

Minutes of the meeting of the **DOVER JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Thursday 22 September 2011 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor N J Collor

Councillors: B R Cope  
G Cowan  
J H Goodwin  
S C Manion  
M J Ovenden  
M A Russell  
J A Rook  
C J Smith  
J M Smith  
R S Walkden

Also Present: Mrs A R Smith (Dover Town Council)  
Mr P I Carter (Sandwich Town Council)  
Mr K Gowland (KALC)

Officers: Mr P Valek (KCC Highways & Transportation)  
Mr R Heaps (KCC Highways & Transportation)  
Mr A Burton (KCC Highways & Transportation)  
Highway and Parking Officer  
Corporate Estate and Coastal Engineer  
Democratic Support Officer

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors T A Bond, G J Hood and F J W Scales; Mr B A Scott (Sandwich Town Council); Mr B Henderson and Mrs M Burnham (Deal Town Council) and Mrs Sandra Hooper (KALC).

177 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that, in accordance with Rule 4 of the Council's Procedure Rules, Councillor M J Ovenden had been appointed as substitute Member for Councillor F J W Scales and Mr Paul Carter had been appointed as substitute Member for Mr B A Scott.

178 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 9 June 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

179 ENVIRONMENT, HIGHWAYS & WASTE POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (POSC)

The Board received the reports submitted to the Environment, Highways & Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (POSC) on 5 July 2011 and the minutes of the POSC meeting held on 8 April 2011.

RESOLVED: That the minutes and the reports be noted.

180 MATTERS ARISING FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS

The Board noted that there were no new issues arising from Neighbourhood Forums.

181 A256 GAP CLOSURE, TILMANSTONE

The Board received a report which outlined proposals regarding the complete closure of the gap at Dover Road, Tilmanstone. These had been drawn up following a recent fatal crash which had prompted Kent Police to issue an official statement to Kent County Council (KCC) requesting that the central reservation gap be closed to all traffic, including buses, in the interests of road safety. Interested parties had been consulted and, once their responses had been received, senior level discussions on appropriate action would take place.

Councillor S C Manion raised doubts that the road had been made safer, and expressed concerns about the impact that the withdrawal of the bus service would have on the villages affected. Traffic speeds along the road were very high, and it was his view that the proposal did not address the core issues. Mr Burton responded that the proposal did address safety issues, but acknowledged that there would be negative implications for the surrounding villages. Members suggested that traffic lights or a slip road would be better options as these would allow bus services to continue and help to slow traffic speeds.

RESOLVED: (a) That the report be noted.

- (b) That a submission be made to Kent County Council covering the following points: A256 road traffic speed; installation of traffic lights; construction of a slip road at Guilford/Studdal and comparative investigations with other authorities.

182 TRAFFIC SCHEMES 2011/12

Mr Heaps presented a report which detailed a number of traffic schemes that KCC proposed to implement during the current financial year, two of which were to be considered elsewhere on the agenda. These fell into three categories of crash remedial measures, Quality Bus Partnership (QBP) or other. Crash remedial measures sought to address problems at sites where there had been clusters of crashes, and the QBP schemes were designed to improve access and facilities. Councillor N J Collor advised that he would press for full consultation on the proposed routes for the River Dour Greenway Phase 2. In this regard, Mr Heaps advised that it was hoped to go out to consultation by the end of the year in order to ensure that Sustrans funding was not lost. In response to Councillor J H Goodwin, Mr Heaps undertook to investigate temporary traffic light problems at Frith Road, Dover.

RESOLVED: (a) That the report be noted.

- (b) That an update on the River Dour Greenway Phase 2 be given at the next meeting of the Dover Joint Transportation Board.

183 CRASH REMEDIAL SCHEME – A256 CRABBLE HILL AND LONDON ROAD, DOVER

The Board received a report which set out proposals to address a series of crashes that had occurred at the junction of Crabble Hill and Old Park Road.

RESOLVED: That consultation on, and implementation of, the proposals set out at Annex 1 of the report be proceeded with, subject to any objections received being reported back to the Dover Joint Transportation Board.

184 CRASH REMEDIAL SCHEME – A256 & A257 ROUNDABOUT, SANDWICH

Mr Heaps presented a report which outlined proposals that would address a series of crashes that had occurred at the roundabout situated at the junction between the A256 Sandwich Bypass and the A257 near Sandwich.

RESOLVED: That consultation on, and implementation of, the proposals set out at Annex 1 of the report be proceeded with, subject to any objections received being reported back to the Dover Joint Transportation Board.

185 PROPOSED LOADING RESTRICTIONS AND DISABLED PARKING BAY – HIGH STREET, DEAL

The Board received a report on proposals to introduce loading restrictions in Deal High Street and provide two new disabled parking bays. At its meeting held on 20 December 2010, the Board had considered a proposal to introduce loading restrictions in High Street, Stanhope Road and Kings Road, Deal and two new blue badge holder disabled bays in the High Street and Stanhope Road (Minute No 384). Following the Board's approval, the proposal was advertised and two objections were received. As a result, it had been decided not to proceed with the proposed disabled bay in Stanhope Road, and to align the times applying to the other disabled bay with those of existing bays in the town.

RESOLVED: (a) That the proposals regarding the blue badge bays, as outlined at Annex 2 of the report, be approved.

