

MINUTES OF THE OTFORD PARISH COUNCIL HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

1st October 2012

Present: Cllr Mrs Jackie Howe (Chair); Cllrs John Edwards-Winser, Doug Cracknell, Richard Knight, Howard Lester, Martin Whitehead

In attendance; Brenda Hambrook (Parish Clerk), Geoff Lee and Allen Lancley (Gateways group)

1. Apologies for absence

There were none

2. Declarations of interest

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

These were seen to be a true account of the meeting of 2nd August and duly signed

4. Matters Arising

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Information on crashes and observed potentially dangerous incidents

An HGV had damaged the pond. The clerk had written to the company concerned. Another incident had been reported by The Crown. 26th September a car approached the village from the station on the wrong side of the road and knocked down the traffic sign outside Pond House. The driver was apprehended. A car crashing into a tree on the Shoreham Road had been reported to the police. Simon Featherstone of the Shoreham Road Neighbourhood Watch is to be asked to collate incidents reported through the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. **Action Clerk**

5.2 Bus shelters

The paving for the bus shelter at Rye Lane is with Norman Catt.

5.4 Village Gateways

These are to be fitted before the end of the financial year. They have been financed by donations from the Otford Society (£500); The Parish Council (£500); the Fete Committee (£500); Big Community Fund (£600); two anonymous donations of £1000 and £250; Nick Chard £1500 + balance needed.

While the end result is satisfactory in that all three gateways are to be erected, Geoff expressed the frustration of those tasked by OPC with progressing the project. A great deal of time had been expended; conflicting information had been provided and there were problems caused by a continuous change of personnel at KCC.

Designs were to be sent in the next few weeks by Laura Squires, Traffic Engineer for Kent Highways. Should there not be approval of the recommended design objections

can be made with possible reference to the designs submitted by the Highways sub-group.

Geoff Lee gave public appreciation for the support given by OPC for the project. Cllr Whitehead stated that while the process had been frustrating there was movement.

The Parish Clerk wished to report a positive development in that Otford has a very good supervisor, who, whenever has faults from the overseers, reported via herself, responds within a couple of days,

In discussing the footpath at Frog Farm, it was established that there were two Kent areas of funding; one for new works and one for repair and maintenance. Maintenance was the responsibility of Kent Highways for 2 years, then becoming the responsibility of OPC.

Geoff Lee requested that publicity for the Gateways be started immediately.

Thanks was publicly expressed to Geoff Lee, Derek Buck and Allen Lancley with acknowledgement that their perseverance had paid off.

Geoff Lee said it was important that the council voted to progress the project

Recommendation 1

5.5 Road signs

The clerk reported that a car had demolished the road signs outside Rod Shelton's house at the pond. Possible opportunity to remove inaccurate signs approaching the pond from the east and west. **Action clerk**

It was reported that SATNAVs call the pond a roundabout and this is causing confusion for drivers.

The question was raised re the pond becoming a roundabout – to do so would prevent parking outside the chemist's. Also it was noted that the Otford sign at the bottom of Polhill was obscured by foliage and that the hedges along the railway line to Dunton Green were to be cleared.

It was thought to be beneficial to have a fingerpost at the station pointing to the centre of the village. It would be necessary to take into account the loss of pavement on the south side of Station Road.

5.6 Road Safety

No issues raised

5.7 Speedwatch

Two checks had been set up either side of Telston Lane; six drivers contravening in

both directions. There were now 12 volunteers involved but there were problems in ensuring four were available at any one time. It was agreed that groups of four be set up each with a team leader and these could 'poach' from the other groups if necessary. Sue Stephenson to be asked to oversee.

Action clerk

There are 14 sites where Speedwatch can be used. Three require letters of approval, one being Russell House, Cllr Jackie Howe to contact Head.

Action JH

There was a request for Speedwatch to operate on Sundays because of a particular problem with motorcyclists.

Action clerk

5.8 Accessibility for those with disabilities

Step at Pickmoss still our concern. Crossing road is still a difficulty; knowing where to cross is a problem. The concept of a 'shared space' where pavements and road areas are not differentiated was seen to be worth considering. Cllr Lester informed the committee of a national charity that assesses areas in terms of provision, for people planning trips. Clerk to be sent details.

Action Cllr Lester

5.9 Other Matters

There were none

5.10 Correspondence

All correspondence was noted; the work on the water mains on the Otford Road had started; the Otford Society email would be taken with discussion on the car park; Cllr Edwards- Winsor would be attending the KCC Highways and Transportation Seminar. A letter had been received from Mr J Verrall regarding the question of of post and its siting at front of his property on Pilgrims Way East.

5.5 Car Parking

This item was taken last in the agenda as it was thought that there would be considerable discussion.

Parking in Sevenoaks Road. The SDC version was at considerable variance to OPC's, therefore, sensible to agree to yellow lines at entrance to Warham Road and removing to front of bus stop.

There was considerable concern expressed at the chaotic conditions that persist in the delivery and collection of children to and from the school. It was agreed that Ms Caisley be approached to organise delivery of children from the car park from a designated hatched area.

Action Cllr Howe

Concern was expressed at the proposed plans to expand the school with the obvious implications for parking. A number of councillors were to attend the meeting on 3rd October at the school to hear what is planned and to comment.
Pay and Display

This is still under consideration and one of the companies is to be asked back to present their proposals in the light of the data collected for the presentation to the village in the summer.

A Flashpack system was suggested as a possible alternative to be investigated.
Meeting to be arranged with Car Park Provider

Action Cllr Howe

Date of next meeting 3rd December 7.30pm School House