REPORT OF THE OTFORD PARISH COUNCIL HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING
3RD DECEMBER 2012

Present  Cllr Jackie Howe (Chair), Cllrs Cracknell, Edwards-Winser, Knight, Leicester Whitehead

In Attendance  Ms Brenda Hambrook, Parish Clerk, Jeff Lee Allan Lancley, members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence
There were none

2. Declarations of interest
There were none

3. Minutes of the previous meeting
These were signed as a true record of the meeting of 1st October

4. Matters Arising from the previous meeting not covered in the agenda

4.1 The clerk was still to approach Simon Featherstone to collate traffic incidents through the Neighbourhood Watch scheme  Action Clerk

4.5 Cllr Howe reported that on invitation the potential car parking provider had discussed further aspects of a scheme previously proposed

4.7 Speedwatch had not been organised since the last meeting. The approval for use of Russell House as an operating site was still to be sought from the Head Teacher.  Action Cllr Howe

4.8 Cllr Leicester reported that he was in touch with Disabled Go the charity Involved in assessing ‘shared space’.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Information on crashes and observed potentially dangerous incidents
A car was reported as overturning in Rye Lane 2nd December
Ice was forming at the junction of Rye Lane and Willow Park. Suggested as a result of blocked culvert.
Information was shared by Cllr Edwards-Winser re gulley cleaning. There is a rolling programme of cleaning and rodding every 2 years. One gulley in an area can be cleared in an emergency. Statements from Kent Highways on were due. There had been a cut in budget of 25% and in staff of 30%.
Clerk to report incident and to contact steward re gulley.  Action clerk

A member of the public reported a taxi reversing from the Bull Car park at School time (morning) and touching the legs of her son.
The meeting was reminded that for any road safety measures to be implemented at any site there had to be 3 deaths within 150 metres in 3 years

The committee would be completing a survey at the end of the meeting
which would be fed back to Kent Highways. Cllr Lester stated that the reason for our collecting data was that it could be used for any case the council to make later. It was explained that the VAS in the village was not being used by the police for any other purpose than to remind motorists that they were driving too fast.

5.2 Bus Shelters
Paving still had to be laid at the shelter facing the bottom of Rye Lane

5.3 Car Parking
Cllr Howe provided a summary of action by the Parish Council following the acceptance by the council of the recommendation from the Highways Committee to introduce a Pay and Display scheme based on a tariff suggestion and agreement of the council to review aspects of the proposals. There had been three surgeries where councillors discussed questions with interested parties. At the second, it was suggested that a working group could be set up representing stakeholders. Following a meeting with a number of stakeholders, David Barley attended the third surgery and told the council that he had a list of people willing to represent their stakeholder group. It was suggested that he attend the next meeting of the Highways Committee where the adoption of a recommendation to authorise this group by the full council could be taken forward. Consequently Mr Barley was invited to speak to the meeting. He was able to present a list of people for the working group but was awaiting a response from the Allotments Society. Jeff Lee and Allan Lancley, who have done much work on traffic safety in the village were recommended to him for participation in any ongoing discussions. Questionnaires has been distributed by the council to High St residents and closely adjoining properties re parking permits and Mr Barley reported that present responses indicated more demand than was originally thought. He commented that the statement by the Parish Council Chairman re the Car Park in the Parish newsletter was very well put and this was supported by the members of the public present. The Highways Committee then agreed the following

**Recommendation:** that the Otford Parish Council convene a working group to progress the future of the Car Park

A feasibility study of there being a means of depositing school children at the top part of the car park by the halls had been undertaken by an agent of KCC on 22nd November. His meeting with a number of councillors was reported by Cllr Whitehead. It appears that to implement anything would be a challenge – a report would be filed in 4 weeks. The only viable alternative parking site identified was at the rear of Warham Road and the Kent agent was unaware of the proposal to expand the school. One of the issues raised at the surgeries was the creation of a green car park. The Committee agreed to progress this proposal. It was pointed out by Cllr Leicester that the cost of the Lullingstone project was £500,000 and Cllr
Cracknell said that this idea had been raised and considered over several years and that all 4 possible sites came within the Green Belt. It was agreed that the list of suggestions from the June open meeting with the consequent actions plus the Questions asked by Mrs Kay Drake and their answers be attached as appendices to the minutes. Concern was raised that money by the developers of Ryewood had been allocated to Riverhead and Dunton Green parish councils when clearly the new estate would impact on the infrastructure of Otford. The consultation period regarding expansion of the school ends 28th January. No school was being planned with the Fort Halstead development.

Cllr Edwards-Winser reported that a KCC Transport Regulation order was necessary in order for charges to be raised in the car park.

5.4 Village Gateways
Cllr Edwards-Winser reported that it was only today that any update had been received. The siting of the Sevenoaks Road Gateway would be changed as to construct by Bubblestone Road would interfere with the operation of the Police cameras.

Jeff Lee was invited to speak to the meeting regarding the history of The Gateways scheme. He applauded the present council for taking seriously speed as a major issue for the safety of the village. He said the gateways have to be used in conjunction with other measures if safety is to improve and the best impact occurs when local residents pay attention to their driving. It was suggested that the stickers that had been issued by the Otford Society could be sent out with the newsletter and the cost of this was to be investigated.

Action Jeff Lee

5.5 Road Signs
The 30mph sign by Twitton Lane had been identified in the Sevenoaks Chronicle as being one of those in the District that through lack of cleaning interfered with road safety. It was also reported that the sign was hazardous being less than 6feet from the ground. Cllr Ward said that when this issue had been raised in the past it was stated that the council and individuals were not insured to undertake cleaning. The clerk told the meeting that if it appeared that the reflective surface of any sign was damaged then this could be reported to her for reference to Kent Highways.

5.6 Road Safety
No issues raised except as covered elsewhere in the minutes.

5.7 Speedwatch
None undertaken. None allowed in the dark. Four volunteers from local residents offered their services to the scheme and this was welcomed from the Chair.

5.8 Accessibility for those with disabilities
Cllr Leicester said that crossing in many parts of the village challenging for many not just those with disabilities. The Sevenoaks Chronicle had highlighted the ongoing issue of the step outside Pickmoss. The question was
raised as to whether the level of the pavement could be raised on either side. Listed Building Consent might be sought for this and for aligning the wall of The Grange. Clerk to investigate.

Action Clerk

5.9 Other Matters
The Parish and Town Council Survey on Roads and Transport was completed by the committee in consultation with the public.

5.11 Correspondence
All correspondence was noted plus a communication from Cllr Verrall regarding a problem of drainage by a local resident to be referred to Kent Highways

Date of next meeting to be confirmed