

Highways Working Group (HWG)

(Subcommittee of Charing Parish Council)

Minutes

Date of Meeting: 07/06/2022

Location: Charing Parish Hall (Top Room)

Time: 1930hrs

Working group members: (11) Cllr Terry Hayward (Chair), Cllr Tylden Reed, Cllr Steve Woodbridge, Cllr Simon Furlonger. Nick Austen, Jill Leyland, Colin Burns, Sue Lowen. A Another, Nigel Pickford, Vicky Ellis.

Those present: (7) Cllr Terry Hayward (Chair), Cllr Tylden Reed, Cllr Steve Woodbridge, Nick Austen, Jill Leyland, Colin Burns, Sue Lowen.

Agenda discussed: 1. Aims and Objectives of the group. 2. A20 / Station Rd. Crossroads update. 3. A20 Speed Limit update 4. High St. / A20 improvements. 5. Village Gateway Scheme. 6. Any Other Business.

1. 1.1. The Chair for the group opened the meeting. This meeting was the first face to face meeting since the Covid lockdowns.
- 1.2. The chair announced that 4 meetings had been planned and communicated to the group. These meetings are spread across the council year, and at various times. These meeting are planned to go ahead regardless of who from the committee can attend. All members of the group are encouraged to attend. Apologies for absence should be sent prior to the meeting.
- 1.3. The Chair discussed that this was a reset for the group (post covid restrictions) and asked Nick to discuss with the group the reset vision.
- 1.4. Nick presented that we should re focus our Aims and Objectives, our remit, our communication (comms) strategy, formulate an action planner with live tracking of our current items, published agendas* and minutes, (*these should focus on the live planner/tracker and any new items for discussion. Jill informed that she would send the current Highways improvement plan and any other docs to Nick to formulate the new Planner/Tracker. **(Jill, Nick)**
- 1.5. From the above it was agreed that the following should be implemented: a, a dedicated Highways page on the Charing Parish Council website (Nick to discuss with the Clerk) b, Members of the group to be published on this site. (Nick to check that all members agree). c, our remit, vision and aims and objectives are published on our page. (Nick to circulate a draft to all members for agreement at the next meeting). d, all current items to be merged into the new planner/tracker for a continuity document going forward. (Nick) e, a comms strategy to be formulated and passed to all members for agreement. **(Nick)**.

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2. 2.1. The Chair was to contact KCC highways (Darren Hickman) as a matter of urgency for detailed drawings, as the impending work for the improvements⁴ to the A20/ Station Road / x roads are due to start soon. The group felt it was imperative that we comms our stance/position on these works, so that CPC residents understood the complex issues/reasons for these works taking place. **(Terry, Colin, Nick)**.
2.2. Colin to draft a response for the HWG to be published on the website against the KCC response. **(Colin)**.
2.3. Subject to items 1.5. being feasible and achieved item 2.2. to be published and communicated. **(Nick)**.
3. 3.1. The group felt that although it is our overall aim to achieve a 30MPH limit within the proposed gated areas of the village, we understand the complexity of achieving this. It was agreed to comms our position on the website and place this item as a strategy item to be worked on over time. **(All ongoing)**.
4. 4.1. The group felt that this item needs a reset, to be realigned to our Vision, aims and objectives (in progress). **(All ongoing)**.
4.2. The group wish to monitor the KCC changes to the A20 jct (re item 2) so that it can be reflected in any proposals going forward. **(All ongoing)**.
5. 5.1. The Village gateways were discussed as an ongoing item from the previous meetings. It was agreed that members of the group would visit the proposed areas, 7 in total and report back. Pluckley rd. **(Colin and Jill)**. A20 from Maidstone to Ashford **(Jill/Sue)**, A20 Ashford to Maidstone **(Gill/Sue)**, A252 Northern Bypass southbound, first at the top end by the Faversham rd jct and secondly towards the roundabout, **(Terry)**, The Hill jct of the A252 towards the village, **(Tylden)**. Pett lane **(Nick)**
5.2. Charing Heath needs to be reviewed to establish how many are needed and taken forward. **(All ongoing)**.
6. 6.1. It was discussed that the A20 towards Maidstone. Between the Jasmine Restaurant and its jct with Hook Lane potentially could have as many as 9 turnings to facilitate existing and planned developments.
Although KCC have no objections and the CPC haven't managed to influence the planners to apply any joined up thinking the group wish to place on record and comms this via the website our reservations. **(All ongoing)**
6.2. It was discussed that the new rd markings to facilitate the Orbit development on the A20 between Dog Kennel Lane and the Old Ashford Rd jct have inadvertently removed the provided safe turning into Wilkinson Close. The Parish Clerk has sort to rectify this issue, but it was felt that with the new development at the

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entrance to Dog Kennel lane that this needs to be a new issue raised to KCC/ABC and the new developer. **(All ongoing)**.

The meeting closed at 2100hrs

Next Meeting 06/09/22 1930 Top Room Parish Hall

- 1. A KCC led plan, bound by legislation to improve a junction that has a poor accident record. Significant input/discussions from the HWG/CPC but ultimately a KCC devised plan within the confines of design/space limitations, cost and other road factors.***

Minutes agreed by email circulation on the 23/06 and 27/06/22 with responses due by the 03/07/22. 3 acknowledgments, 1 amendment and 4 non returns

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