Andrews spoke about the worsening situation especially since the Foley was developed. The situation will continue to deteriorate as the platform will be expanded at Claygate station and double yellow lines are to be put in at the corner by the Foley.

Kate Bennett spoke about parking right up to junctions making sightlines very poor.

It was noted that commuter parking problems also affect Claremont Road and Gordon Road and that cars are arriving earlier to get the better spots. The Chairman read out a letter from Tim Dowling about parking problems in Gordon Road.

The meeting resumed.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Huddart circulated a report:-

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The Parish Council's policy, which has been debated many times, is to resist the extension of parking controls. In doing so, it has twice been supported strongly by local people, most recently in CAMP (Claygate Against Metered Parking). It fully recognises that people living on the boundary of existing controls suffer from an unreasonable amount of on-street parking, and ask that their particular patch be controlled. Unfortunately, if this is done, the problem moves on to neighbouring roads. An estimate of the extent of Claygate that would have to be covered with rigid controls would be the whole of north and west Claygate (both sides of the railway) extending as far east and south as Telegraph Lane, Common Road and The Causeway, Vale Road and Beaconsfield Road (all inclusive) and Coverts Road (as far as Foxwarren),. Within such a controlled area, residents without ample off-street parking and their visitors would be highly inconvenienced, and have to pay in various ways.

It was noted that CPC:-

- i. Asked for parking restrictions in Albany Crescent at the junction of Gordon Road; the consultation has taken place and we are waiting for the work to be carried out.
- ii. Have leafleted commuters to inform them about the reasonable car park charges. It is believed that usage of the car parks has increased since the leaflets were put out.

Cllr Sugden has identified four parking hotspots; Loseberry/Aston/ Raleigh Drive, Meadow Road/Torrington, The Avenue/Hare Lane and Foley /Claremont and Gordon Roads. The commuter parking in Foley Road area is exacerbated by the school parking for the three schools in that area, so far exceeds the problems caused in the other roads

A discussion took place and it was agreed:-

- i. If driveways are obstructed then the Police should be called. If the Police are called out twice to the same address then SCC will arrange for a white line to denote the driveway.
- ii. It was noted that studies show that people are prepared to walk up to 15 mins to and from a station to get free parking. If parking controls are introduced to Claygate, many roads which are currently unaffected by commuter parking will also have to have parking restrictions. So the introduction of parking controls would have to be looked at in the context of the whole village, not just a few roads. In the past there has always been huge opposition by residents to parking controls. Michael Courtney carried out a very comprehensive study on this subject 2/3 years ago. He adopted a zoned approach to the consultation to give a better analysis so that a resident in a road such as Foley Road, which has problem, could be distinguished from those living in a street with no parking problems. It was agreed to repeat this consultation.

AGREED actions:-

- i. to undertake a village-wide parking survey using a similar zoned approach as Michael Courtney. A Working Party will be organised and it was agreed to invite a Foley Road resident onto the WP.
- ii. Ask EBC to lower the rate for an annual season ticket for a village car park. EBC have three categories of car park; village, town and commuter. We could ask other Borough Councillors who have village car parks to support us in this matter. Also groups could be identified that may be suitable for concessions; such as the traders. CPC is due another meeting with EBC about parking, this can be discussed then.
- iii. To consider recommending to SCC that the junction of Foley Road and Claremont Road has parking restrictions to improve the sightlines.
- iv. To inform residents that they should contact the Police if their drive is blocked. This can be done in the Courier and via a leaflet drop.

The members of the public left the meeting and the order of the agenda resumed.

## 5. To report on the actioning of items from previous minutes.

**AP19** *To ask Nick Healey to identify a fund to provide highway access for the disabled.* It was agreed to ask Cllr Bennison for some funding from his allocation for this project. Cllr Huddart to action.

**AP20** *Consultation on Trystings Close trees.* This was halted, since a key resident suffered a family bereavement.

**AP21** *Repair of light on the fountain.* Skanska repaired the light, and reported vandalism of the control box by removal of the fuse and fuse holder

**AP22** *fallen tree in the Old Claygate Lane track* - Bill and Cllr Hallett cut up the most relevant bits and moved it away. Thanks were given to them.

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**AP23** *letter* Cllr Huddart wrote on 1 Nov to thank the solicitors for the landowners of Slough Farm for their letter advising that they could not advise formally allowing public use of Old Claygate Lane track.

**AP24** *map of cycle routes.* Cllr Hallett to action with Bill and David.

**AP25** *To report a broken street nameplate post at the top of Oakhill, a missing street nameplate in Queen Anne Drive and a dirty one in Stevens Lane opposite Trystings Close.* Done- this could take up to two months.

