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## SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT on Monday, 27 February 2023 from 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Monique Bonney (Vice-Chair), Alastair Gould, Julian Saunders, David Simmons, Paul Stephen, Eddie Thomas.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS:** Mike Dendor.

**KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS:** Parish Councillors John Fassenfelt and Jeff Tutt.

**PRESENT (Virtually):** Councillors Mike Baldock, John Fassenfelt (Parish Councillor), Antony Hook, Elliott Jayes and Rich Lehmann.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Billy Attaway and Sophia Ramm.

**OFFICERS PRESENT (Virtually):** Alan Blackburn, Philippa Davies, Brett O'Connell, Daniel Rollinson and Jamie Watson.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Ken Rowles.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (Virtually):** Councillors Tim Gibson, Mike Whiting and Tony Winckless.

### 718 **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

### 719 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Peter MacDonald declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 10 Highways Work Programme.

### 720 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 December 2022 (Minute Nos. 475 – 485) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 721 **Public Session**

There were no registered speakers.

### 722 **Recommendations for Swale Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee Proposed Parking Bays - Forbes Road, Faversham - Update Report**

The Engineer introduced the report which provided an update on the proposed parking bays in Forbes Road, Faversham following a request by the Ward Member.

The Chair invited Members to make comments, which included:

- Thanked officers for the work on the consultation;
- the highway code hierarchy had recently changed, and pedestrians now had higher priority;
- the proposal was to reduce traffic speeds on Forbes Road;
- the road was dangerous to school children who needed to cross the road;
- Faversham freight traffic did not use Forbes Road;
- it was important to make the road safer for cyclists and pedestrians;
- recognised the concerns that people had with disabled access and thought that disabled bays should be included in the scheme; and
- thought it would be a missed opportunity to slow traffic down in Faversham if the scheme was not progressed.

Councillor Eddie Thomas proposed that the Board noted the results of the consultation, but not agree to abandon the proposal but support provision of on-street parking bays as a means of traffic calming and to make the 20mph speed limit in the area more enforceable. Further he proposed that Swale Borough Council (SBC) engaged with Faversham Town Council and Ward Members to seek any solutions to outstanding issues. This was seconded by Councillor David Simmons.

***Recommended:***

- (1) That the proposed on-street parking bays and associated double yellow lines in Forbes Road, Faversham be progressed and officers engage with Faversham Town Council and Ward Members to seek any solutions to outstanding issues.***

**Part B Minutes for Noting**

**723 M2 Junction 5 update - verbal**

The National Highways Project Manager for M2 Junction 5 Improvement works gave a verbal update on the progress of the works.

The Chair thanked the officer for the update and raised a concern that the A2 and rural lanes that accessed onto the A2 between Rainham and Faversham were in a poor state due to the volume of traffic going through them to avoid the road works on the M2, Junction 5. He asked if it was National Highways (NH) intention to help assist communities with the repairs to rural roads especially aiding local communities in the repair of pot-holes with any surplus materials they had from the project.

The NH Project Manager explained that it was not their responsibility to repair roads that were outside their jurisdiction. He added that the project was planned to include the amount of materials they needed so it was unlikely that any materials would be leftover. He said that although this was something that they would not be able to help with they were supporting Kent County Council (KCC) in any way that they could and discussions were on-going on how they could decrease the amount of traffic that was travelling through the rural lanes, rather than the designated diversion routes.

The Chair invited Members to make comments which included:

- The rat running was excessive, and some rural roads were becoming unusable;

- there was a lot of rubbish around the site and suggested there be regular litter picks to remove the rubbish from the site;
- why were the works taking such a long time, could the contractors not work 24/7 to complete the project quicker?;
- thanked the contractor for improving the signage for the new road layout;
- wanted NH to keep the Local Authorities informed of works so that other temporary works on the road could be planned to avoid further delays for road users;
- was there anything NH could do to enforce the 30 mph speed limit along Chestnut Street, Borden?; and
- repairs needed to be carried out on the pot-holes along the rural lanes sooner rather than later as the roads were becoming extremely dangerous for all road users.

In response, the NH Project Manager said that planned litter picks were scheduled as part of the project, but could only take place when the roads were closed for safety reasons. They would see if more could be done to keep on top of the rubbish on the site and the surrounding area. With regard to the time the project was taking he said that NH had to work in the most efficient and cost effective way as they were spending tax payers money, which meant that a 24/7 contract was not feasible. He added that NH were working with Kent Police on the speeding in Chestnut Street and enforcement was a matter for Kent Police. He assured Members that NH would support Kent Police however they could and that they had installed a temporary speed monitor to check the speed of traffic and they reported the findings back to the Police.

***Resolved:***

***(1) That the verbal update report from National Highways be noted.***

**724 Key Street/Grovehurst Road Roundabouts**

The Assistant Project Manager (KCC) gave an update on the proposed roundabouts at Key Street and Grovehurst Road, Sittingbourne.

