Minutes of the August meeting of 2011 of Otford Parish Council Highways Committee held in the Meeting Room, OPC Office, on Thursday 25th August 2011 at 09.15am

Present: Cllrs R Knight (Chairman) D Cracknell J Edwards-Winser H. Leicester M. Whitehead

In attendance: Clerk and three members of the public (J Lee, T Morris & Mrs S Hudson)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
   1.1 F Shed

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
   2.1 None

3. MINUTES
   3.1 The minutes of the last meeting on 2nd June had previously been approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING
   4.1 There were no matters arising – Actions were taken under Agenda items

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1. Information on Crashes
   5.1.1 The Assistant clerk was requested to put an item in the Parish newsletter seeking information on crashes to contain dates, times, injuries, photos

5.2 Notes from KHS Meeting
   5.2.1 The meeting could be summed up as – OPC must use the Parish Portal and KHS have no spare funding so we should use the Members Grant allocation fund (£25k).
   5.2.2 Speedwatch – Nothing has happened yet – KHS are to chase PC Nigel Rowe. Members of the public voiced their concerns over speed of traffic through the High Street. The Clerk to monitor progress with PC Rowe
   5.2.3 The steps outside Pickmoss and width of pavement between the school and the iron bridge were discussed at length. Several solutions were tabled including the installation of a 20mph Speed limit through the village; widening the pavement to narrow the road; (not legally practical as roads have to be a minimum width) removal of the step (not practicable as it is part of a listed building) It was proposed by Cllr. Cracknell that a single width road controlled by lights was the only solution. Mr Lee proposed that a Traffic Consultant be employed as the answer lay employing a range of
Highways Meeting 25-08-11

options and any one used singly would not provide a solution

5.3 Bus Stops

5.3.1 Cllr. Edwards-Winser had been dealing with the bus shelter at the top end of Willow Park and Telston Lane following a bequest from a local resident. Following consultations it appeared that the cost of the shelter was in the region of £9k and that installation was in the hands of Kent Highways Services (£4.5k). It was felt that this would be beyond the resources of the benefactor. Cllr.Edwards-Winser would appraise the benefactor of the situation.

5.3.2 KHS had misunderstood the problem at Rye Lane – the bus shelter did not require re-siting, a new hard standing on the main road was required to allow for the new stopping area now that the bus had been re-routed through Willow park and Rye Lane. Cllr Edwards-Winser to inform KHS of misunderstanding

5.4 Speedwatch Training

5.4.1 Covered under item 5.2.2

5.5 Car Park

5.5.1 Several issues were tabled under this item – miss-use, commuters, residents, shopkeepers. It was suggested that since the waiting-time limit notice had been stolen, there was no legal requirement to enforce any limits in the car park and that notices limiting parking to 3hrs should be an initial move. Charging for parking and permits for High Street residents and shop workers were discussed along with its attendant enforcement problems. The clerk agreed to speak with SDC about previous rules.

5.6 Footpaths & Walkways

5.6.1 It was reiterated that the only way to get any action from KHS was for OPC to input requests for work through the Parish Portal

5.6.2 The clerk would input request for re-surfacing of the footpath from Pickmoss to the Post Office

5.7 Road Signs

5.7.1 The Chronicle is to feature Otford in September

5.8 Village Gateways

5.8.1 Cllr Cracknell requested a plan of proposed gateways, together with outline costs, consents, planning permission, etc. Budget should reflect ongoing maintenance costs. Tandridge Council was mentioned and their conclusion was that in the long term there was very little value in gateways as a stand-alone measure

5.8.2 Several reasons for gateways were put forward along with funding promises/requests. Nick Chard £1500, SDC £1500, Fete £500, Otford
Society £500. Also a speculative request had been made to the now defunct SEEDA.

5.8.3 In response to a question regarding siting of the gateways, it was suggested that initially they should be sited at the 30mph limits, but they could also be backed up by reminder gateways at the entrance to the conservation area.

5.8.4 The new gateways at Chelsfield were mentioned as a good model with Cllr Knight volunteering to speak with the local council to obtain details.

5.9 Road Safety

5.9.1 There was nothing to discuss under this item that had not been covered elsewhere in the meeting.

5.10 A.O.B.

5.10.1 Cllr Whitehead asked if anybody else had noticed helicopters landing at Frog Farm.

5.10.2 The charity Sense is looking for examples of shared spaces (where traffic and pedestrians share the same area) for their own research. There is an example in Ashford, and others have been requested from an SDC contact. The issue had been of interest to the Village Society’s traffic group. To date, they have only noted the extreme costs and reorganisation involved.

Date of next meeting

The date of next meeting was noted as Thursday 20th October at 09.15 School House

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 11.49

Signed…………………………………………..Chairman

Dated………………………………………………