

Roads & Traffic Committee
Minutes of a Meeting held on 8th October 2009

Present: Mrs Revell (Chairman), Mr Salisbury, Mr Blanch, Mr Mercer, Mrs King
In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk)

132 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Mrs Revell be elected as Chairman and that Mr Blanch be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Roads & Traffic Committee.

133 Public Question Time: There were no members of the public present

134 Apologies for Absence were received from Mr Gregory

135 Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest regarding any items on the agenda.

136 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2009 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

137 Matters arising from the Minutes

Minute 276.2: Community Bus: Information had been received from Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council that the community bus had not been running for the last three weeks due to lack of passengers. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with A&SPC to discuss the viability of continuing this service.

138 Junction Works at London Road/London Lane

A meeting had been attended by Mrs Revell, the clerk, Dick Lankester from MSDC and David Lambert from the Highways Office to discuss the proposals and funding for this junction. Following the recommendations of the Traffic Consultant and the Highways Office, it had been agreed that the two roundabouts were now the best option and the design had been approved. However, the costs were now far higher at a sum of some £60,000 (including £13,000 for design) than the original sum of £32,000. WSCC were now proposing to meet the cost of the mini-roundabout with a contribution from the SRTS fund. This would leave about £15,000 in the SRTS fund. After discussion, it was agreed to ask WSCC for a breakdown of the costs of the roundabout and to challenge the figures for the design. It was anticipated that the work would, dependent on the weather, either start in November or in the following Spring.

139 Safe Routes to School Programme

It was disappointing that the work along Ardingly Road had still to be completed, the clerk to follow this up with WSCC.

No information had been received with regard to the Warden Park Travel Plan. The Parish Council was not aware as to what progress had been made and whether they had received any funding from SRTS. It was agreed to follow this up with the School.

140 Improved Signage for HGVs in Cuckfield

At a meeting held in September with the Highways Office, the need to improve signage to warn HGVs of the weight and width restrictions had been discussed. The clerk to ask WSCC what progress had been made.

141 Installation of VAS signs at Whitemans Green

This matter had been raised with Mr Lambert when the S106 funds had been discussed. It was agreed to write to WSCC asking for progress, together with a possible timetable for their installation.

142 Cyclepath from Cuckfield to Haywards Heath

Mr Salisbury reported that the original idea for a cyclepath from Haywards Heath (Bolnore) to Warden Park had arisen from a discussion with Peter Bradbury. Mr Bradbury had followed up the idea with WSCC and an outline plan had been produced for a cyclepath that crossed the by-pass and then followed the footpath by the old golf clubhouse into Warden Park School. The building of the cyclepath would cost about £60,000. Haywards Heath Town Council had agreed to contribute £30,000 and the Parish Council had also been asked to make a substantial contribution from the S106 funds, without this funding it was unlikely that the scheme would go ahead. However, concerns had been raised by councillors regarding the benefit of this path to the community as it could not be used by other cyclists. No evidence had been provided by either WSCC or Warden Park School as to the numbers of pupils who would use the path. It was agreed to contact Warden Park with regard to the progress of their Travel Plan and the integration of the path into the Plan. WSCC would also be contacted regarding the concerns of the Parish Council and the possible use of the S106 funding. Information was also being sought with regard to an alternative cycle route along Broad Street as this could have value for the wider community at a lower cost. The possibility of upgrading the path through Blunts Wood could also be investigated.

143 Any other Business

143.1 Parish Plan: The clerk circulated a table showing the various actions contained in the Plan regarding road and traffic issues. This needed to be updated and it was agreed that members would review the headings for discussion at the next committee meeting.

143.2 Church Platt: Mr Salisbury reported that this was in a poor state of repair. The unadopted area at the rear of the White Harte also needed attention. It was agreed that this would need to be included in the Forward Highway Programme and the Parish Council would need to consider whether it would be willing to fund the re-surfacing of the unadopted area. This matter to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

End