

## Minutes of Highways Committee meeting, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Present:** Terry Hayward (Cllr and Chair), Carrie Allen (Cllr), Stephen Woodbridge (Cllr), Colin Burns, Jill Leyland, Sue Lowen.

**Apologies:** Nick Austen, Claire Brown, Vicky Ellis, Nigel Pickford

**1. “Keep clear” markings in School Road.** It was discovered last year that these markings were not legally enforceable since a relevant Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) had not been made. When contacted, Kent Highways promised to rectify this. However, they have now informed us that on investigation they have found other schools in a similar situation. They are therefore checking and will then issue a TRO for all affected schools in the Ashford area. So the TRO will take longer than originally indicated due to the need for checks elsewhere.

**2. 40 mph limit extension for Faversham Road.** A residents’ meeting at the Wagon and Horses was held on November 15<sup>th</sup>. At the time it was assumed that the 40mph zone would be extended to the parish boundary so that it would include Newlands Cottages. Many wanted the whole length of the road to be 40mph but agreed that the proposed extension would be an improvement. However KCC have now provided us with an “extents plan” which shows the extension stopping just after the Wagon and Horses. They say that they cannot justify going further than this as the pub is the justification for the extension and the road has not got sufficient dwellings otherwise for such a limit. It was agreed that this was disappointing but better than nothing. We now have to consult residents informally to see if they agree. **(Action TH and JL)**

**3. Gates and roundels.** The meeting with Pluckley Road residents was successful and there was support for our proposals. However, we are still awaiting the assessment from Highways. Once this is done, and assuming the assessment is essentially approved, there will be a design plan which the Parish Council will have to pay for. **Post meeting note:** We have heard that a site visit by a KCC engineer and Kieron Doble could take place on or shortly after March 6<sup>th</sup>.

At the residents’ meeting the problem of excessive speeding and occasional dangerous overtaking in the stretch between the 30 mph limit and the motorway bridge was raised. It was suggested that double white lines to deter overtaking would be helpful. It was agreed to raise this with KCC.

**4. Website.** The draft text by JL was approved as being on the right lines. Jill agreed to update it and then prepare the material to accompany it on the website. Colin Burns will add pictures of a gate and a roundel. **(Action CB and JL).**

**5 Crossroads.** The Parish Council funded a week long survey late last year of vehicles turning right or going straight on from Station Road. Around 200 vehicles per day did this. The information has been sent to the Police and KCC. As indicated earlier, KCC will be reviewing the crossroads in April when they have a full year of accident information.