

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL
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Falmouth Place
Five Oak Green
Kent. TN12 6RD
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HELD
ON MONDAY 15 JULY 2024 at 19:00hrs IN CAPEL VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs Saunders (Chair), Mackonochie, Mackenzie,
In attendance: Louise Goldsmith, Clerk

Minutes

01. 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
An apology for absence was received from Cllrs. Malpas and Sawyer and the reasons for absence were accepted.
02. 2. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**
None.
03. 3. **ADJOURNMENT TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**
None present.
04. 4. **HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**
Members considered the priorities for the current financial year year and the ones outstanding from the last financial year that were discussed with the Community Engagement Officer at the walkabout on the 22 April 2024. Each priority and the most recent update is tabled below.

Priority	Location	Problem	KCC Latest Update
1.	2023/24 West and East Entrances to Five Oak Green Road	Speed and volume of traffic	<p><u>Proposal for Chicanes on Five Oak Green Road</u> KCC would be happy to consider a system of traffic calming (minimum of two) in the form of chicanes/ kerb buildouts which would assist with crossing the road, in the absence of a zebra crossing, as it could be built out to the centre line with a dropped kerb and tactile paving. This proposal could also assist with reducing traffic speeds. KCC has also agreed to look to install one by Sychem Lane and one closer to the school. This would be a £50,000+ scheme so would either need developer contributions or an LTP bid.</p> <p><i>Noted: The LTP bid was not successful so the scheme will need to be funded by developer contributions or a loan. The cost of this scheme will be considered at the budget review for 2025/26.</i></p> <p><u>Proposal to upgrade the wigwags at the school</u> KCC has funded the upgrading of the manual wig wags so that they are programmable. This means that there is now an official advisory 20mph past the school during peak times. The 20mph advisory sign opposite the school which was not installed by KCC has been removed.</p> <p><u>Proposal for dropped kerbs/tactile paving</u> KCC has confirmed that the pair of dropped kerbs to be installed closest to the school are not going to incorporate the existing drop,(old vehicle access to the farmers field), but will be located</p>

			just to the east of this. These should assist access to and from the school and for those travelling to and from the bus stops. KCC has advised that a developer has some proposals regarding the existing dropped kerbs outside the school which they are planning to share with the Parish Council.
2.	2023/24 Alders Road	Excessive speed. Reduce speed limit to 40mph (from 60mph)	<u>Proposal to reduce the speed limit</u> KCC is happy to pursue a reduction in the speed limit along Alders Lane on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has been provided with a rough quote of £10-13,000 to include the cost of the Traffic Regulation Order. <i>Agreed: To advise KCC that the Parish Council would like to keep the scheme as an open priority but does not have the funds to pursue at the moment.</i>
3.	New for 2024/25 Falmouth Place/Badsell Road	Cars parking on footpaths and on junction blocking sight lines.	KCC would be happy to consider double yellow line corner protection at this location. However, this would require a Traffic Regulation Order at a cost of £3,00.00 plus other associated costs. KCC's Safer Road User Behavioural Insights Team is putting together a toolkit that should provide Parish and Town Council's with the resources to discourage inappropriate parking. <i>Agreed: To discuss the issue with cars parking on the junction and blocking sight lines with the Beat Officer and await the toolkit before having to go down the lengthy and costly route of installing parking restrictions.</i>
4.	New for 2024/25 Whetsted Road/Five Oak Green Road	To install a "No Entry" sign from the start of the village green when coming over the railway bridge and make the junction more of a left hand turn when turning into Whetsted Road	KCC has highlighted that there have been no injury collisions in the past three years involving cars pulling into/out of either of the Whetsted Road/Five Oak Green Road junctions. KCC has therefore advised that it would be difficult to justify the installation of any new street furniture. ATC survey carried out in June 2024. ATC results received and showed the following: Eastbound - av. speeds 21.5mph/ 85% 26.9mph (no. of vehicles – 6871) Westbound – av. speeds 16.9mph/ 85% 19.9mph (no. of vehicles – 5295) <i>Noted: The Planning & Advice Team at KCC to advise what may be possible at this location</i>
5.	New for 2024/25 Five Oak Green Road in vicinity of Sychem Lane and the Primary School	Motorists not adhering to the 30mph speed limit	KCC has advised that the presence of lighting means that a road automatically has a speed limit of 30mph with the lamps taking the place of repeater signs and KCC is prohibited from erecting 30mph repeater signs. KCC has advised that the recently installed SID scheme should assist with encouraging motorists to adhere to the 30mph limit. KCC's Planning & Advice Team has confirmed that the street lighting outside the school and along the road to Sychem Lane does constitute a system as per the TSRGD (Traffic Signs and Regulations and General Directions), as the lamp columns are spaced less than 183 metres apart (approx. 101m, 92m, 105m and 95m). However, chapter 3 of the DfT's Traffic Signs Manual (TSM) does recommend that a 30mph repeater should be provided for the unlit section no more than 100m from the last streetlight. KCC has confirmed that they would be happy to arrange this as per Priority 7.

