

## **Minutes of Charing Highways Group Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025**

**Present:** Cllr Terry Hayward (Chair), Cllr Carrie Allen, Cllr Steve Woodbridge, Colin Burns, Jill Leyland

**Apologies:** Claire Brown, Vicky Ellis, Cllr Dennis Gudge, Sue Lowen.

1. Dennis Gudge has joined the committee to make the required number of 4 parish councillors.
2. Gateways were installed in March on the A252 and A20. Colin Burns agreed to check on whether the enhanced speed limit had been installed on Pluckley Road (post meeting note: No).
3. The installation of the extension to the 40mph limit on Faversham Road is due to start on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
4. KCC Highways do not consider formal signage is appropriate for Bowl Road. Steve Woodbridge will look at installing informal signs at danger points.
5. A20/Station Road/High Street Crossroads.
  - a. No new signs have yet been installed and we have not had any reaction to our repeated requests for an advance warning sign on the corner of Surgery Close.
  - b. Informal consultation needs to be carried out on the “extents” of the double yellow lines on the corner of the High Street and the A20. It was agreed that:
    - i. JL will draft a note for residents for TH to print. These will be distributed to all houses in the lower High Street
    - ii. TH will talk to the shop proprietor
    - iii. JL will post on Chatter and Next Door
    - iv. JL will create a new email address to which comments can be sent
6. The Hill. Given the legal contract around the double yellow lines for the new development, Highways have to go ahead with this. They will assess the situation afterwards. Highways should be able to fund the TRO which means that the Parish Council would only need to fund the additional painting.
7. Other HIP updates.
  - a. Stonestile Farm Road. Highways have agreed to install “unsuitable for HGVs” signs at both ends. They are currently considering the design so that it fits the environment.
8. Gates and roundels for Charing Heath. The note prepared by Carrie Allen and Jill Leyland was broadly agreed. KCC have suggested three roundels and offered to fund them.
  - a. The roundel proposed for Wind Hill Lane by KCC, at the repeater sign, was agreed.
  - b. Charing Heath Road. It was agreed that the gate should be where the 30 mph limit is, assuming this is not considered to interfere with sightlines from the small new development. Left side only as the bank on the right hand side would be too

steep. (Post Meeting Note: Dave Bennett has asked that the village name plate, currently slightly further along, be included in the gate.)

- c. Church Hill. We propose a gate on the right hand side at the 30mph limit. We think there is enough space but if not this could be slightly before at the corner. The gate should be followed by a roundel on the left carriageway on the upward slope given the presence of the Memorial Hall and Church at the top of the Hill. On the other side of the hill, KCC have proposed roundels alongside the repeater signs. We agreed that it would be better to have one roundel between the two repeater signs and then a further one shortly before the Memorial Hall and the Church on the rise.
  - d. Egerton Road. It was agreed that the gate could either be at the 30 mph limit on the right or there could be gates on both sides where the sign showing the weight limit for the bridge is. Roundels should be at the first repeater sign which is just by the first house and then either side of the school entrance at suitable points.
  - e. Tile Lodge Road. The village name plate is very prominent and it was agreed that no gate is necessary. Speeds in TL road are not generally excessive but the November 2021 survey showed a small number of cars travelling at very fast speeds (it is thought that these are often taxis taking children to the school). It was agreed that the road was unlikely to meet KCC criteria for official signs but informal signs, as in Pluckley Road, could be appropriate. Colin Burns agreed to follow up.
9. Surveys. The plan is still to carry these out in September which will enable the impact of the extension of the 40mph limit on Faversham Road to be assessed as well as the impact of the A252 and A20 gates, assuming results can be compared to KCC surveys. Sites for surveys would be:
- a. The same places as the previous survey for Faversham Road East, Pluckley Road, Tile Lodge Road, Church Hill and Egerton Road. Faversham Road West is no longer needed while The Hill may be affected by the building of the Millgarth houses so these two will not be included.
  - b. The A20 by Cornwallis House and, at the other end of the village, by Charing Motors. In addition, a survey at a point approximately midway between the roundabout and the crossroads could be useful.
10. Terry Hayward will report on the plans for Charing Heath and other matters at the next Parish Council meeting prior to approaching KCC Highways.
11. The new county councillor is Jeremy Eustace. It was agreed that the Highways Group should seek a meeting with him to discuss particular concerns including the need for a 30mph limit on the A20 through Charing village and the way that Highways are ignoring our suggestions for improving signage on Station Road for the left turn only at the crossroads.