**AP26** *To cost the purchase of grit bins.* Cllr Hallett has contacted SCC and is awaiting a reply.

It was noted that David Cowie has not attended any recent meetings and no contact has been made by him. It was agreed to write to thank him for his contribution and ask him if he wants to continue as a member of the Committee.

## 6. Public Transport

### a. Bus shelters, Bus routes and Bus stops.

It was noted that members of the public are generally pleased with the new company. There were a few problems initially as the drivers did not know the routes. Then, because of the refurbishing and closure of Common Road, the K3 bus was diverted from the Claygate loop to the full length of Foley Road from Church Road to Hare Lane. We warned London Buses in advance to sign this diversion in good time to enable users to go to the correct stopping places. In the event the diversion started after the Tuesday 26 Nov morning peak, before which the bus stop notices were altered, so most regular users would have been properly informed in advance of the actual diversion. Some users were confused that Church Road was being used in both directions (to and from Esher), although this was clearly enough stated on the signs. The road closure was extended an extra day, to be able to rectify damaged water mains.

The service is now back to normal, but will again be disrupted in the New Year as road works will start again in Kingston.

It was noted that the suspended stop by the Griffin PH is being used as the footway has been mended. Cllr Huddart will inform TfL and ask them to remove the 'suspended' sign

**AP27 Cllr Huddart to action.**

### b. Trains

Nothing to report

### c. Claygate Station

No further reply regarding the need to shade the lights for the new cycle racks.

It is noted that the adjacent shop has been using most of the area enclosed within the bollards.

Nothing has been heard about a second ticket machine. Cllr Huddart will chase.

**AP28 Cllr Huddart to action.**

## 8. Liaison with SCC

### a. Road maintenance & footpaths

Common Road has been resurfaced. Other roads which have received complaints are not on the list to be resurfaced.

It was noted that there is a now a Project Horizon for footpath repair. It was suggested that we produce a list of those footpaths in need of repair, e.g. Coverts Road.

Pothole patching is going quite well. There is one in Woodbourne Drive which needs reporting.

**AP29 Cllr Huddart to action.**

It was noted that SCC has set up a Community Gang. Not many people are feeding in work to be carried out, so that work that is reported gets done quickly.

### b. Highway Tree Replacement and Maintenance

The Tree Wardens and volunteers have completed the first tranche of this season's programme with 16 trees in Woodbourne Drive, Westbury Avenue, Oaken Lane, Hare Lane (near Rukshana), Meadow Road, and Beaconsfield Road, reflecting the wishes of donors (£50 or more per site). Since trees typically cost £73 per site, however, stakes and ties are also needed, a tradesman has been used to dig holes and some trees have been entirely funded by the Parish Council, the estimated cost of £1084 exceeds the estimated donations of £523 by more than our highway tree budget of £500. It was agreed that the Committee vires the necessary amount from our bus shelter maintenance budget of £250.

Thanks were given to the Tree Wardens and volunteers.

Trees have not been ordered nor planted in Trystings Close. Surrey C.C. offered to replace two oak trees, which it felled. It is willing to fund the Council to do this to the level that it would pay its normal suppliers.

This would more than cover our direct costs, but would be well short of paying a *pro rata* part of the

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Council's General Administration account. Action is currently stalled by a family bereavement of a crucial resident.

c. Street Lighting

In The Parade, Skanska decided to replace the columns, which it had previously regarded as fit for purpose. The Council considered this at its last meeting and agreed to apply for grants to pay for heritage lighting. An Elmbridge BC grant will meet most of substantial cost, the remainder being shared between the Parish Council and Mike Bennison's account in Surrey C.C. The columns will be more suitable, being approved to carry hanging baskets, having rectangular lanterns and white lights. Thanks were given to Cllrs Herbert and Bennison for starting this process.

Skanska installed a standard light on the corner of Claremont and Beaconsfield Roads. Due to complaints from a resident this has now been changed to a heritage light.

A standard light has been installed outside 16/18 Beaconsfield Road, but Cllr Huddart has requested that these be replaced with heritage lights.

The street lighting on one side of the crossing by The Parade is not up to the correct standard. Cllr Huddart has informed Nick Healy.

In The Firs verge, Skanska has, without consultation, installed silver power supply pillars at the sites of the old lights, and trenched through the verge to take the power to the new taller lights. Cllr Huddart has, at the request of the Environment Committee, emailed Skanska to ask that they remove, bury or paint the power supply pillars, and provide compensation of £200 for damaged plants. Thanks were given to Cllr Huddart for this action. *Post meeting note: Skanska has declined this request so Cllr Huddart has forwarded it to Mike Bennison.*

## 8. Parking

a. Off- Street -including encouragement of car park use.

The EBC Cabinet has considered the use of our two car parks. The report indicates that Hare Lane makes a profit and that Torrington Lodge makes a substantial loss. Neither result is meaningful, since the calculation depends on arbitrarily allocating the total of EBC's car park maintenance and enforcement costs to its various car parks. In particular, although Torrington Lodge is shown as being the highest loser of the Village car parks, it is also shown as having nearly the highest income. So reduction of the car parking space there would lose revenue, without any actual reduction in costs, and would therefore be counterproductive. We are to have a further meeting with the Leader, and clearly this is something to be raised.

**AP30 Cllr Huddart to arrange meeting.**

The leafleting about the use of the car parks has been carried out. It is believed that it has led to an increase in use of the car parks, but we need firm figures from EBC.

It was noted that the notices in the car park do not advertise the rates of the season tickets.

No more has been heard about opening the footpath from the Torrington Lodge car park to Hare Lane. We will ask the CRGT to lobby EBC and Cllr Herbert will speak to the Leader of the Council at EBC.

**AP31 Cllr Herbert to action.**

b. On- Street

There have been concerns about commuter parking in Hare Lane and The Avenue. Another resident is seeking controls in Trystings Close. Complaints have also been received about Gordon Road and there is specific reference to the problem at the junction of Gordon Road and Albany Crescent. This has indeed been raised before and a local control is currently being implemented.

c. Parking Policy

Our policy remains to resist the spread of controls. This will be reviewed in the light of the consultation on parking.

## 9. Traffic Calming

Cllr Huddart has had phone calls from residents of The Avenue, upset at the decision to remove the speed cushions. One claimed lack of consultation. This was refuted, since Cllr Mike Bennison personally delivered the consultation letter and spoke to residents.

The Parish Council asked for a letter to the Police, reminding them of the need to survey speeds before and after the cushion removal. The Police reply was to regard this as a task for Surrey C.C.

SCC Area Manager, Nick Healey, reports that Surrey C.C. does not intend to carry out such surveys or to report back to the Local Committee.

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It was agreed to put a question to the Local Committee asking for their comments on the fact that a request to the Police and SCC that a speed survey be carried out before and after the removal of the traffic calming has been refused by Police and SCC Officers without recourse to the Local Committee.

The next Local Committee is on 24 February 2014. It was agreed to thank Nick Healy for his observations and inform him that CPC will put this question to the Local Committee.

**AP32 Cllr Huddart to action**

**10. Bridleway Proposals & Rights of Way**

Cllr Hallett's current intention is to produce a map of existing cycling opportunities in Claygate

**11. Street Signage**

11.1 The street sign in Lower Wood Road at the top of Bridle Road needs cleaning.

**AP33 Cllr Huddart to action**

11.2 A resident has suggested replacing the direction signs on The Green with fingerpost signs along the lines of those in Dulwich. This could not affect the legends on the signs, since these are just those necessary to navigate the C road of Hare Lane, St. Leonards Road, Red Lane and Woodstock Lane South. There is no scope to add more signs to local destinations and roads. Dulwich is different from Claygate, since most of it is a private estate, which maintains its own roads. The estate encompasses various heritage features, such as the fingerpost signs and chain and link fencing of its roads, and the oldest toll gate in London. So the Dulwich environment is very different to Claygate. The proposed new signs would have to be village-wide and so would be very expensive. It was agreed that the idea was not viable. This will be reported to the PC meeting in January 2014.

**12. CIL Projects**

It was suggested that we:-

- i. consider maintaining our red brick paths. At the last Local Committee it was noted that for Pound Close, Thames Ditton, this had proved more cost-effective than replacement with tarmac.
- ii. reinstate a previous, more expensive idea of a traffic calming raised table in Hare Lane, at The Parade.
- iii. could deal with epicormic growth, using a gardening contractor, in partnership with SCC. It was agreed to ask SCC if they will agree to partnership working and what contribution they will give us.

**13. Website & Courier**

It was agreed that the consultation will be included in the next Courier. A cycle map, if produced in time, will also be included.

**14. Matters for Information Only**

It was noted that coaches have been prevented from picking up and dropping off in Hare Lane near Dalmore Ave. It is not known why this happened, although it is clear that there are several property accesses. Many coaches pick up and drop off in this road opposite the Torrington Lodge car park entrance and do not cause an obstruction.

**15. Date and place of the next meeting**

**8.00pm on 13 Feb 2014 in the Committee Room**

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

Date.....