

**HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
8.00 p.m. on 1 March 2012
Village Hall Committee Room**

Minutes

Present: **Councillors** - Ken Huddart (*Chairman*), Kate Hallett, Anthony Sheppard, Jimmy Cartwright, Nick Hayes
 Co-opted members- Caroline Stevenson, David Cowie, Bill Chilcott
 Parish Clerk- Freda Collins

1. Apologies for absence

Geoff Herbert who had a previous engagement.
These were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

None

3. Constitution of the Committee

Bill Chilcott expressed an interest in being co-opted. The Chairman invited him to introduce himself. Bill explained that he has lived in Claygate since 1988 and will shortly be retiring. He has taken an interest in village affairs and regularly picks up cans and bottles on the paths and streets of the village. He then left the room, while the Committee considered his immediate cooption. It was agreed to co-opt him. He re-entered the room and was welcomed to the Committee as a co-opted member.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

Two corrections were made to the circulated minutes of the previous meeting on the 15 December 2011:-
i. Item 7 a. 'Davis' was changed to 'David'
ii. Item 7d. 'The exact cost will have considerably impact....' was changed to 'The exact cost will have a considerable impact.....'
The minutes were then agreed and signed.

5. To report on the actioning of items from previous minutes.

AP23 *To notify resident that we shall not provide a bus shelter in St. Leonards Road* – done by the Clerk
AP24 *Kate Hallett to check on viability of K3*-ongoing
AP25 *Ken Huddart to re-notify SWT of inaudibility of PA.* Not done, remains inaudible.
AP26 *Chase SCC for new short yellow lines.* Done. There are now yellow lines at all sites
AP27 *The "No through road" sign in Woodstock Lane South (north arm) at Clayton Road.* It now correctly faces northbound traffic. It was noted that David reported the signs obscured by vegetation in Woodstock Lane South and the vegetation has been flailed.
AP28 *Kate Hallett to put "Parking is cheap" on website.* The signs and markings in Albany Crescent are still not correct so Cllr Hallett has not pursued this matter. It was noted that resurfacing is planned for some of Albany Crescent and The Parade, so the sign painters may be waiting for this. Cllr Huddart will pursue this matter

6. Public Transport

a. Bus shelters, Routes & Bus Stops

Church Road bus seat.

As agreed, Cllr Huddart instructed Burleys to proceed with installation. A site meeting took place with Cllrs Huddart & Hayes and Zsolt of Burleys to agree the siting of the bench. The bench is included in the piece for the Courier including photos. The plaque still needs to be attached. The suggested wording is:-

**This bench has been provided by
Claygate Parish Council
in memory of it's founder
Brian Rhodes (dates)**

This will need to be agreed at the full Council meeting, so Cllr Huddart will include in his report to the Council.

It was noted that the new edition of the Focus mentions requests for the route of the K3 to be extended down Coverts Road.

b. Trains

There have been major disruptions on the railways during the last 6 months due to thefts of copper. On the afternoon of Sat 11 Feb there was a major mal-operation of our network. Cllr Huddart was on a train which stopped at Hinchley Wood at about 1300, apparently never to go again. He was forced to catch a train back an hour later thereby missing an important event at the Royal Festival Hall. We were told it was a points failure at Hampton junction, which was being fixed, but subsequent reports suggested that it was a signalling failure at Berrylands, causing widespread disruption so that local trains were being blocked to allow priority for long distance trains. He has emailed SWT asking for refund and compensation, so far without reply. It was noted that refund forms are available at Claygate Station.

c. Claygate Station

i. The PA system remains virtually inaudible. Cllr Huddart will repeat his previous requests for this to be rectified.

ii. It was noted that the platform extensions are now being built further up the line at Earlsfield.

iii. We need more cycle parking at the station, but SW Trains have now delivered their franchise requirements. Cllr Hallett tried to produce a graph to show demand but her data is out of date (prior to when SW Trains provided more parking).

It may be difficult to argue that more cycle parking will lead to more ticket sales. It was suggested that more cycle parking could be provided in the car park which is never usually full. This would be popular with the cyclists as the car park is covered by CCTV (a covered cycle rack will have to be positioned carefully so that it can be seen by the CCTV).

7. Liaison with SCC

a. Road Maintenance and Footpaths

i. At the Local Committee on 27 Feb, Mike Bennison referred to additional maintenance funds being made available in Surrey C.C., and cited The Parade and the bottom of Albany Crescent as having benefited.

ii. On Sat 14 Jan a local resident drew attention to the inadequate temporary traffic management for gas main works in the High Street. Cllr Huddart visited the site and found the signing for pedestrians to conflict with normal standards which therefore imposed additional risks. Before and following his report, Surrey C.C. were very annoyed with the contractors, and thanked him for the photos he took, and agreed that there were several offences under the New Roads and Street Works Act.

It would appear that, following work reconnecting consumers in Oaken Lane, Morrisons wrongly disconnected a main through the High Street, leaving several shops and residents without gas, for which excavations were required for re-connection.

The Morrisons/Essex Utilities staff felt it adequate to just provide limited pedestrian access to the shops, without clear signing. It was a full day after this situation occurred that the signal engineer was brought in to introduce the four-way control, which was vital to limit the confusion.

A few weeks later, temporary signals were introduced at the bottom end of St. Leonards Road (probably covering Thames Water repairs), and one evening Cllr Huddart found they were stuck, so that motorists were waiting without time limit. The control equipment had a phone number, which he rang, and was told that the police had already reported the fault but, as the firm was dealing with the whole of South-East England, it would take several more hours to attend. The problems of the street works industry are well-known and represented in many decades of ineffective legislation (as above and latest version the Traffic Management Act).

It was noted that many of the roadworks are to do with water leaks. David reported that there is a twitter address to which leaks can be reported as well as the traditional website which has a map showing the location of reported leaks. Problems are occurring with water pipes as the original cast iron pipes are now rotting. Problems also occur in gas pipes as natural gas is dry and makes the joints in the pipes dry. The preferred way of mending old pipes is to push plastic/polypropylene through the existing pipes.

iii. David reported that he thought the white picket fence at the entrance to the village by the Swan PH had been moved. Cllr Hayes will investigate this. Cllr Hayes also agreed to speak to Paul Dawson of EBC about our white picket fences. EBC intend to refurbish the entrances to village in the borough for the forthcoming Olympics. Cllr Hayes will inform Paul Dawson that the one at the Swan was recently replaced by CPC.

iv. The brick bed at the entrance to The Parade remains damaged. No planting can take place until the bed is mended, so the bed looks very untidy. Cllr Huddart will chase SCC. *Post meeting note – reported through website.*

AP30 Cllr Huddart to action

v. The Day Centre sign in Elm Road has fallen- Cllr Huddart has reported this.

vi. Part of Oaken Lane has been resurfaced and appears to be a good job.

vii. The speed bumps in Aston road are deteriorating. The ones outside the Londis in the old village are also in need of repair, but these have been marked.

viii. Damage has been caused to the raised kerbs and grass in The Roundway as large vehicles cannot get round the bend due to parked cars. This is connected to the construction taking place by Elmbridge Housing Trust. Once the works have finished, it is expected that EHT will ensure that any damage is remedied. We will monitor this.

ix. There is a loose kerb at the entrance to Loseberry House.

AP31 Cllr Huddart to report

b. Highway Tree Replacement and Maintenance

Stimulated by enthusiastic local participation in Dalmore Avenue, this year's replanting programme is under way. 30 trees have been bought, including 20 for Dalmore Avenue. Although £1292 has been collected in donation from Dalmore Avenue and £250 more of donations are expected elsewhere, the amount collected in donations will not equal the total cost of the trees, stakes and guards. Also the site outside Rukshanas has a root needing grinding out, for which Andy has quoted £60. This will exceed this Committee's budget for this item, currently at £533 for 2011/12 leading to a deficit of about £140. To cover this deficit, it was agreed to use money from other H&T accounts such as 'general' in view of the considerable local interest and funding.

It was agreed that the Tree Wardens do a wonderful job and we are grateful to them.

d. Street Lighting

Replacement of Claygate's lights under SCC's PFI project is proceeding slowly. There are places where problems have been encountered; some sites have both the old pole and a new pole, but it is expected these will be sorted. It was noted that on the Recreation Ground, one of the old lights was behind the construction fence for the new Pavilion, so must ensure that Skanska do not forget to replace this light.

AP32 Cllr Hayes will contact Skanska and also inform the CRGT.

Cllr Huddart has heard nothing further about the lights in the Conservation areas. The replacement of the lights in these roads is currently on hold. Some lights have been replaced incorrectly and this will have to be rectified.

8. Parking

a. Off- Street

Nothing to report

b. On- Street

All the short double yellow lines we sought which Surrey C.C. agreed to in its 2010 review have been installed.

We asked for short double yellow lines at the Recreation Ground end of Dalmore Ave, which were in the 2011 review but not accepted.

We asked for double yellow lines at The Avenue, near Hare Lane in the 2010 Review, which were not accepted. The SCC assessment was that parking near this junction is not a problem. Cllr Huddart has received further requests for this and has repeatedly visited the site, not finding a problem, so justifying Surrey C.C.'s decision. Other councillors are concerned that a problem exists at this site. Parking patterns are obviously uneven, but when cars park either side of the road right up to the junction with Hare Lane it can be dangerous causing cars to have to back down the Avenue or cars turning from Hare Lane into the Avenue to have to wait on a blind bend. It was agreed to investigate this more. Everyone was asked to monitor this site; Cllr Sheppard will try to speak to local residents, whose own parking may be contributing to the problem.

AP33 Cllr Sheppard to action.

There is pressure for double yellow lines in Aston Road, near Hare Lane. Cllr Steve Wells is involved in this matter and there may be a case here, although the current safety issue is largely created by the frontager's contractor. In view of the limited forward visibility because of the railway bridge, and following the logic of the official guidance "Manual for Streets", there is not a significant safety problem. Motorists approach the tight bend slowly. There is however a problem related to commuter parking, evidenced by the selection of cones, which are left in the road presumably by residents.

There are concerns about Norfolk Road/Simmil Road/Aston Road, but as these are small side roads, the Committee could see no problem.

AP34 Cllr Huddart will reply to the concerned resident.

9. Traffic Calming

- i. The Speedwatch programme is underway, ably led by Malcolm Mackenzie using some of the ten volunteers recently trained by local police. Cllr Huddart has participated in three of the watches, each of one hour, and seven more are planned up to 6 April. We are very lucky that Malcolm is able to instantly recognise the Make and Model of vehicle, an item of information required by the police. In an hour we collect about five reportable offences; 40% of these are accepted by DVLA, which is average in Elmbridge. Unacceptable reports would be due to errors in Make, Model and Colour e.g. grey vs. silver, but most likely to be cloned number plates. A driver with cloned plates is a natural law-beaker, and likely to believe that he/she cannot be disciplined for speeding; this is not true since police cars can now carry out DVLA checks in real time. From Claygate's point of view the main benefit of the watches is increasing motorist awareness of speeding and, for the duration of each watch, a dramatic reduction in speed. Local residents are very supportive.
- ii. Cllrs Huddart, Hayes and Sheppard attended the EBC Local Committee and obtained data about speeds on Claygate roads. It was noted that some of the data may be incorrect. It was agreed to contact the Casualty Reduction Officer and point out the data for Hare Lane is incorrect and inform them that we are currently carrying out Speedwatch *Post meeting note, PC J Eames advised.*
- iii. Their data suggests that some action needs to be taken over speeds in Stevens Lane; we would like to know what action is planned. The accident statistics for Hare Lane tend to show that some traffic calming is required. We have already asked for cushions at the junctions of Hare Lane/Foley road and the raising of the pedestrian crossing.
- iv. Cllr Huddart has not made any progress on the questionnaire asking if residents want the speed cushions removed from Cavendish Drive.
- v. As part of the Surrey Transport Plan the consultation activity on the Road Safety & Anti-Social Driving Strategy is now open for responses. This consultation is open for responses from 22 February to 15 May 2012, a period of 12 weeks. The strategy, once adopted, will become part of the Surrey Transport Plan.
- vi. The speed limit signs in Woodstock Lane South are now visible because the vegetation has been flailed. David Cowie still needs to suggest that the signs are moved for better visibility.

