

**MINUTES: of the meeting of the Tandridge Local Committee held at 10.15am on Friday 8th July 2005 at the Council Offices, Oxted**

**County Council Members**

- \* Mr Peter Langham - Chairman
- \* Mr David Hodge - Vice-Chairman
- \* Mrs Sally Ann B Marks
- \* Marian Myland
- \* Mr Ken Rimington
- \* Mr N W Skellett

**District Council Members**

- \* Mr Richard Allen
- \* Mr Martin Fisher
- Mr Jeffrey Gray
- Mr Robin Harling
- \* Mr Alan Jones
- \* Mr Eric Morgan

• = Present

[Note: Mr Peter Langham opened the meeting by formally introducing himself as Chairman and Mr David Hodge as Vice-Chairman. He also took the opportunity to thank his predecessor, Mrs Sally Marks, for her charm and her professional approach to her work as Chairman over the past two years.]

**36/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from District Councillor Robin Harling and District Councillor Jeffrey Gray. Neither of the official substitutes were present. However, District Councillor Jill Caudle was invited to sit at the table without voting rights.

**37/05 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2005 [Item 2]**

Agreed.

**38/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

Mr Peter Langham declared a personal, but not prejudicial, interest in Item 15 and asked for this item to be brought forward to the beginning of the agenda following Public Questions and Comments [Item 9] where he elected to step down from the chair in order to move a motion. Mr David Hodge, the Vice-Chairman, took over the chairmanship for that item.

**39/05 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS [Item 4]**

There were none.

**40/05 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 5]**

There were none.

41/05 **MEMBERS' ALLOCATIONS** [Item 6]

Members have been allocated £11,500 each for 2005/06 plus £35,000 for capital projects for voluntary sector organisations in the local area giving a total of £104,000.

The Committee **AGREED**:

a) to ratify decisions taken in principle at informal meeting on 27 May 2005 as follows:

- £4,000 to the Chaldon Scout group towards a new roof
- £3,500 for Caterham Sea Cadets towards building improvements
- £1,000 to 4<sup>th</sup> Caterham Scouts for equipment
- £1,357 to 1<sup>st</sup> Woldingham Guide & Scout Group for paving for disabled access
- £5,000 for customising a new Youth Information Bus
- £2,000 towards resurfacing Tandridge Village Car Park
- £1,744 to Oxted CAB for carpeting and furniture
- £3,500 for Master Park, ring-fenced pending further information
- £500 for the XL Youth Project (with an agreement to lend up to £500 more to allow the project to go ahead prior to the young people realising other funding.)

b) the requests for funding set out in Annex 1, as follows:

- £500 for National Falls Awareness Day
- £3,000 for the Live & Direct Music Project

c) that, due to the reduced number of local committees, any future time-critical bids can be agreed in principle at formal meetings and formalised at the subsequent formal committee meeting.

Three further bids were tabled on the day and the Committee **AGREED**

- £420 to Whyteleafe Parish Council for a park bench
- £970 to provide protection for the Millennium trees in Bletchingley High Street
- Funding to Godstone Baptist Church Youth Project for equipment and towards providing an internet café was agreed in principle with the amounts to be agreed between the Local Member, the Chairman and the local officer.

42/05 **VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE AREA DIRECTOR** [Item 7]

The new Area Director recapped the last year 2004/05, during which there had been many significant changes both among officers and Members, culminating in an update of the current situation resulting from the governance review.

The Community Support Team has been renamed as the Local Partnerships Team and the 11 Local Directors have been reduced to 4 Area Directors. The Local Committee will now meet formally four times per year in public and will continue to comprise 6 County and 6 District members who will jointly monitor the Local Transportation Service in Tandridge.

43/05 **PETITIONS** [Item 8]

There were two petitions:

Mr Graham Paxton presented on behalf of the residents of Hamsey Green on the subject of inconsiderate parking on weekends and evenings by people wishing to access the sports

grounds. The principal engineer responded and offered to meet on site with Mr Paxton to discuss options for addressing the problem.

A further petition was raised by Mr Boyle on behalf of the residents of Lingfield, again on the subject of parking. The Local Committee accepted the petition in his absence and the local Member, Mr Ken Rimington offered to take this up with the principal engineer. The Local Transportation Director agreed to respond to Mr Boyle in writing.

#### 44/05 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** [Item 9]

The Chairman introduced and welcomed the acting Local Transportation Director, Mr Peter Agent, as this was his first public meeting in post.

The Local Transportation Director then responded to four verbal questions from members of the public. A fifth question from Mr John Richardson directly concerned Item 15 on the agenda, following which Mr Peter Langham, the Chairman, asked for this item to be brought forward and for his personal interest to be taken into account. He then stepped down from the chair and was replaced for this item by the Vice-Chairman, Mr David Hodge. [See para 45/05]

Two of the questions were from District Councillors and the Committee noted District Councillor Jones' comments that members of Tandridge District Council be advised to channel their questions or comments to the Local Committee through an authorised District Council representative on the Committee.

[Clerk's Note: Implementing this would necessitate an amendment to the SCC's Constitution. The Chairman may therefore remind any District Councillors who wish to speak during public question time that they have alternative routes open to them and ask that they keep their questions and comments brief, relevant and to the point.]

#### 45/05 **TANDRIDGE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE BUS STOP LOCATION – SALMONS LANE WEST, CATERHAM ON THE HILL** [Item 15]

The Local Director brought this report to explain the background to the relocation of a bus stop in Salmons Lane West in November 2003, which had become the subject of ongoing correspondence with the local County Member and local residents who maintained that the original position was the most suitable.

Mr Langham endorsed Mr Richardson's remarks that there was an alternative site that could be used and **MOVED** a motion, **SECONDED** by Mr Nick Skellett, to amend the officer's recommendations, which the Committee **AGREED** unanimously, as follows:

- 1) As the current site for the bus stop is less than suitable, the Transportation Director be asked to look for an alternative site that can be agreed with the Local Member.
- 2) Local County Members be involved, in future, early in the process of any changes in siting of bus stops, and
- 3) that the cost of any works should be funded from the 2005/2006 Local Allocation.

#### 46/05 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS** [Item 10]

There were none.

#### 47/05 **PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO 398 DORMANSLAND PROPOSED DIVERSION** [Item 11]

This report was first brought to Committee on 18 March 2005, when the applicant requested a temporary withdrawal in order to gather further information in support of his case. The

Committee exceptionally agreed to accommodate the applicant on the understanding that, if it did not come before Committee on 27 May 2005, it should be withdrawn permanently.

The May committee was subsequently postponed to 8 July 2005 when the report was brought before the Members of the Local Committee. However, despite having opportunities to do so in good time, the applicant again asked for the application to be withdrawn belatedly, in this case on the morning of the meeting. The reporting officer was therefore present and able to respond to Members' questions and they accepted that the report was fair and balanced.

Members were concerned that the matter should be brought to a conclusion and therefore took the unusual step of considering the application and adding an amendment to the officer's recommendation as follows:

The Local Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- i. accept the withdrawal of this application, and
- ii. agree that the application received from Mr & Mrs Johnson of Beeches Farm to divert Public Bridleway No. 298, Dormansland as shown on Drg. No. 3/1/129/H2 did not satisfy the provisions of section 119 of the Highway Act 1980 **and would have been refused had the application not been withdrawn.** (Subject to legal ratification.)

[NOTE: The Legal advice received was that: "In this repeat withdrawal case the committee took a reasonable approach. There is nothing to stop the applicant applying again but [the reporting officer] would need to be satisfied that the application was in a format whereby members could give it serious consideration, particularly given their concern that it did not in its present state meet the statutory criteria."]

48/05 **VERBAL UPDATE BY THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR** [Item 12]

The acting Local Transportation Director (LTD) updated Members on the restructure of the Local Transportation Service as far as was known at this point. He commented briefly on the timescale for appointments, accommodation, the impact on workload and the effect on staff morale. There was little certainty as to where staff would be based in future but he reassured the Committee that highway stewards would remain in the local area. Members noted that they received a good service from the local team and would be concerned if they were no longer readily accessible. The LTD acknowledged this concern and directed them to the local bulletin, which lists contact numbers for local staff, with a reassurance that they would make every effort to continue to give a good service wherever they might be based. Mr Skellett informed Members that the changes were necessary in order to be able to continue to direct funding into maintaining the roads and recommended that Members be more disciplined in how they made use of officer time.

[NOTE: Meeting adjourned for refreshments at 11.50 am and reconvened at 12.05 pm  
District Councillor Martin Fisher left at 12.00 noon]

49/05 **TANDRIDGE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE ALLOCATIONS AND DELIVERY PLAN 2005/2006** [Item 13]

This report was brought to Committee to show the initial distribution of highway maintenance funding in Tandridge for 2005/06 and sought the Committee's approval to proposals to facilitate its disbursement.

After some discussion, the Committee **NOTED**:

1. the maintenance achievements in Tandridge in 2004/2005.

and **AGREED**:

2. the content of the Highway Maintenance Delivery Plan for 2005/2006 (Annex B).
3. that the Area Transportation Director (ATD) may, in consultation with the Chairman, vary up to 100% of the revenue maintenance budget (excepting sums over £100,000) between indicative allocations, in order to respond to local conditions.

50/05 **A22 JUNCTION MAPLE ROAD, WHYTELEAFE SCHEME UPDATE** [Item 15]

This report reviewed the proposal to progress a pedestrian crossing facility on A22 Godstone Road.

The Committee **AGREED** delegation of powers in order that the Chairman, in consultation with the local County Member and Area Transportation Director, review the alternatives and confirm the future progression of the scheme within the current LTP programme.

51/05 **FELBRIDGE AREA SAFETY STUDY UPDATE** [Item 16]

Members were asked to approve the revised programme as set out in the report. However, in order to prevent getting into too much detail in the public meeting, the Chairman pointed out that this, and other local issues, would be discussed by the local task group, and the Local Transportation Director agreed to investigate and respond to District Councillor Jones and Mr Ken Rimington on their specific points of interest.

The Committee **AGREED** the delegation of powers in order that the Chairman, in consultation with the local County Member and Area Transportation Director agree a preferred alternative option for the A264 junction with Crawley Down Road and confirm the future progression of the scheme within the current programme.

52/05 **C72 WOLDINGHAM ROAD, WOLDINGHAM FOOTWAY/CYCLEWAY & BRIDLEWAY CROSSING** [Item 17]

This report asked that the Committee agree to designate a short length of footway as a shared use footway/cycleway to improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders and after some discussion requested a minor amendment to the officer recommendation to include improvements to sightlines and signs. Members were also invited to join the Cycle Network Task Group to replace those Members who had retired or withdrawn from the Local Committee. Mr David Hodge volunteered and District Council Jeffrey Gray was proposed in his absence.

[Note: District Councillor Gray subsequently accepted.]

The Committee **AGREED**:

- i. to designate a short length of the footway on the north-east side of Woldingham Road between BW 44A and BW 44B as a shared use footway/cycleway and improve sightlines and signage where possible.
- ii. the scheme outlined in this report to improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders using the NCN 21 in Woldingham.

53/05 **VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS** [Item 18]

This report was brought to Committee for a decision in principle in respect of the introduction of signs at precise locations identified and agreed by elected Members in consultation with local representatives.

The Committee **AGREED:**

- i. to the principle of introducing Variable Message Signs in Tandridge
- ii. that the location of each sign be agreed in consultation with the local County Member, following consultation with Surrey Police and the appropriate Parish Councils/District Councillors.

54/05 **DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT** [Item 19]

This report asked Members to agree the suggest4ed proposals for progression of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) in Tandridge.

The Committee **AGREED:**

- i. that arrangements be put in place to enter into an Agency Agreement with Tandridge District Council (TDC) to implement an in-house Decriminalised Parking Enforcement scheme; and
- ii. a further report to include more detailed information on any proposed in-house scheme and its operational and enforcement arrangements be presented to a future committee for consideration, approval and adoption; and
- iii. the continued representation of Members on the Working Group.

**[Meeting Ended: 1.00 pm]**

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**Chairman**