

Minutes of the Highways Committee Meeting 23 May 2016, 7.00pm

Held in the Community Centre, King Georges Avenue, Leiston

Present: Cllr Mrs Lesley Hill (Chairman)
Cllr Colin Ginger
Cllr Phil Harle
Cllr David Morsley
Cllr David Bailey
Cllr Bill Howard
Cllr Chris Nichols
Cllr Mike Taylor
Mr David Chenery – SCC Highways
County Cllr Richard Smith
Mrs Caroline Rinder (Deputy Town Clerk)

Action

1. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed to appointment Cllr Hill as Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Last.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident raised the issue of faded/non-existent white road markings on the corner of Valley Road and Crown Street which means drivers cut the corner and endanger other road users. Mr Chenery will investigate this matter.

Highways

Another concern the resident had was the lamp post in Valley Road which is in the centre of the pathway. Mr Chenery confirmed this has been approved by Highways and formed part of the planning consent. It cannot be moved unless at public expense or by the developer, who are not willing to move it.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 22 FEBRUARY 2016

HGV Signs – Mr Chenery confirmed all the signs are now up but unfortunately Buller Road is still encountering problems with a lorry recently getting stuck. He suggested the situation is monitored with the possibility of making Buller Road one way if further problems continue.

Vehicles Breaking Weight Limits – Cllr Nichols and a resident have set up a lorry watch scheme with Trading Standards and have submitted over 50 reports of infringements of the weight restrictions. Trading Standards are struggling to cope with the volume and have asked Cllr Nichols to hold back on sending reports to allow them to catch up. County Cllr Smith said he will speak with Trading Standards as this scheme should be fully supported by them.

Action

Cllr Ginger proposed a recommendation is taken to Council that a motion for the lorry watch scheme is taken forward to the SALC Annual Conference. Agreed.

Council

Sizewell Hall Road – No date has been scheduled as yet but Highways will try and coordinate with the Wind Farm works and liaise with residents.

White 'No Parking' Line Outside Guide Hut – Mr Chenery confirmed this was in the system and should hopefully be done within the next 10 weeks.

Town Signs – Mr Chenery explained that Mr Warne is on a secondment and this will be progressed on his return in 4 weeks' time.

Pot Holes at Alde Valley Academy – It was noted this is not within Highways area. Mr Chenery will ensure Alde Valley Academy have been informed.

5. STATION ROAD CROSSING

Cllr Nichols concerned that cars still travel too fast over the crossing and further accidents are likely. A plan was tabled proposing chevrons be painted on the crossing to help drivers negotiate the crossing and to identify the bend in the road. After further discussion it was suggested that the Town Council speed camera be placed before the crossing to address the issue of speed. It was also proposed that Mr Chenery investigate visual narrowing of the road with lines/dragons teeth. County Cllr Smith stated he can use his budget to put funds towards this.

CR

Highways

6. TEMPORARY BARRIER AT KING GEORGES AVENUE RECREATION GROUND

Mrs Rinder confirmed a site visit by Highways had taken place on 20 May where the barrier was deemed safe and it was a low priority to have a permanent one installed. The plastic barrier is unsightly and Mrs Rinder will monitor the situation.

7. 'NO FOOTPATH' SIGN AT Highbury Cottages

Cllr Hill raised concerns that people are still walking on the road and not the footpath and asked if the 'no footpath' sign could be changed. Mr Chenery said this is an advisory sign for drivers to indicate people may be walking in the road. It was decided to leave the sign in place and discuss in 6 months. People may be worried about security walking behind the hedge so it may be necessary to review the hedge height and trim back in the late Autumn.

8. REMOVAL OF LAMP POST BASES AT RED HOUSE LANE

This work has been done.

9. FEEDBACK FROM HIGH STREET RESURFACING ISSUES MEETING ON 13 MAY 2016

A meeting had been arranged by a local resident with David Keeble from Kiers who are SCC highways contractors. Cllr Hill attended this meeting with Cllr Nichols and County Cllr Smith and it was apparent the finishing was sub-

standard with the tarmac joints coming apart as well as chipping and broken kerb stones on the humps, which in their view was caused by the large plant equipment that had been used. Mr Chenery was disappointed that the work had not been completed well and will speak to Mr Keeble to discuss these issues. The completion certificate had not been signed so Kiers will be tasked to put it right. This is likely to be done in the Autumn and will mean closing the road.

Action

Highways

Cllr Bailey mentioned the kerbs by Screwbolt Fixings and the Building Society are the same height as the road and cars turning go onto the pavement endangering pedestrians. It was suggested rumble strips or black/yellow lining be used to indicate to drivers the edge of the road. Mr Chenery will investigate.

Highways

10. HIGH STREET BOLLARD

Mr Chenery confirmed this was in the system and will hopefully be replaced within 14 weeks.

11. ASHFIELD DRIVE – ADDITIONAL PARKING PROPOSAL

Cllr Harle suggested the grassed area on the corner of Ashfield Drive could be used to create a layby and disabled parking bay to alleviate the parking problems encountered on a regular basis. Cllr Harle reported that Flagship, who are the landowners, are happy with the idea but will not put any funding towards it. The Committee felt this is not a proposal that can progress due to cost and it being the responsibility of the landowner. Mr Chenery advised a disabled parking bay may be achievable and recommended checking the website for the eligibility criteria. Cllr Harle will progress this further with the residents requesting the disabled bay.

PH

12. FUTURE PLANNED HIGHWAYS WORKS

Mr Chenery recommended to the Committee a website www.roadworks.org which will show all planned roadworks by SCC and utility companies. Notifications are sent to the Clerk who circulates to councillors for their information.

Mr Chenery advised on various works planned including Red House Lane pathway works taking place 23-27 May; Seaward Avenue footway works 31 May to 10 June; road patching on Westward Ho 6-7 June; National Grid works on Haylings Road 7-10 June and King Edward Road footway reconstruction 13-24 June but this is likely to slip to a later date. Gas works are taking place in Prospect Place 26-28 October.

Cllr Taylor raised concerns that the recent Abbey Road footway reconstruction had not been notified to the Power Station nor the Emergency Planning Officer at the Police. Mr Chenery will speak to Andy Osman, Emergency Plans Team at SCC to discuss circulation to them if deemed appropriate.

Highways

Cllr Ginger asked when Abbey Lane resurfacing will take place. Mr Chenery confirmed it is in the programme and will advise the Clerk of dates.

Highways

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Crossing Farm Corner

Cllr Taylor mentioned the white lines are missing in the centre of the road which is a safety hazard. The position of these lines are crucial to ensure vehicles take a safe entry and exit at both the B1119 and Gipsy Lane (Clay Hills) junctions. Cllr Taylor also mentioned potholes which need repair. Mr Chenery will investigate.

Highways

Footway at Abbey Road

Cllr Ginger felt this was a job well done and hopes it will last.

Heath View Path

Cllr Ginger stated the lorries are breaking the footpath opposite 20 Heath View.

Haylings Road/Kings Road

Cllr Harle reported there is a large pothole which needs repair. Cllr Harle will report it on the website.

Westward Ho

Mr Chenery advised a resident has requested traffic calming solutions, HGV signage and footpath along Westward Ho. Mrs Rinder advised nothing has been reported to the Town Council. Mr Chenery will liaise with the resident direct.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm