MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE OF OTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

21st October 2013

Present  Councillors Howe (Chair), Edwards-Winser, Leicester, Whithead. In attendance, Clerk

1. Apologies for absence  Councillors Cracknell and Knight

2. Declarations of interest  There were none

3. Minutes of the previous meeting  These were accepted as a true record

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda
   Councillor Howe had contacted Russell House regarding the siting of Speedwatch. It was
   requested that a formal letter of request be sent to the Head Teacher.
   Action Cllr Edwards-Winser

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Information on crashes and observed potentially dangerous incidents
   A resident of Saxon Close reported seeing a car travelling at an estimated speed of 70mph
   along Pilgrims Way West in a westerly direction at approximately 11.00am

5.2 Bus shelters
   No information. This to be removed as an agenda item.

5.3 Car Parking
   All issues regarding planning permission had been resolved.
   Cllr Edwards-Winser had been in communication with Andy Park of Britannia. The company
   had wanted a sign either side of the car park entrance. Our preference is a fingerpost – this
   only entails telling them formally why we want it so they can opt out of the dual signage.

   Cllr Edwards-Winser had sent our queries to Julian Cook of Kent Highways as to whether
   KCC’s approval of Pay and Display was necessary but SDC say this is not the case as the
   Village car park is a private one.

   A lengthy reply had been received from NALC regarding our outstanding concerns.
   The clerk would respond after the committee had sufficient time to read, digest and comment.
   Action all councillors and clerk

   Britannia were to be asked to supply a draft contract plus there estimation of a minimum
   income needed by themselves.
   Action Clerk

   Agreed that a meeting be convened for discussing the response from NALC so as to expedite
   the implementation of Pay and Display; to wait until the next Highways meeting would cause
   unnecessary delay. Clerk to liaise with committee re suitable date.
   Action Clerk

5.4 Village Gateways
   No information. This to be removed as an agenda item.
5.5 Road Signs
The issue of the missing Village of the Year sign is to be referred to Stephen Noad, with the estimated time of removal supplied. This will be of assistance when he discusses this with the relevant Kent Highways team. The clerk advised that he had already been copied in in emails covering this item

Action Clerk

Calor paid for the sign in 2002. The clerk to investigate replacement cost

Action Clerk

Following on the suggestion made at the previous OPC meeting, a sign on Pilgrims Way West directing custom to Yvonne’s shop be requested of Stephen Noad

Action Clerk

Attention was drawn to the fact that the major road sign at the foot of Polhill indicating a left hand turn to Otford was almost completely obscured and drivers unable to see any of the directions. This, apart from being totally unacceptable constituted a traffic hazard Councillor Edwards-Winser had been advised that remedial action was imminent.

Paul Catt, Highways Steward had identified the need to repair holes in the High St Pavement.

5.6 Road Safety
With regard to OPC’s proposal to have the speed limits changed on the Sevenoaks Rd, these had been referred to Kent Highways as SDC says it is nothing to do with them. as yet there was no response.

At the meeting between Cllrs Cracknell and Leicester and Stephen Noad, Mr Noad accepted that the Pickmoss step is a problem.

Two alternatives have to be assessed and costed:

a) to raise the footpath to the level of the step and erect a safety barrier
b) to extend the footpath into the road so as to make a pinch point, this entailing encroachment on to The Horns’ frontage. Opposition by the owners of The Horns would effectively rule out this option

It is unlikely that speed cameras could be installed along the Shoreham Rd on account of cost. However, since the residents there have the support of Nick Chard, a SID could be put in place. The Otford Society have agreed to donate £3000. Stephen Noad has been asked as to the price of such a device but as yet no response( after a month). Clerk to make request again.

Action Clerk

5.7 Speedwatch
Another resident has volunteered his service to the scheme

It was seen to be important to implement the recent recommendation regarding setting up of operating groups and organising regular sessions of Speedwatch. Cllr Howe would discuss this with the Assistant Clerk.

Action Cllr Howe

Cllr Edwards-Winser reported that the VAS data came analysed and while not as useful as the previous report it was still helpful to underpinning the argument to change the
speed limits on the Sevenoaks Rd. He agreed to make a further assessment of the data.
A representative of the Parish Plan Highways group is to be asked to check it.

**Action Cllr Edwards-Winser**

5.8 Car Park Resurfacing
Final bill had been approved by Cllr Verrall. Contractors’ sign to be removed from the fence.
To be removed as an agenda item

5.9 Lorry Watch Scheme
Still thought to be worthwhile but no further information received. Could be run in conjunction with Speedwatch. Update to be sought from Lorry Watch

**Action Assistant Clerk**

Date of next meeting – 16th December 2013