

Minutes of the Highways Committee Meeting 14 August 2018, 7.00pm

Held in the Community Centre, King Georges Avenue, Leiston

Present: Cllr Lesley Hill (Chairman)
Cllr John Last
Cllr David Bailey
Cllr Phil Harle
Cllr Colin Ginger
County Cllr Russ Rainger
Ms Denise Mortimer – Suffolk Highways
Mrs Caroline Rinder (Deputy Town Clerk)

Action

1. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance.

2. APOLOGIES

None received.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 22 MAY 2018

It was agreed that the minutes are a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

High Street Drain Cover and Resurfacing – Ms Mortimer advised the drain cover had been re-seated, but the sealing of the ‘open’ joints on the speed ramps is still outstanding. Ms Mortimer will chase this up.

Highways

Valley Road (Kemps Hill) to Lover’s Lane Road – Cllr Ginger advised that one pothole had been repaired but the road surface was still bad, especially for cyclists. Cllr Ginger queried what the yellow markings meant on parts of the road and Ms Mortimer will investigate and report back. Ms Mortimer confirmed this road is in the surface dressing programme for next year. Cllr Bailey concerned that the vegetation is encroaching into the road reducing the width of carriageway and it needs cutting back, especially before the resurfacing is done. Ms Mortimer will speak to the resurfacing team to see if this can be done. County Cllr Rainger mentioned that Highways is being reviewed by County Cllr Mary Evans to improve the service.

Highways

Highways

Traffic Light Issues – Unfortunately, due to funding cuts, the programmed work for the replacement traffic lights has been moved back to 2019/20. Cllr Bailey still felt that, on occasions, the timing is very short from Cross Street to Sizewell Road. Cllr Last asked if the Engineer’s report on the lights could be shared with the committee.

Highways

Deer Signs – Cllr Harle was pleased to report the signs are up and thanked all involved in getting them installed.

Action

Dropped Kerb at Sizewell Crossing – Cllr Ginger felt the kerb was too high at the start of the cycle path and asked if Highways could give a quote on a dropped kerb. Mrs Rinder will send Ms Mortimer photos to highlight the concern and Ms Mortimer to action.

CR/Highways

Dropped Kerb on Junction of Crown Street/Sizewell Road – County Cllr Rainger had agreed to fund this from his locality budget. Ms Mortimer is awaiting the costs and will progress.

Highways

Pedestrian Crossing in Aldeburgh Road – Mrs Rinder confirmed a request had been put forward to the District Council to include this in consideration for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spend. This will go to SCDC Cabinet on 2 October and we will be notified in due course if we are successful or not. It was requested for this to be an agenda item at the next meeting. Cllr Ginger queried if the Town Council receives monies from the District and Mrs Rinder confirmed the Town Council holds CIL funds in an earmarked reserve.

CR

Post meeting note: Reserve currently £7,800

Sizewell Hall Road Update – Ms Mortimer confirmed new gulleys will be installed and piped under the road into the ditch on the opposite side. Highways are awaiting the condition survey. Works are scheduled to commence in February 2019 and will involve a road closure which the caravan park are aware of.

Abbey Road Road Surface – Ms Mortimer reported this road was inspected on 29 June and that the surface condition was not at intervention level.

Park Hill Road Surface – Ms Mortimer reported this road was inspected on 29 June and that the surface condition was not at intervention level.

Kings Road Road Surface – Ms Mortimer advised this is not on the resurfacing programme but it will be monitored.

White Lining – Ms Mortimer reported white lining will be done in this financial year, dependent on funding available. Waterloo Avenue and King Georges Avenue pedestrian crossings have been added to the list. Councillors expressed disappointment that 2 years on from highlighting areas to be done, we are still waiting for white lines to be refreshed.

Adoption of Roads/Verges on New Developments – Ms Mortimer confirmed Kingfisher Road is still under the developer's responsibility, probably until next summer.

Gulley Surveys – Cllr Bailey asked if Highways had checked the deep gulley near Highbury Cottages, the road is breaking up on the edge of the road on the north side, about 15 metres long and 18 cm deep. Ms Mortimer will report this.

Highways

Action

5. STATION ROAD CROSSING UPDATE

Ms Mortimer confirmed Network Rail had satisfactorily completed maintenance work to the crossing in April. Cllr Ginger was very concerned that improvements should be made to the crossing as detailed in the traffic calming feasibility report previously circulated. After further discussion, it was agreed that County Cllr Rainger would speak directly to County Cllr Mary Evans to put this case forward as a priority and Ms Mortimer to clarify when the works could be done.

RR
Highways

6. VISIT TO THE HIGHWAYS HUB - 9 AUGUST 2018

Mrs Rinder gave a report on the Highways visit. Cllrs Lesley Hill and David Morsley and the Clerk also attended and we were all very impressed with the Highways operation. We met with Mark Kerridge, Service Delivery Centre Manager who talked us through the reporting process, how it is received, prioritised and how all the information is documented on the system to keep track of all the reports. We were also introduced to various members of staff, including Jenny Wilson who is the Head of Strategic Services. All in all a very positive and informative visit and Mrs Rinder thanked Denise for arranging it. Cllr Hill suggested we write a letter of thanks.

CR

7. HAYLINGS ROAD/KINGS ROAD GULLEYS

Cllr Last raised concerns that some of the gulleys are broken, missing or full of debris and queried if these defects are reported when the gulleys are cleaned out. Cllr Bailey thought one of the gulleys had recently been filled with tarmac and Ms Mortimer confirmed an order was placed on 10 August for these to be repaired within 10 working days. Ms Mortimer advised a sub-contractor cleans out the gulleys and will check when this was last done and feedback.

Highways

8. KING GEORGES AVENUE ROAD SURFACE (RAIL CROSSING TO CROWN FARM JUNCTION)

Cllr Harle raised concerns on the state of the road surface immediately after the rail crossing and especially at the Crown Farm t-junction. Ms Mortimer advised this road was last inspected on 19 July and will check the report.

Highways

9. FUTURE PLANNED HIGHWAYS WORKS

No further works scheduled at the moment.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Doctors – Keep Clear Sign

Cllr Harle asked when the 'Keep Clear' white lining for the surgery would be completed and Ms Mortimer was unable to give a date but said it will be done at some stage in this financial year.

Eastbridge Road, Theberton – Report 00218098

Cllr Ginger advised the above report of the tarmac breaking up creating big holes in the road was still to be repaired.

Highways

Action

Sand on the Highway

Cllr Ginger raised concerns regarding sand which comes off the fields and causes immense problems for cyclists and asked County Cllr Rainger to ensure County Cllr Mary Evans is aware of these problems when reviewing the Highways service. Road sweeping is a District Council matter and County Cllr Rainger will action as requested.

RR

Roadworks in Aldeburgh Road

Cllr Last had received several complaints regarding an excessive barriered area used for roadworks when no-one was actually working. This created unnecessary queues of traffic due to the way in which the barriers had been extended. Ms Mortimer said there are regulations on traffic management and residents can check the roadworks.org website to see who is responsible for the works and report problems.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting is Tuesday 20 November 2018, 7.00pm in the Community Centre.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm