

Report of the Highways and Amenities Committee

The Committee met at 8.08 pm on **19th October 2009** in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Councillor A Sosin chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors A Sosin, K Ronaldson, Mrs J Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs M Miller and T Miller

In attendance: Eight members of the public
 The Clerk of the Council

430/09 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Mrs A Martin

431/09 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests

432/09 Public Question Time

Two members of the public spoke about the congestion in Beehive Lane and the parking in side roads around the Beehive Lane Primary School. The Chairman said that there has recently been a parking review in Beehive Lane and a further review could be requested. Also, matters of obstruction could be referred to the police NAPS meeting. Cllr Mrs M Miller said that highway improvements in the area were due to be made using S106 monies from the MASC site. Cllr Mrs J Sosin said that using school grounds for parking causes its own problems and can be very dangerous.

Several members of the public asked questions about the closure of the access across the former garage site in Rothmans Avenue. The Chairman told them that the extinguishing order on the Public Right of Way across the site was made in the early 1950's and that according to the Definitive Map Manager this happened quite a lot at this time. Unfortunately, the Parish Council has not received replies to its queries from the Planning Authority or the landowner. It is hoped that a S25 Creation Order can be negotiated and the Parish Council had been advised that any other action at this time could be seen as being confrontational. The building work is due to be finished in November 2009.

One member of the public raised the matter of the standard of the kerbing works in Rothmans Avenue. The work has been stopped because money has run out but it was noted that kerbing works are continuing in other parts of the Borough, namely Springfield.

433/09 Rothmans Avenue Entrance to the Recreation Ground

With the agreement of the meeting, this item was brought forward.

The Clerk confirmed that no further information has been received from the planning authority or the landowner and that the Parish Council is not a party to the negotiations about a creation order, despite requests to be added as an interested party. This is because the Council has no formal access to the Recreation Ground from Rothmans Avenue and has always relied on the fact that there is a Public Right of Way at that point. It was agreed that the Clerk will chase the matter up in November/December and

if no information has been received by the start of 2010, the Council will discuss what further action it will take.

434/09 Kerbing in Rothmans Avenue

With the agreement of the meeting, this item was brought forward. Cllr Mrs M Miller told the meeting that she had already chased this matter with the Highways and had been told that the work will continue in April 2010. She was asked to make further representations to try and expedite the work.

435/09 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15th June 2009 were proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs M Miller and signed as a true record, with the following amendment in item 145/09 1., line 4, to delete "this matter" and add "the siting of a seat".

436/09 Clerk's Report

1. **Fingerpost on the green area O/S The White Horse PH**
A letter has been received from Essex County Council, which raises issues about installing a finger post that are being investigated by the office.
2. **Bus Shelter in Baddow Road**
The back panels were replaced on 30th June 2009.
3. **Parking in Vicarage Lane**
The Clerk has not spoken to Andrew Pipe about the parking of HGVs and this will be progressed.
4. **Street Furniture**
The Clerk has still to speak to Chelmer Housing Partnership about a new noticeboard at Hereford Court.
Letters are awaited from Essex County Council about the seat and litterbin at Tabors Hill and the bus shelter outside the doctor's surgery. The office will undertake consultation with the neighbours and contact the statutory undertakers as soon as the permission has been given.
5. **Chelmer Viaduct**
Six councillors attended a meeting on 20th July 2009 with Essex County Council Highways and the Design Company, where they were told that it had been decided to construct a new viaduct. This will last for 120 years and will mean less disruption during construction than the other options. Cllr Mrs M Miller reported that this project has now been delayed.
6. **Street Lighting**
Contact has been made with EDF and the installation of a lights supply is being followed up. This will be reported back to the committee when the full information is available.
7. **Cycle Route**
A meeting had been held on 6th August 2009 and it had been agreed that the Essex County Council officers would provide plans for discussion. The Chairman said that he would chase the matter.

437/09 Essex County Council Scheme Selection Process

The committee considered the additional comments that had been made by residents when replying to the questionnaire distributed by the Parish Council about Highways priorities.

Solar lighting - this has been investigated by the office and discussed by the Parish Council but will not be going ahead at the current time due to extremely high costs of installation.

Speed limits painted on roads - the Council has been informed by Highways that this cannot be done in Baddow Road.

