

Minutes of the meeting of the
Tandridge LOCAL COMMITTEE
held at 10.15 am on 20 September 2019
at Tandridge District Council offices, Station Road East, Oxted, RH8 0BT.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its next meeting.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mr Cameron McIntosh (Chairman)
- * Mrs Rose Thorn (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr Chris Botten
- Mr David Lee
- * Mrs Becky Rush
- * Mrs Lesley Steeds

Borough / District Members:

- * District Councillor Michael Cooper
- * District Councillor Harry Fitzgerald
- * District Councillor Chris Langton
- District Councillor Simon Morrow
- * District Councillor Sir Nicholas White
- District Councillor Tony Elias

* In attendance

OPEN FORUM

The questions and responses from the open forum session are included as Annex A to these minutes

27/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies received from Mr David Lee, District Councillor Simon Morrow and District Councillor Tony Elias.

28/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes from the previous meeting on 21 June 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Mrs Steeds wished to update the committee following two matters raised at the previous meeting. Firstly, with regards to the petition received from Burstow Parish Council regarding Wheelers Lane, Smallfield. Mrs Steeds advised that a meeting has been arranged for 10 October on site to discuss options and move the matter forward. Secondly, Wilderwick Road, Dormansland, a high pressure jet will be attending today (20 Sept) to clear.

29/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

None declared.

30/19 PETITIONS [Item 4]

None received.

31/19 FORMAL PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers Attending: Zena Curry, Area Highways Manager, SCC

Petitions, Public Questions and Statements: The questions and officer response were published within the supplementary agenda.

A total of eight public questions were received. Seven of the questions related to parking enforcement and a request to installing parking meters from business owners in Caterham Town centre. One question was submitted regarding 're-wilding' of grass verges in Surrey.

Questions 1-7

Sue McGeown, Manager of Caterham Business Improvement District (BID) spoke on behalf of six businesses who had submitted questions. She explained that she represented the businesses in Caterham and felt that the Officer had responded with a statement rather than answering each question that had been asked.

At the informal Local Committee in June the Members had agreed that parking meters could be installed on Croydon Road, Caterham. This decision would be agreed formally at the September 2019 meeting, however the decision had been deferred. Businesses felt that by delaying this report, SCC are preventing the churn of customers to their businesses, as cars are parked all day without any consequence. The Caterham BID have agreed they would pay for the meters and these would be maintained by Tandridge District Council. There would be no cost to SCC, therefore they see no reason for the report to be deferred.

The Chairman advised that unfortunately an Officer from Parking was unable to attend the meeting. However, he was aware that there have been some legal and procurement process difficulties in moving forward with the parking enforcement contract.

Members Key Points

- A Member stated he felt that SCC had let businesses down and it is regrettable. Whilst the delay is happening, local businesses are struggling.
- The Committee agreed that the service from the current parking enforcement contract is poor. Many felt that this issue was not just in the Caterham area but in all areas of the District.
- It was felt that the contract should be being enforced, and enforcement had been poor for a number of years in Tandridge.

- Members were disappointed that an officer could not attend the meeting and would like the matter resolved quickly.
- The situation in Caterham has been on-going for a number of years and the BID would like to make it easier for Parking Enforcement Officers to issue tickets and the parking meters would be a suitable solution.
- It was asked if dates could be provided as to when this matter would be resolved.

The Chairman suggested that he take this matter forward with the Cabinet Member for Highways, as the decision for appointing the parking enforcement provider is outside of the Local Committee's remit and with the Cabinet Member. The Chairman is keen to move this forward as quickly as possible and will be meeting with Officers at both District and County level to find a solution.

The Chairman felt that a written response to the BID Manager's statement and supplementary questions would not be sufficient, and suggested that he would meet outside the meeting with the Divisional Member, who was unable to attend the Committee meeting and the Caterham BID Manager to move the matter forward.

The Local Committee (Tandridge):

- (i) **AGREED that the Chairman and Divisional Member for Caterham Valley meet with the Caterham BID Manager to discuss parking enforcement and the installation of parking meters in Caterham.**

Question 8

A representative from the Village Council was not present at the meeting to ask a supplementary question. There were no Member comments.

32/19 MEMBERS QUESTIONS [Item 6]

None received.

33/19 DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 7]

Declarations of Interest: None

Petitions, Public questions, Statements: None

The Chairman introduced the item explaining that this document monitors progress against the decisions that the Local Committee has made.

Members Discussion- Key Points

The following points were raised:

1. Mrs Rose Thorn advised the committee that the decision for the speed limit review on the A25 Bletchingley was taken by the Cabinet Member

for Highways on 3 September. The Cabinet Member felt that this could not be an exception to the policy and therefore the speed limit would increase to 40mph. Mrs Thorn explained that the Cabinet Member did agree to a traffic island and the road markings will be improved, and this should be carried out this financial year.

2. Cllr Cooper expressed his disappointment that Pendell Road was still on the tracker and there are now further delays. Stressing that this is a busy junction with 18 accidents this year to date, work needs to be carried out urgently. The Chairman read out an update from the SCC Highways Road Safety Engineer. Following a site visit with Kier scheme will require a full road closure, as opposed to the two way lights that they originally thought may be acceptable to work under. There are difficulties in finding a sensible route for all vehicles to divert. The design team are speaking to SCC / Kier reps to ascertain the best way forward to get this scheme installed as soon as possible.

Resolution

The Local Committee (Tandridge)

- (i) NOTED the contents of the report
- (ii) AGREED to remove the closed items from the tracker

34/19 PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY 29 WOLDINGHAM - PROPOSED PARTIAL WIDTH EXTINGUISHMENT (OTHER COUNTY FUNCTIONS) [Item 8]

Declaration of Interest: None

Officer attending: Daniel Williams, Countryside Access Officer

Public Speakers:

Nicky Hodgetts spoke in objection of the application, and made the following points:

- The footpath is used regularly by riders and walkers and this would be handing land over for parking for the few rather than for well-being and enjoyment of all.
- Residents in the properties bought their homes knowing the parking situation and she believes the properties have allocated parking already. It would only benefit the individual home owner financially making their property more attractive when they come to sell.

The applicant Mr Tony Clarke took the opportunity to respond to the objections raised. He made the following points:

- He submitted the application to formalise the arrangements that have been taking place with no complaint in the past 25 years.
- The bridleway is never obstructed and users can pass by.

- Horse riders and walkers will still have one of the best surfaced rights of way in the area even with the reduction in width.

The Officer, presented the report and stated that the owner of the land has given his written agreement to the proposal. The Council believes that the 4m width would be sufficient for the bridleway and would formalise the parking that has been taking place since 1995 without complaint.

On a point of order, the Officer confirmed that the land is owned by the owner of 'The Shires' and not the County Council, although SCC do have an interest in the surface of the path. Parking has taken place for 25 years without complaint from users of the Bridleway.

The Officer confirmed that if agreed by the Committee, the Council would enter a works agreement with the land owner to ensure that different coloured cobbles are used on the path for uses to distinguish between the parking area and bridleway.

Members Discussion: Key Points

- A Member felt that whilst on paper it would appear that the decision would reduce access for walkers and horse riders, however having attended a site visit, she felt there would be adequate room for cars to be parked and walkers and horses to pass without any limitations.
- It was asked if there was a requirement in the assessment for emergency vehicles to be able to access properties, as there are cottages at the end of the path in this situation?

The Officer advised that he did not believe there was a requirement to do so, and therefore it had not been specifically considered in this case. The Area Highways Officer stated that whilst it had not been assessed at this site, in other locations where there are properties in isolated locations, the emergency services have specialist vehicles to access properties.

Resolution

The matter was put to the vote with a show of hands.

Members in favour of recommendation: 7

Members opposed to recommendations: 0

Members abstaining: 2

The Local Committee (Tandridge) APPROVED:

- (i) The application from the owner of 'West Stables' to extinguish part of the width of Public Bridleway No. 29, Woldingham as shown on Drg. No. 3/1/35/H5.

Reasons for recommendation:

Members agreed with Officers that in their view the criteria for making a Partial Width Extinguishment Order under section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 have been met.

35/19 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 9]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officer attending: Zena Curry, Area Highways Manager

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Officer drew Members highlighted Annex 4, which is additional information on the latest schemes on the Severe Weather recovery programme.

The Area Highways Manager welcomed questions from the Committee

1. It was suggested that a visit be arranged for all members of the Committee to visit the Highway Depot to see the gritter lorries and learn how the winter service is organised.

The Officer confirmed she would be happy for this to take place and would liaise with the Partnership Team to arrange.

The Local Committee (Tandridge) AGREED:

- (i) To note the contents of the report.

36/19 EVERY DROP COUNTS IN TANDRIDGE- SES WATER PRESENTATION (AGENDA ITEM) [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officer attending: Alison Murphy, SES Water, Water Strategy Manager

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Committee received a presentation from SES Water on Every Drop Counts in Oxted.

