

MNUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE OF THE OTFORD PARISH COUNCIL
28TH APRIL 2014

Present : Cllr Howe, Chair, Cllrs Cracknell, Edwards- Winsor, Fothergill, Leicester, Whitehead,
In attendance Ms B Hambrook, Parish clerk, three members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

There were none

2. Declarations of interest

There were none

3. Minutes of the Meetings of 17th and 24th February

Both agreed as true accounts of the meetings

4. Matters Arising from the previous minutes

5.1 Paul Catt to be contacted re the resurfacing of the footpath at entrance to the car park

ActionClerk

5.8 A letter had been written to Mr Sheffield regarding his suggestion for a by pass for the village. This could be considered in the future in the village plan if written

5.9 A member of the public who had previously presented suggestions on how to improve traffic flow in the village, expressed his regret in not being part of the discussions on these on 24th February

It was agreed that Stephen Noad (Kent Highways) be invited to a meeting which would include Mr Drake to discuss the viability of the proposals.

Action Clerk

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Information on crashes and observed potentially dangerous incidents

A resident captured a situation on camera that was posted on UTube that purported to show a Go Coach school bus driving at considerable speed along the Shoreham Road. When informed, the manager, responded by saying that buses are fitted with trackers and that this bus was 'not particularly speeding'

The resident had in the first instance tried to contact the local police. In such cases 101 should be used

A cyclist had 'crashed' at the junction of RowDow and Pilgrims' Way East

Two residents had reported an incident at the point of the Pickmoss Step – a pedestrian pushing a buggy on top of which was a scooter carried horizontally, experienced pain to her wrist when a car's wing mirror collided with the scooter. The car stopped as did two others following but did not engage with the pedestrian and moved off. No numbers were taken.

5.3 Road Signs

Nothing to report

5.4 Road Safety

Jeff Lee gave an update to the committee on the proposed SID for the Shoreham Road. Siting had not been straightforward. Local residents had preferred a site by the Telephone Exchange but this had been ruled out because of the power supply and the sight line not being good enough

It will now be south of Greenhill on the verge. There is concern that this does not have sufficient impact on the speed of cars entering the village and to address this

The following are being considered :- a visual chicane at the gateway; a sign of 'walkers in the road'; sharks' teeth; a rumble strip.

It was reported that Donna Rixon of KCC who is the designated contact dealing with is both well- informed and very helpful.

The Otford Society is donating £3000 to the project and Nick Chard £5000.

The question of the sign at the bottom of Polhill remaining a hazard through lack of cleaning was raised.

Action Clerk

5.5 Speedwatch

The Speedwatch equipment would be on display at the Parish Meeting

It was reiterated that those who had volunteered to be operators to be contacted to confirm their interest and to allow their contact details to be made available to the team leaders and others in their group.

Four groups to be set up, each with a leader. Leaders will be trained by John E-W

A schedule to be established

Action Assistant Clerk

5.6 Lorry Watch

To be used in conjunction with Speed Watch. Tim Middleton of Lorry Watch to be invited to speak to members of the committee

Action Clerk

5.7 Other Matters

The question of the right of way across Otford Builders Merchants to the allotments remains unclarified on account of absence of papers relating to the conveyancing.

Cllr Cracknell is to attempt to contact whoever took over the papers of Baring Bros

Action Cllr Cracknell

The question of the Pickmoss Step was discussed. It was agreed that if this was to be progressed the services of a Highways engineer be employed to consider the options. Mr Graham Bignall, a local resident with experience as a Highways engineer was to be approached by Cllr Howe. It was necessary to determine the position of the owner of Pickmoss before proceeding.

Action Cllr Howe

No further action was to be taken regarding the siting of bollards at The Parade

5.8 Car Parking

The question of VAT as regards any proceeds made from Pay and Display was discussed at length but with no agreed understanding. Britannia were to be contacted for further clarification.

Action Clerk

Rumours in the village suggested that a covenant on the land would prevent Pay and Display being introduced. This to be investigated asap.

Action Cllr Cracknell

Amendments were agreed to both the contract and the regulations in the light of advice from SDC legal dept

Britannia to be sent changes for approval, permit forms to be requested. Also discuss notice board

Action Cllr Howe

Cllr Cracknell requested that all reference to permits for sports' clubs be removed as he believed it unnecessary, unwise and quite possibly unlawful to grant these as proposed. This was not supported by any other member of the committee.

The Clerk would investigate a door entry system following concern for the safety of the Clerks

Action Clerk

