



**Minutes of The Highways and Transport Committee Meeting held at The Rackliff Centre on**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 7.30 pm**

**Members Present:**

Cllr C Ducklin, Chairman (CD), Cllr B Edwards (BE), Cllr A Britcher – Allan (ABA), Cllr D Smith (DS), Cllr D Funnell (DF), Cllr M O’Callaghan (MOC), Cllr A Taylor (AT) and Cllr P Gripper (PG)

**Officers Present:**

Mr K Watson (KW)

**In Attendance:**

None.

**Members of the Public:**

None.

**Election of Chairman:**

Cllr Ducklin was duly elected as Chairman.

**1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**

No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

**2. To receive and approve apologies for absence**

None.

**3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None.

**4. Declarations of Lobbying**

None.

**5. Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

These were agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman signed them as a true record.

**5.1 Matters outstanding from these minutes (not listed as separate agenda items)**

None.

**5.2 Matters outstanding from previous minutes**

None.

**6. Open session for questions from the public:**

None present.

**7. Highways Improvement Plan – Review and update**

Cllr Ducklin led a review of the Highways Improvement Plan and the following were approved:

Parish Council Office Rackliff Centre 26 Lower Green Road Rusthall TN4 8TE

Priority 1. Plan with regards 20mph Zone to be updated to reflect the comments made by Officer Watson under Agenda Item 10 below.

Priority 2. Priority to be updated and closed following KCC refusal to consider a westbound one-way street for Woodside Road and Apsley Street.

Priority 3. Priority to be updated and closed following KCC refusal to consider making Upper Street a No Through Road.

Priority 4. Plan to be updated noting CD is to approach KCC to consider extending the double yellow lines at Harmony Street junction with Rusthall Park to negate obstruction caused by poorly parked cars. **Action:** CD please action.

Priority 5. Plan to be updated to reflect the comments made by Officer Watson under Agenda Item 9 below.

Priority 6. No further update from KCC regarding reduction in length of bus stop outside One Stop High Street to accommodate goods vehicle bay. It was noted One Stop deliveries tend to be early morning now and the previous issues largely resolved.

Priority 7. No further update from KCC although it was noted vehicles parking in the designated bus stop at the junction of the High Street and Erskine Park Road has reduced.

Priority 8. A KCC update to our Capital Projects submission is awaited with regards improved pathing, lighting, surfacing and drainage at Still Green (path between Woodside Road and the pumping station at the bottom of Coniston Avenue, Tunbridge Wells).

Priority 9. Feasibility as to improved shop accessibility in the High Street is to be progressed with KCC. **Action:** KW to instigate investigation.

Cllr O'Callaghan proposed he investigate the requirements for re-alignment of the path crossing at the junction of Rusthall Road and Langton Road. This was approved and the new Priority will be added to the Highways Improvement Plan as Priority 10.

#### **8. 2021 High Street Survey – Next Steps**

Cllr Britcher-Allan noted balanced arguments from responders regarding additional double yellow lines in the High Street. Cllr Taylor commented the main issue is the lack of enforcement of people parking illegally on double yellow lines and any addition without enforcement would serve little purpose. Officer Watson questioned if the existing High Street CCTV could be used to enforce illegal parking and Cllr Ducklin made the Council aware of TWBC published CCTV Management and Operation Code of Practice which indicates this could be a potential solution. Cllr O'Callaghan proposed the Council consider paying TWBC for a Rusthall Enforcement Officer. He went onto confirm any surplus income from fines levied are used by KCC to pay for road repairs, maintenance, etc. and would not directly benefit the Parish Council. **Action:** MOC to explore feasibility with TWBC of employing our own Enforcement Officer. Additional car parking on Common View was discussed although permission would be required from the Common Conservators and if it was granted then it would be limited stay parking to ensure it benefits all residents. Cllr Britcher-Allan stated other forms of transport should be encouraged and this will be a focus for the new Environment Committee, especially the existing 281 bus service which is crucial for non-motor vehicle owners and drivers. Remaining resident suggestions from the High Street Survey are to be held in abeyance pending outcome of the discussions regarding CCTV and the Enforcement Officer. **Action:** Committee to agree a date for a follow up Survey in due course.

#### **9. A264 Crossing update – Officer Watson**

Officer Watson provided the latest update from Fiona Paine, Schemes Project Manager, KCC. There are two main issues: one, the land either side of the A264 is not owned by KCC; two, there are a large amount of utilities within the verges which would be costly to move. KCC will look to future bid funding from central government to obtain revised realistic costs to determine feasibility.

#### **10. 20pmh Zone update – Officer Watson**

Officer Watson provided a further update from Fiona Paine, Schemes Project Manager, KCC. The Zone will be delivered in this financial year although precise timelines are still to be decided.

**11. Kent Bus Service Improvement Plan**

It was approved Cllr Ducklin will submit our response.

**12. Arriva 281 Bus Service – Cllr Taylor**

Cllr Taylor articulated the existing cost deters residents from using the service into Tunbridge Wells if they are able to use motor vehicles. She suggested there should be a reduced cost “hopper service” between 10am and 2pm daily and it was approved Cllr Ducklin would include this suggestion in our submission under Agenda Item 11. **Action:** CD please note.

**13. Rusthall Road, Erskine Park and Meadow Road footway improvements – Cllr Britcher-Allan**

Cllr Britcher-Allan confirmed apologies have already been received from KCC regarding the lack of alternative public footways during the repairs and steps were being taken to ensure there is no recurrence.

**14. Ashley Park and Lower Green Road mirror – Officer Watson**

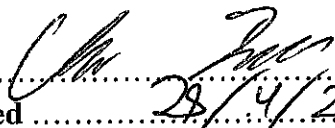
KCC are currently considering our request to install a mirror on the lamppost in Lower Green Road following their refusal to consider themselves as the junction is deemed not dangerous enough.

**15. Gatwick**

- i. Officer Watson confirmed the Noise Monitor would remain on the Southwood Road allotments site for a further two years and we will receive £1300 income for it.
- ii. Officer Ducklin was unable to attend last month’s seminar of the environmental impact of Gatwick and will share the output once received. **Action:** CD please share in due course.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 730pm.

**The Meeting Closed 925pm**

.....  ..... **Chairman**  
Dated ..... 28/9/2022 .....