Highlights from the presentation

- SES water at carrying out a water efficiency pilot project in the Tandridge district. This will allow them to test out a number of technologies and methods in order to reducing demand in the most effective way.
- SES Water currently supply 160 million litres of clean water a day to 707,000 customers across the company area. It is predicted that the number of customers will rise to 1 million by 2060 so need to consider and test methods now to balance supply and demand in the future.
- SES Water's Business Plans for 2020-2025 is to
 - 1) Reduce leakage by 15% across the network
 - 2) Reduce household consumption by 7% per person
 - 3) Install water meters for 90% of customers including 10% smart meters

- 4) Monitor water consumption in newly built properties
- The South East, is a water stressed area and the population is increasing. By using water more efficiently will reduced the need for a large scale solutions in the future and protect rivers and wetlands.
 - Water consumption on average is 160 litres a day per person in the Tandridge area. SES water would like customers to reduce it to 134 litres a day per person by 2025. Keen to raise awareness and encourage customers think about how much water and energy they are using.
 - SES Water are offering free home water efficiently checks to homes in Tandridge and their aim is to carry out 1000 properties this year. This will include fitting water saving devices and fix any leaks on the customer side. So far there has been 300 visits in social housing properties, Oxted has had a take up of 10% of lettered properties and the Caterham phase has just been launched.
 - Other plans include creating an intelligent network so they can use technology to manage the network and find and fix leaks quicker.
 - Using Smart metering, for customers to see how much they are using. Trials for this technology is starting in the autumn in Tandridge, and SES Water wish to recruit 30 households from the district to test the technology before it is rolled out further.

Member Discussion – Key points

1. A Member asked what is the cost to the customer to have a smart meter?
It was advised that there is no cost to the customer as the cost had already been factored into the organisations business plan and the benefits outweigh the cost of the meter.
2. It was asked if Water companies in the South East of England should be speaking more to the Government to highlight that it's a water stressed area and if the number of customers is expected to rise to 1 million there may be issues in increasing homes in the South East.
The Member commented that even with all the savings set out in the business plan there's still not enough water.

The Officer explained that the business plan is for 5 years of 2020- 2025, and the expected customer number of 1 million is for 2060. SES water are working with other water companies in the South East to make the region more resilient, this would mean any surplus water could be made available to an area of the region that requires more water.

Smart meters have worked well within the Thames Water region who have already implemented a programme. Customer usage has reduced and people are becoming more aware of their water usage. Community reward schemes have also proved to be effective, where communities work together competing against another area to reduce their usage. The community that has saved the most is rewarded. This is something that could be piloted in the Tandridge area next year.

3. It was asked if customer leaks account for a third of the leaks then what is SES Water doing about the remaining two thirds?

The Officer advised that the aim is to reduce leakage to 15% by 2025, through technology they would like to reduce leakage further to 6 or 7% by 2050.

Of the two thirds of leaks that are on the network, approximately half are extremely small leaks that are very hard or impossible to find with current technology. The company is investing in new technology to help find smaller leaks and reviewing their mains replacement programme to replace mains reaching the end of their life, where carrying out repeat repairs is no longer viable. Both customers and SES Water need to work together in order to reduce leaks on both the customer side and on the network and improve water usage overall.

A question was sent in via twitter from a resident unable to attend the meeting. It was asked what OFWAT consider a tolerable leakage figure and were SES water meeting this?

The Officer explained that tolerable leakage considers the economic level of where it costs more to fix the leak compared with leaving it. In the current Business Plan process emphasis has moved away from the economic level of leakage and more towards safe guarding current and future supplies through effect water management. For SES Water part of this strategy is to reduce leakage along with other demand reduction strategies.

4. Members thanked the Officer for attending the meeting and for the well informed presentation.

37/19 LOCAL COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 11]

Members of the Committee were invited to suggest additional topics for consideration at future committee meetings.

This included:

- 1) Croydon Road, Parking meters (formal)
- 2) TDC litter bin replacement plan (informal)
- 3) School Place planning (formal)

Resolution

The Local Committee (Tandridge)

- (i) NOTED and COMMENTED on the forward plan.

Meeting ended at: 11.47 am

Chairman

Open Forum Session

Tandridge Local Committee – Friday 20 September 2019

Question 1: Mr Keith Chaundy:

Resident on Chelsham Road in Warlingham which adjoins a site, which has been owned by SCC since 1934. The site has restrictions on it as a playing field for the schools in the Warlingham and Chelsham area. When he moved to the site 45 years ago it was well used and the buildings were used as changing rooms and a kitchen, however over time the buildings were demolished as contained asbestos at a cost of £30,000 to SCC and they were not replaced. The Headteacher of the school also felt that it was too far for pupils to travel and also had no funding to maintain the site therefore the site had become disused.

Do SCC have any plans for this as it is green belt and next to the cemetery? It is a great shame that SCC did not negotiated with Warlingham Football club who wished to use the land if it had a 25 Year lease and it remains today something of a wreck.

Response from Divisional Member Becky Rush: The use of the land is linked to Warlingham Village School and cannot be released for anything else whilst linked to an educational purpose. She is aware that it is in a bad state of repair and she has been contacted by a local resident regarding dangerous trees on the site, and she has put in a request for this to be looked at. While there is a question mark over the future school situation in Warlingham and the Tandridge Local Plan, which is going to the Planning Inspectorate in October. Until we know the outcome of the local plan, the site must remain for an educational purpose.

Response from Zena Curry: We will take your question and pass to the relevant officers at SCC who provide a written response.

This page is intentionally left blank