The Chair invited Members to make comments on the Key Street roundabout, which included:

- Concerned that the diagram provided was outdated as it did not show the same layout as that shown in the beginning stages of the project;
- there was no longer a priority route for Sittingbourne traffic;
- the cycle lane was confusing;
- paragraph 3.4 of the report indicated that an existing footpath would be removed but the Parish Councils were not aware of this;
- paragraph 5.2 stated that the Parish Councils would be consulted but they had not been; and
- questioned why at paragraph 6.2 the Wises Lane, Sittingbourne Section 106 development money was not included?.

In response, the Assistant Project Manager (KCC) said, the plans and diagrams shown to the Board were the outline design of the scheme and that the detailed design plans would be shared in the future. She told Members that KCC were waiting for recent Planning development conditions to be discharged before detailed design works commenced. She confirmed that the detailed design would be shared with the Parish and Town Councils

and a communications plan was being developed to make sure all stakeholders were informed of the progress of the scheme.

A Member questioned whether the works at Grovehurst Road would start in May or July 2023 as the report included two different dates. Members also questioned the programme as it seemed very tight. In response, the Assistant Project Manager (KCC) explained that the construction start date was May 2023, however, there would be no works requiring traffic management until July 2023. She acknowledged that the programme was tight but assured the Board that it had been agreed within the tender package and the dates set-out in the report were those they would be working towards, in order to meet the funding deadline agreed with Homes England.

***Resolved:***

***(1) That the report be noted.***

**725 Developments and Planning**

The Chair invited comments from Members, which included:

- It was good to have the process on how decisions were made about developer funded highway improvements;
- concerned with the time lag on planning applications coming forward and the time it took for the highways proposals to be put in place;
- thought that KCC could do more to offer help towards Parishes;
- hoped that KCC Highways and Transportation and the Planning Authority could work together to prevent delays on the highways proposals on developments;
- something needed to be done to ensure that developers were carrying out what was required of them; and
- KCC Highways and Transportation and the Planning Authorities needed to work with developers to ensure that proper drawn to scale plans were submitted with planning applications so that Members were able to fully understand what was being proposed.

The Swale District Manager said that he would feedback Members' comments to the Transport & Development Planning Manager – East Kent.

**726 Highways Work Programme**

The Chair invited comments from Members.

Councillor Monique Bonney commented on the resurfacing works on the A2 London Road, Teynham and hoped that the works would be appropriately planned around the M2 Junction 5 Works.

Parish Councillor Jeff Tutt said that the works proposed on Canterbury Road (Boughton Hill) were actually in Dunkirk Parish rather than Boughton-Under-Blean and asked that this was updated.

Parish Councillor Peter MacDonald commented on SW/003108 Chequers Road, Minster, and said that the developer had installed the footway successfully. However, at the neighbouring development SW/003337, the developer had not continued the footpath.

Parish Councillor Peter MacDonald commented on SW/003423 The Slips, Scocles Road, Minster, and said that the developer had taken some of the hedge away which was not permitted and had placed a curb too far into the road which was causing traffic issues in Scocles Road.

Councillor Steve Davey commented on the drop-off facility at SW003117 North Street, Milton Regis and said that residents had concerns over the way the drop-off was being used as there was no parking restrictions and people were now parking on the grassed area. He asked if it was possible for KCC Highways and Transportation to give the residents an update on what they could do.

KCC Mike Dendor commented on the flood water management works at Snips Hill, Sittingbourne. The Swale District Manager agreed to look into the issue and update the Member.

KCC Mike Dendor commented on the new proposed roundabout junction at the Bobbing Apple, Bobbing and asked what the current situation was and if construction was still due to take place in summer 2023? The Swale District Manager agreed to look into the issue and update the Member.

Councillor Monique Bonney commented on the new Eurolink Way, Sittingbourne crossing by the Redrow developments and scrap metal yard. She asked if the issue of lorries parking on the road and causing serious issues for pedestrians and other road users had been addressed in the agreement. Several other Members expressed concerns with the safety of road users and the Chair agreed that KCC Highways and Transportation would need to bring a report back to the Board on this matter.

***Resolved:***

***(1) That the Highways Work Programme be noted.***

***(2) That a report on SW/003084 Eurolink Way, Sittingbourne be brought to the next meeting of the Swale JTB***

**727 Progress Update Report**

***Resolved:***

***(1) That the report be noted.***

**728 Letter from Department for Transport RE Junction 5 M2/A249 Highway Improvement Works**

***Resolved:***

***(1) That the letter be noted.***

**729 Active Travel update**

The Senior Programme Manager (Active Travel) introduced the report which provided an update on KCC's Active travel agenda.

**Resolved:**

**(1) That the report be noted.**

**730 Requests made by Councillors and Members of the Swale Joint Transportation Board**

**Resolved:**

**(1) That the report be noted.**

**731 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Swale JTB would be at 5.30 pm on Monday 26 June 2023 (subject to confirmation).

Chair

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All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel