MINUTES OF THE OTFORD PARISH COUNCIL HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

19TH AUGUST 2013

Present: Councillors Howe (Chair), Edwards-Winser, Leicester, Whitehead

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Cracknell and Knight

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Minutes of the 17th June

These were accepted as a true record of proceedings

4. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda

Headteacher of Russell House to be contacted for Speedwatch permission Action Clr Howe
Jeff Lee had acquired a number of 30mph car stickers – residents to be asked via the newsletter to collect from parish office.
The road sign at the entrance to the car park had been removed Assistant clerk to organise Speedwatch volunteers into 4 groups Action Assistant Clerk
VAS data had been received

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Information on crashes and observed potentially dangerous incidents

Concerns regarding a lack of central lines along Pilgrims Way East where the road is narrow especially towards the junction with the Shoreham Road. A number of ‘near misses’ were reported. Cllr Verrall commented that the lines on the edges of the road were helpful as they stopped drivers veering off the road and Cllr Edwards-Winser said that a similar situation outside Otford Kennels exists to slow cars down; the presence of a line in narrow roads encourages speeding

5.2 Bus shelters

Concerns that the new hard standing opposite Rye Lane was not wide enough for wheelchairs. Local buses it seems are not designed for wheelchair access but his to be investigated, Action Clerk

5.3 Village Gateways

Clerk reported that Laura Squires (Kent Highways) held out little hope of recovery of the ‘Best village’ sign
5.5 Road signs

Nothing to report

5.6 Road safety, including Pickmoss step

Pickmoss Step
Cllrs Cracknell and Leicester had been investigating possible action. Cllr Cracknell had presented 2 options, either raising the level of the pavement or the introduction of a one lane system operated by traffic. It was agreed that these should be forwarded to Stephen Noad (KH) for comment. **Action Cllr Cracknell**

Road Safety
Re the proposed alteration to speed limits along the Sevenoaks Road. We have been advised by SDC that the correct course of action is for OPC to submit the request formally to Kent Highways for consideration. If there is no satisfactory response, we may wish to organise a Petition that can either be submitted to KCC directly or via a formal presentation to Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board. This would need to be costed by Stephen Noad

5.7 Speedwatch

Cllr Cracknell had requested criteria for the siting of Speed cameras; the Clerk had obtained information from the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership. Cameras are sited when 3 or more are killed/seriously injured in speed related crashes (car on car) over 1.5 km stretch of road.

It was decided that to obtain a reasonable response to the speeding information that is being collected, Speedwatch should be organised on a regular basis.

Recommendation
That in the interests of improving observation of the existing speed limit teams of 4 should be organised on a scheduled basis.

5.9 Lorry watch

No response to clerk’s enquiry

5.8 Car Park Resurfacing

Cllr Verrall provided an update. The work done by the contractors was deemed to be good. Cllrs Verrall, Edwards-Winser and Whitehead were thanked for their sterling efforts on making the project so successful, with Cllr Verrall’s experience and expertise being invaluable. The Parish Office was also thanked for its supporting role. Brian Thomas is discussing siting of trees for the perimeter with the cricket club. It was agreed that the recycling bins should be sited in their original positions. Cllr Cracknell had suggested removal of the bins to the cemetery car park but this was seen to be not appropriate; funeral route and MacDonalds should not be asked to clear the adjacent area.
5.3 Car Park

Graham Groves of SDC Legal had responded to enquiries on statutory requirements re pay and Display. The Clerk was requested to seek further clarification on outstanding issues. **Action Clerk**

A letter had also gone to KALC with further questions.

A pre planning application had been submitted for signage to SDC

A detailed contract, in terms of final tariff structure to be obtained from Britannia  

**Action Cllr Howe**

Cllr Cracknell had requested that additional parking provision be considered and had provided a map identifying possible sites in the village.

It was agreed that the following criteria be used to assess the viability of each site

- Availability/Ownership
- Accessibility
- Number of spaces
- Finances/Funding
- Proximity
- Client group

It was then agreed that it was important to see how the proposed car park arrangements worked before further decisions could be made. Funding was seen as critical.

5.10 Other Matters

Re the vegetation clearance/footpaths. The footpaths having been paced out, the Clerk had written to KCC to say our footpaths had been identified, were not as long as noted and that they should be cleared more frequently. No reply had yet been received,

It was suggested that the VAS data be sent to Derek Buck for analysis  

**Action Clerk**

5.11 Correspondence

Clerk to reply to emails on car parking and resurfacing except to High St Residents

Enquiring as to the status of the permits (Cllr Howe)  

**Action Clerk and Cllr Howe**

Letter received from KCC re consultation on economising on street lighting

**Date of next meeting 21st October**