10. Bridleway Proposals & Rights of Way

- i. There is a significant problem in the pedestrian underpass under A309 Kingston Bypass joining Woodstock Lanes North and South. At the 27 Feb Local Committee, this was raised by the ward councillor and answered by the Surrey C.C. officer. Over several months much officer time has been devoted to it, and a series of discoveries of further problems; these include drain collapses of possibly both road drains and sewers and illicit dumping. Rubbish has been dumped down manholes and some manholes have been covered over by flytipping. David Cowie reported this problem in October 2011 and has chased every two weeks since then. Although the area has had specialist cleaning, the underlying problems with the sewage have not been solved. New works at the traveller's site may also have detrimentally affected the drains. The problem has now become high profile; one of the Long Ditton Councillors has taken it up. Although this underpass is not in Claygate, it affects Claygate residents who wish to use the underpass.
- ii. EBC has been notified about the new driveway to the traveller's site which has been constructed without planning permission. EBC will probably not pursue this matter as they consider it not be detrimental. As it is close to the highway, it has been referred to SCC. Although this site is not in Claygate, any increase to the Travellers site impinges on Claygate services such as schooling. Horses are now being grazed near to the road and this may be a problem.
- iii. Trotters have been using the Bridleway between Claygate Common and the A3 bridge (towards Winey Hill). To prevent this, the entry posts have been raised and brought closer together. Caroline has identified that the inadequate separation is a problem for horse riders. The Clerk has contacted Dave Page (Elmbridge Commons Manager) who has agreed to get the problem rectified. He has apparently been in touch with Surrey C.C. Rights of Way, which is the maintenance authority for this Bridleway. The posts have already been moved. As this will now allow access to the trotters again, it is hoped that the posts will be reinstated, but at a more acceptable separation.
- iv. It was noted that the flailing of Woodstock Lane South has made the path easier for walkers between the entrance to Elm Farm and FP31. We should ask for this to be carried out annually.
- v. No action has been taken on Old Claygate Lane. The wet patch is persisting.

Caroline Stevenson left the meeting.

11. Cycling

11.1 David has looked at the proposed positioning of cycle racks on the island opposite Rukshana shop in Hare Lane. If the racks are situated on the south side of the bus stop they will restrict pedestrian access, so they will have to be on the north side. It is known that CIB want to make this area more attractive, so cycle racks may not enhance this area. David agreed to speak to Linda Wells of CIB. He suggested that a type of cycle rack called a ‘Plantlock’ may be suitable as this is a planter incorporating a cycle rack. David will get photos of this rack and give them to Cllr Hallett for Linda Wells.

AP35 David and Cllr Hallett to action.

11.2 David has discovered that cycle parking provision at Claygate School is very poor. He agreed to speak to the Headteacher Darryl Taylor.

AP36 David to action.

12. Street Signage

12.1 Woodstock Lane South and Stevens Lane- the sign for ‘Stevens Lane’ is very dirty. Reported to EBC by the Clerk.

12.2 Oaken Lane by The Avenue- some trees have been cut back revealing a very dirty sign. Cllr Cartwright will advise the complainant to report it

13. Website

The new website is still being done. Only agendas and minutes are being uploaded onto the current website.

14. Matters for Information Only

None

15. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 8.00pm on 3 May 2012 in the Committee Room, but this is election day and some Committee members will be involved in the election. It is therefore necessary to change the date.

Signed.....as a true and fair record of the meeting.

Date.....