MINUTES OF THE OPC HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

16TH DECEMBER 2013

Present: Cllr Howe Chair, Cllrs Cracknell, Leicester, Whitehead, 3 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence
   Cllr Edwards-Winser, Ms Brenda Hambrook, Clerk

2. Declarations of interest
   There were none

3. Minutes of the meeting of 21st October 2013 and of additional meeting of 19th November 2013
   These were accepted as true records of the proceedings.

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

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Information on crashes and observed potentially dangerous incidents
   It was reported that since the last meeting eleven cyclists had crashed in the vicinity of the pond. The clerk was in touch with Kent Highways re. the state of the road surface. It was suggested that this could be linked to the need to change types of tyre at this time of the year. One possible contributory factor could be water from the pond collecting in a hole near ‘The Crown’. There also appears to be greater usage of the routes concerned during weekends.
   A car had driven into the pond
   A car from the direction of Sevenoaks had driven into the Pond fence.
   A village resident had fallen over the gulley at the entrance to the car park – 12/12/2013.
   This was an issue for KCC, however, clerk needs to check also with Kent Highways.
   Action Clerk

5.2 Car Parking
   The full set of tariffs had been accepted by the full Parish Council as had the recommendation regarding the proposed provider for Pay and Display.
   Britannia Parking Ltd had been advised and were to send a contract for our consideration.
   Once the committee is sufficiently satisfied with this we will submit it to SDC’s legal team with the full regulations governing use of the car park for final comment.
   The manager of the Memorial Hall had requested a permit. This would be considered in the six monthly review after Pay and Display is implemented, the existing tariffs been finally agreed.

5.3 Road Signs
   The cost of replacing the Best Village sign, erroneously dispensed with by Kent Highways, is estimated at £140/150. It appears that Cllr Edwards-Winser has to prove what happened to it(1). One option to consider is taking Kent Highways to the small claims court. Procedure to be investigated.(2)

1 Action Cllr Edwards-Winser
2 Action Cllr Howe, Clerk
The Polhill road sign remained completely obscured
The signs leaving Otford on the Shoreham road cannot be seen

**Action Clerk**

5.4 Road Safety
Cllr Cracknell reported that there was no response from Kent Highways regarding the Pickmoss Step. He would now write to Nick Chard in the hope of progressing matters

**Action Cllr Cracknell**

The lack of communication from Stephen Noad re progressing the request for a SID on the Shoreham Road, occasioned an email from Jeff Lee that produced emails from both Stephen Noad and Nick Chard in quick succession to the effect that the proposal is officially supported by Nick Chard and that being the case and funding being sufficient, Stephen Noad will authorise installation. Thanks go to Jeff for his persistence in this matter.

The committee supported Dunton Green Parish Council’s request to change the speed limit from the motorway bridge in Rye Lane to the 30mph to be 30mph.

5.5 Speedwatch
Cllr Howe had discussed with Sue Stephenson the need to set up Speedwatch teams with rota.
Kent police had attended the last session to see what was going on and used their speed guns.
There had been no need to analyse the VAS stats – this had already been done.
It is clear that there the various agencies involved with collecting speed data do not have any means of sharing their results; all act independently.

5.6 Car Park Resurfacing
Nothing to report. This item to be removed from future agendas

5.7 Lorry Watch Scheme
Nothing to report

5.8 By Pass proposal as presented to OPC 11\textsuperscript{th} November 2013
It was unanimously agreed that a by pass for Otford would be greatly desirable and that this proposal was interesting
The major problem would be the cost involved and comparison was made with the time it taken (many decades) to widen the A21 between Tonbridge and Pembury.
Planning problems were raised: there would be insufficient room for the link roads from the East; the geometry of the bridge was incorrect and the technical problems involved with two bridges were too great.
It was thought better to take the link road to the Sainsbury’s roundabout.
It was agreed that we should note the proposal and then the full council should decide whether it should become an active project.
Mr Sheffield should be thanked for his valuable contribution to the pressing problem of increasing traffic through the village,

**Action Clerk**
5.9 Other Matters

It was suggested to the committee that a Survey of white Lines in the village be carried out to improve the flow of traffic. The following were identified.

1. Propose mini-roundabout at the junction of Pilgrims Way East and A225.

2. At the pond (roundabout) paint ‘give-way’ lines to caution traffic coming down Station Road (A225) so that vehicles already on the pond (roundabout) always have access to leave, keeping the ‘roundabout’ always clear.

3. Provision for vehicles travelling up towards the Station (A225) from the ‘roundabout’ to get out early, sit straight, ready to turn right into the Station while still allowing traffic to pass on the inside (see also 7 below) without having to slow down.

4. As in 3. above but allowing Sevenoaks bound traffic on the Sevenoaks Road to move out when turning right into Warham Road and traffic from Sevenoaks to move out when turning right to enter Bubblestone Road and The Parade – in each case allowing through traffic to pass up the inside without having to slow down.

5. On the Sevenoaks Road, prior to reaching the pond, create designated parking bays, parallel to Warham Road, up to the bus stop dividing the remaining width of Sevenoaks Road equally into two carriageways thereby not inhibiting through traffic entering the pond and at the pond have a discipline line to divide traffic going round the pond from those going down the High Street.

6. On the pond paint a discipline line for traffic having left the High Street wishing to turn right towards Sevenoaks to keep hard right, against the pond curb, thereby allowing through traffic towards the Station to pass up the inside and further assist this by removing one parking bay from outside the Chemist and tacking it on outside Bill Skinners the Jewelers.


8. On Sevenoaks Road, in the vicinity of Halfords/Sainsbury’s Super Stores, increase the length – from the roundabout – for cars turning into the mega stores to get out early and get straight. Currently there is only provision for 4 or 5 cars maximum to move out the result being blockage of through traffic from Sevenoaks to Otford.

We are grateful to Mr Vic Drake for these detailed proposals and these will be investigated for action in the next Highways Committee meeting.

Action Cllrs Edwards-Winser and Whitehead
Allotments

The Land Registry was to be contacted re right of way across OBM’s land. If this is not the Case there will be implications for both allotment holders and for any plans to find new parking areas in the village.

Date of next meeting 24th February 2014