6.	New for 2024/25 Colts Hill Roundabout	Excessive speed of traffic turning left from Colts Hill on to Badsell Road	KCC's telematics speed data suggests average speeds when travelling north along Colts Hill and turning left to travel northwest along Badsell Road do not exceed the high teens/ low 20s mph. There have also been no collisions here in the past three years and there is already an advance direction sign on the approach which indicates that there is a roundabout ahead. KCC has asked how the Parish Council would like to proceed. <i>Agreed: The Clerk to request that the size of the chevrons on the roundabout are reviewed as considered to be too large and to request that the signage on the approach to the roundabout from all four directions to be reviewed.</i>
7.	New for 2024/25 Five Oak Green Road on approach to school from Tonbridge in vicinity of The George public house	Signage not clear as to when speed limit changes from 40mph to 30mph	KCC is happy to install a pair of 30mph repeaters (back-to-back), co-located with roundel markings on the carriageway on the unlit section of Five Oak Green Road between the 30mph gateway and the school. The Design & Delivery Team agree with the above proposal and have advised that KCC can now also fund up to three new 30 repeaters along this section of road. Between the existing terminal signs and the first streetlight it is roughly 350m. The DfT's Traffic Signs Manual states that the max distance between the repeaters is 200m but KCC would recommend installing them at 100m spacings due to the road dynamic not changing until past the school. <i>Agreed: The Clerk to advise KCC to go ahead with this scheme.</i>

05. 5. **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE**
Members reviewed the first round of data collected on the Speed Indicator Device at the three locations. Members were disappointed to see that 42% of the 45,514 vehicles that passed the SID in an incoming direction at the Falmouth Place location over a 10 day period were travelling over the 30mph speed limit.
The Clerk was asked to find out if another bracket could be fitted to the pole at Tattlingbury to record the data for outgoing vehicles. The Clerk was also asked to find out what time the wigwags are on as this would have an impact on the data. The Clerk will also find out if just the raw data can be provided in a spreadsheet.
06. 6. **HIGHWAY FAULTS**
a) To report any new faults
Fingerpost at junction of Alders Road and Five Oak Green Road buried in hedge.
Hedge opposite Tumeric Gold encroaching on to pavement.
b) To receive an update on any outstanding faults.
The large pothole at the entrance to the village hall car park has been more substantially repaired.
07. 7. **STREET FURNITURE**
The Clerk had taken photographs of all the street furniture owned by the Parish Council and not located on the recreation ground. It was noted that most of the benches have not had any remedial works done for several years. Most of the benches need oiling and in particular the two on the village green. The Clerk was asked to request a quote from Capel Groundcare to oil the two benches on the village green and to repair the bench in the bus stop. The Clerk was asked to find out if the Five Oak Green Community Gardening Group would assist with restoring the finger post on the green.
A local resident, who is a traditional signwriter, has submitted a quote to freshen up the hanging sign on the village green. The Clerk will obtain alternative quotes in line with

the financial regulations. It was agreed that the fountain and seating next to it are in a good state of repair. It was also suggested and agreed that this agenda item should in future be discussed at the the Recreation Ground and Allotments Working Group. The Clerk will amend the terms of reference for each for approval by Full Council.

08. 8. **SPEEDWATCH**

The Clerk advised Members that the speedwatch equipment is now located in the Parish Office. The Clerk also has access to the Five Oak Green Speedwatch online database. It was noted that the Clerk is a trained speedwatch co-ordinator.

Agreed: The Clerk to contact the Kent Police Speedwatch team and ask for an assessment to be carried out to hopefully identify new locations for speedwatch.

Following the identification of new sites to them advertise for parishioners to come forward and volunteer.

09. 9. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Nothing additional.

10. 10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

It was agreed to meet quarterly. Date of the next meeting to be confirmed.

With no further business the meeting closed at 20:10hrs

Signed: Dated: