MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING  
20th OCTOBER 2014 

Present: Cllr Howe (Chair), Cllrs Cracknell, Edwards-Winser, Fothergill, and Leicester. 
In attendance Ms B Hambrook, Clerk, Jeff Lee, traffic/highways liaison officer, Otford Society, by invitation Highways engineer (retired), High St resident.

1 Apologies for absence  Cllr Whitehead 

2 Declarations of Interest  There were none 

3 Minutes of the meeting of the 4th August These were approved as a true record and duly Signed.

4 Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the minutes  There were none 

5 AGENDA ITEMS 

5.4 Road Safety  
Pickmoss step 
This item was taken first in the agenda as in considering the problem of the Pickmoss step, the committee invited both the owner of the property of which the step is a part and also a retired highways engineer to speak so that a properly informed discussion could ensue. The houseowner outlined in fine detail the status of the property as a Grade 2* listed building which prohibits legally the removal of the step. Additionally raising of the pavement to the level of the step would cover the air bricks that are essential to reducing the incidence of damp in a building that has no foundations. The highways engineer provided precise measurements of the step and its distance from the road and while this was seen to be extremely narrow, the step could neither be removed nor the footpath raised. The only option, therefore, would be to narrow the carriageway and widen the pavement but this would not be supported by Kent Highways unless this was part of a larger, more comprehensive scheme. A wide ranging discussion then ensued which considered issues that might be raised by such a scheme: affordability/shared funding; traffic calming in the High St and the necessary lighting that would involve; introduction of a 20mph limit in the High St and problems with enforcement; impact on restrictions within High St area on western exit from the village; no speed humps permitted on A225. It was made clear by Cllr Edwards-Winser that for any scheme to have any chance of success if first had to be approved by Stephen Noad, Kent Highways engineer. A report and recommendation to the relevant committee would be made and the committee would make a decision. The Highways engineer offered to contact Stephen Noad to discuss how to progress a comprehensive solution to road safety in the village with particular focus on the High St. The committee expressed their thanks to both parties who had made the discussion so productive.

SID Shoreham Road 
Jeff Lee advised the committee that the SID was in place but the other traffic calming measures were still to be applied. It had been funded by the Otford Society (£3000)
And £5000 from Nick Chard’s funding.
The committee was told that Jeff would be retiring once all the changes had been
implemented but that there were others in the Society able and willing to take his
Place.
Thanks was expressed by the committee on the excellent work done for the village by
Jeff particularly in pioneering the installation of gateways and also in getting approval
for a SID in the Shoreham Rd.

5.1 Information on crashes and observed potentially dangerous incidents
After the Hardelot meeting on 11th October a car was seen to emerge from the green
and hit the bollard. Cllr Lawrey was investigating.
It was suggested that posts on the pond could be painted white to improve safety
Action Clerk

5.2 Car Park
Pay and display now up and running. Cllr Edwards – Winser reported that based on
Previous counting of occupied spaces it was not clear where all cars that had
Parked in the car park were now parking.
It was observed that those running the Junior Football were parking on the recreation
Ground on Saturdays. Clerk to contact
Action Clerk

The clerk told the committee that dealing with members of the public regarding
Their individual concerns regarding the new system had often been stressful. It was
acknowledged that her front line role in implementing the council’s decisions needed
the committee’s support at all times.
All correspondence deal with.
Permits had still not been received from Britannia. Cllr Edwards – Winser to pursue
Action Cllr Edwards- Winser
A question had arisen as to whose responsibility was the maintenance of the light
To the Memorial Hall. Clerk to advise manager that is not OPC’s responsibility
Action Clerk

5.3 Road signs
Parking signs installed at the parade had been given verbal approval by SDC. Parking
now
limited to an hour.

5.5 Speedwatch
Cllr Edwards – Winser had drawn up a schedule but had no details of the teams.
Assistant clerk to provide information ( no need for Sevenoaks Rd Team as police
Vehicle).
A High St resident had reported lorries visiting OBM mounting the pavement in the
High St and was disappointed by their response.