Parking Restrictions - Following a review of parking by Chelmsford Borough Council new restrictions have been put in place in the Causeway and at the Foxholes Road/High Street junction. The enforcement of parking restrictions is an agenda item for this meeting to discuss.

Pedestrian Crossing in Beehive Lane - The pedestrian crossing in Beehive Lane near the Co-op is linked to a S106 proposal and will be pursued by these means.

Zebra Crossing at Longmead Avenue/Maldon Road/Jeffrey Road - a crossing is not possible at this junction but a safety refuge has been installed

Safety Refuge in Maldon Road near Molrams Lane - this is being pursued as part of a S106 agreement. A site meeting has already taken place to discuss the refuge and the matter is being progressed by the Highways.

It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with officers from the Highways Department to discuss the remaining issues:

- Church Street/High Street - speed limits, speeding and traffic calming
- Causeway/Maldon Road. - speed limits and traffic calming
- Maldon Road - footway and traffic calming
- Vicarage Lane - unlit/uneven footway

438/09 **ECC Works under S106 Agreements**

1. Duffield Road/Beehive Lane (MASC Site) - Cllr Mrs M Miller reported that she had received no reply from the Highways officer dealing with this matter.

2. Maldon Road/Molrams Lane (Baden Powell Close Site) - a site meeting had been held recently and revised plans will be coming from Highways

3. Galleywood Road Refuge (Aspire Site) - Cllr Mrs M Miller reported that she had received no reply from the Highways officer dealing with this matter.

It was agreed that these three issues would be added to the list to discuss at the meeting with ECC Highways.

439/09 **Parking Restrictions**

Cllr A Sosin had received a report from Chelmsford Borough Council shortly before the meeting, which was circulated to all members. It detailed the number of visits made to Great Baddow by the Civil Enforcement Officers in the last 18 months, which equated to nearly 4 visits per week. It was agreed to request the Borough Council to re-paint the lines in the car park behind Russells Restaurant and for extra visits to be made by the officers following the introduction of the new parking restrictions.

440/09 **ECC - Street Lighting Turn Off**

A copy of the criteria to be used in the lighting turn off had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr K Ronaldson had also circulated some notes that

he had made on an Essex County Council committee meeting that he had watched on a web cast. He reported that following the pilot schemes in Maldon and Uttlesford, the County Council was preparing to go ahead with the turn off without any further pilots being undertaken. Cllr Mrs M Miller said that she would obtain the minutes of the meeting.

441/09 Dartford Crossing

It was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw that Great Baddow Parish Council objects on behalf of the parishioners to the recently announced sale of the Dartford Crossing on the grounds that charges may be continued to be levied and the congestion that will result. A copy of this will be sent to Lord Hanningfield.

442/09 Dog Bins

It had been agreed at the last meeting to install new dog bins at the junction of Maltings Road and West Hanningfield Road and at the junction of Park View Crescent and Vicarage Lane. A further request had been received to consider installing dog bins at the entrance to Luxfield and at the start of the Bridleway next to Lawn Cemetery. It was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Sosin that these bins should be installed. The Clerk will contact Chelmsford Borough Council to seek permission for the siting of all the bins and arrange for installation, once permission has been granted.

443/09 Street Furniture

- To consider a request for extra lighting in the Meadgate Area - Cllr A Sosin confirmed that the area where this lighting is required belongs to Chelmer Housing Partnership and that the responsibility for installing extra lighting rests with them.
- To consider a replacement bench outside St Mary's Church - The Administrative Assistant had circulated information relating to the purchase of a new bench, with the fitting being undertaken by the Council's Grounds Staff. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs M Miller and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson that this should go ahead and a new bench should be installed to replace the current one.

444/09 Highways CIF

The Clerk told the committee that Essex County Council are running the Highways CIF fund again this year and it was agreed that an application will be made for a the refuge in the Causeway, near New Road.

445/09 Budget

- To review the Budget Spending for 2009/2010 - This had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.
To consider the draft Budget for 2010/2011 - It was agreed that the budget should go forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee as the recommendation of the Highways and Amenities Committee.

446/09 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs M Miller reported that a vehicle has hit the railings on the triangle of grass near the White Horse PH.

- Cllr A Sosin reported that the directional sign for the Shopping Centre has disappeared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.

Signed.....Chairman..... Date