



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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**A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS, BYWAYS & TRANSPORT
COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 3 JULY 2006 AT 8PM IN THE
PARISH OFFICE, MIDHURST ROAD, LIPHOOK**

MINUTES

Present: Dr J Tough (Chairman), Mr N Atherden, Mr L Fatcher, Mr A Jordan, Mr D Murray (Parish Councillors). Councillor S James (EHDC & HCC), one member of the public and one member of the press were also present.

13/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr A Jordan – late arrival

14/06 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 6 MARCH 2006

Minutes agreed and signed as being a true record, subject to the following correction:

08/06 Countryside access leaflet

Line 5 to read “to be enjoyed by those who have no access to private transport”.

15/06 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

49/05 The Square

Councillor Atherden asked when the dropped kerb repairs and removal of the blockwork crossing in The Square would be actioned. Asst Clerk confirmed that for safety reasons the Police have withheld permission for works until repairs to Lloyds Bank are completed.

06/06 Fletchers Field cyclerule

The Chairman confirmed the cyclerule is now completed and being well used.

09/06 Disabled station access

Meeting held with contractor and Gwill Williams (EHDC), awaiting further outcome.

11/06 Crowding on 9.09 Portsmouth to Waterloo train service

Cllr Murray explained that South West Trains are taking delivery of additional sets of carriages, and it should be ensured these are used to fill the gaps. The Chairman expressed doubts over the value of the rail users forum as so few people attended. He wondered if it would be of greater value to have our own meetings.

16/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman read out the declaration.

17/06 FORUM/WORKING PARTY REPORTS – BYWAYS VISIT 8 JUNE 2006

The Chairman said it was useful to see Chris Webb (National Trust) and John Carter at the start of the walk, which was one of those included in the proposed new walks leaflet. Members discussed the boggy area from Bramshott Court to Burgh Hill Road and thought this may be caused by an underground spring. Waterside should be congratulated on the condition of their rights of way. Asst Clerk confirmed that the National Trust have approached English Nature requesting drainage for the second section of the proposed Passfield bridleway in this SSSI area, and a reply is awaited.

18/06 UPDATE ON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOLS

The Chairman informed members that the zebra crossing project is progressing through the tender process and we have been advised the installation is likely to take place in the autumn. Councillor Atherden emphasised that this was only one element in the travel plan. Members discussed the walking bus, remote car parking, the traffic problems in The Avenue and Avenue Close, and the difficulties of restricting parking. Funding provision was also discussed. Councillor James has tried to persuade Hampshire County Council to action more than one item at a time. He proposed appropriate people attend a meeting to take this forward with representatives of the two schools, and agreed to find out the position on funding. He said he hoped that the installation of the zebra crossing would encourage more children to walk to school and reduce the traffic in Avenue Close.

The Motion: “To agreed a plan of action to progress the Safe Route to Schools project at the earliest opportunity with the full involvement of the community”

Proposed by: The Chairman, seconded by Councillor Atherden. A vote was taken.

Decision: The Chairman and Councillor James to organise a meeting with schools representatives to progress Safe Routes to School scheme.

19/06 A3 NOISE

The Chairman explained that he had been contacted by residents in Hewshott Lane who have experienced increased levels of noise from traffic on the A3. Residents have queried whether the surface is wearing smooth, and needs repair. Members discussed the volume of traffic, the weight and size of lorries and tyre noise, and gathering of views from residents

before contacting the Highways Agency to request a noise survey and raising concerns regarding the increase in traffic noise.

The existing road surface is already of a quieter noise specification, and this is not due to be replaced within the next three years. The press were requested to help with publicising this request for information from residents.

Decision: Asst Clerk to collate responses and write to Highways Agency once responses received.

20/06 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON COUNTY COUNCIL 2006/7 STREETLIGHT COLUMN REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

The Chairman informed members that the scheme for 2006/7 which included column replacements for Portsmouth Road had been deferred due to budget constraints. Cllr Atherden reiterated his request for additional streetlighting in Haslemere Road. Asst Clerk said that Hampshire County Council has confirmed lighting in Haslemere Road meets current standards. The Chairman said that as there is currently no lighting in Longmoor Road near Westlands Hill and viewed this as a greater priority.

21/06 HEADLEY ROAD SURFACE

The Chairman expressed concern that the surface of Headley Road is in a bad state of repair, due to repeated works carried out by various utilities with poor re-instatement. Members expressed their concern over the safety of pedestrians and motorists due to its sunken state. Councillor James stated that the surface was too bad to surface dress but not bad enough to resurface. He confirmed he will keep the pressure on for repair works. Members are particularly concerned about safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Decision: Councillor Murray to report defect details to Parish Office. Asst Clerk to continue to progress with Hampshire County Council.

22/06 RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE – MIDHURST ROAD

The Chairman informed members that Hampshire County Council have all the materials ready to carry out the replacement of the surface to the pedestrian footbridge over the railway in Midhurst Road, but have been unable to carry out the works as Network Rail have cancelled the possession order three times. This repair is becoming more urgent.

Decision: Members agreed to press for these works to be carried out as soon as possible.

23/06 TO DISCUSS THE TENDER RENEWAL PROCESS OF THE LOCAL 250 BUS SERVICE (SHUTTLE)

The Chairman explained that the renewal of the tender of bus services had been deferred until January 2007. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow Mr Amey to speak. Mr Amey explained that he believed the service would be lost if it is not used. The current vehicle cannot be used by elderly passengers as the steps are too high. The fare increases effective from 3 July had already 'lost' 20 adults and 50 children per week as the increases were prohibitive. This increase defeats the object of encouraging people to use the bus rather than cars under the Safe Routes to Schools program. Members debated the increase

in fares, the use of free bus passes, the need for an accessible service and the lack of consultation by Stagecoach. Councillor James proposed progressing with the County Council but reminded members that generally there is a maximum subsidy per trip. The meeting was reconvened.

Decision: Members agreed to raise concerns regarding the provision, use and tender renewal of the shuttle bus service with Hampshire County Council.

24/06 HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY – WHITEHILL ROADS POLICING UNIT

The Chairman informed members that PC Underwood will be attending the H,B&T Committee meeting on 9 October to present more information about the work of the Whitehill roads policing unit. Members discussed various traffic issues and warning signage available and welcomed the opportunity for councillors and residents to discuss this with the Police in October.

25/06 BYWAYS FORUM

The Chairman explained that the forums are not as productive as they used to be when walkers and riders came to the committee meetings. Byways were inspected and were some of the best in Hampshire. The forum system has died completely and walkers and riders do not feel part of the system. Members discussed how to improve reporting and involvement. Councillor Jordan suggested writing to interested parties and holding a forum meeting with volunteers ‘adopting a path’ to reconstitute the reporting system in the past, as this is a much appreciated resource for our byways. Any problems or concerns can continue to be reported directly to the Parish Office.

Decision: Members to set up date for forum and Parish Office to invite interested parties to attend.

CONCLUSION - This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.55 pm
Confirmed at the meeting held on 9 October 2006

Signed
Presiding Chairman