(b) That the Traffic Regulation Order relating to the blue badge parking bays and loading restrictions be approved.

(Councillor J A Rook declared a personal and prejudicial interest for the reason that her family owned a business in Deal High Street which would be affected by the proposal and withdrew from the Chamber during consideration of the item.)

186 WAITING RESTRICTIONS – PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Heaps presented a report which detailed the responses received to the public consultation undertaken in relation to the introduction or amendment of waiting restrictions at various locations in the district, the consultation proposal having been approved by the Board at its meeting held on 2 September 2010 (Minute No 176). 46 objections and comments on 17 locations had been received, as well as a

petition with 38 signatures in respect of one site. Some locations would need to be re-advertised as proper legal procedures had not been followed.

- RESOLVED: (a) That the proposals listed in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.6 and Annex 2 of the report be approved.
- (b) That the implementation of the schemes and the making of the requisite Traffic Regulation Order be proceeded with.

187 PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – SOUTH STREET, DEAL AND PENCESTER ROAD, DOVER

The Board received a report which outlined a proposal to provide additional taxi spaces in South Street, Deal in order to address problems caused by taxis waiting on double yellow lines when the number of taxis exceeded the allocated bays. The existing two-bay rank in Beach Street opposite the South Street junction would be removed as these were seldom used, with one to be converted into a pay and display bay. Similar schemes had shown themselves to be effective and self-regulating.

In respect of Pencester Road, Dover, the Highway and Parking Officer advised that a similar scheme had been considered by the Board at its meeting held on 7 June 2010 (Minute No 104). The new proposal involved the relocation of a seldom-used taxi rank outside the Post Office to a location adjacent to the doctor's surgery. It was also proposed that two limited waiting parking bays situated outside the car park would be replaced by disabled parking spaces. Two of the disabled parking bays in the car park would be replaced by ordinary parking bays. Councillor G Cowan objected to the withdrawal of the limited waiting bays outside the car park as this would remove the facility to park in Pencester Road for a limited time without charge. Members took the view that the existing disabled parking facilities in the street were adequate, and suggested that disabled on-street bays were less safe than those situated in a car park as drivers would be alighting near moving traffic.

- RESOLVED: (a) That the proposal detailed at Appendix A of the report be formally advertised and, in the event that no objections are received, be recommended for sealing by Kent County Council (with any objections being referred back to a future meeting of the Dover Joint Transportation Board for further consideration).
- (b) That the proposed taxi rank situated in front of the doctor's surgery be advertised.
- (c) That the proposed loading bay situated in front of the pay and display parking bay, in the space vacated by the removal of the existing taxi rank, be advertised.
- (d) That the proposed conversion of the two existing limited waiting bays to disabled parking bays along the frontage of the Pencester Road car park be rejected and the existing bays retained.

(In accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman agreed that the additional proposal on Pencester Road,

Dover, which was not detailed on the agenda, should be considered because it is considered expedient to progress the proposal before the next meeting of the Board.)

188 MEMBERS' FUNDED SCHEME – LOWER ROAD, RIVER

Mr Heaps presented a report which detailed a proposal for a one-way scheme in Lower Road, River. The same scheme had been considered by the Board at its meeting held on 21 April 2011 but, recognising concerns raised regarding traffic speed, the Board had recommended that further consultation be undertaken and the direction of traffic flow re-examined (Minute No 570). Subsequently, KCC officers had met members of River Parish Council and local residents on 31 May 2011, following which the Parish Council advised that it would withdraw funding if the original proposal was not implemented. In view of the Parish Council's position, KCC officers had decided that further public consultation should not be pursued. In response to Members' questions, the Board was advised that installing a temporary scheme could not be justified on financial grounds and, although traffic speeds were generally higher on one-way roads, Lower Road was heavily parked with an enclosed environment and it was therefore considered unlikely that traffic speeds would increase as a result of the new scheme. However, the operation of the scheme would be reviewed if there was an increase in complaints.

- RESOLVED: (a) That a one-way scheme flowing north west to south east between Minnis Lane and Common Lane, River be progressed and implemented.
- (b) That the East Kent Traffic Schemes team be requested to monitor parking concerns outside 92-96 Lower Road to ensure that the proposed scheme does not restrict access, with further parking restrictions to be progressed if necessary and subject to funding being available.

(Councillor B R Cope declared a personal interest for the reason that he was funding the proposed scheme.)

189 PETITION – MOUNT ROAD, DOVER

The Board received a report which dealt with a proposal to extend a section of double yellow lines at the junction of Mount Road and Maxton Road, Dover and the receipt of a petition. The proposal had been drawn up in response to a request by the bus company which had advised that parked cars were causing difficulties for the bus service. A petition with 39 signatures had subsequently been received, raising objections to the proposal and suggesting an alternative solution. Following a site visit, the proposal had been amended from an extension of 7 metres to 4 metres as it was considered that a 2-metre extension, as suggested by petitioners, would not be adequate. However, the Traffic Regulation Order would be made for 7 metres so that the lines could be extended in the event that problems continued. In response to Councillor R S Walkden, Mr Heaps advised that, whilst the removal of the kerbside railing would be investigated, the cost of removing the bank and widening the road was likely to be prohibitive.

- RESOLVED: That the proposed waiting restrictions, as set out at Annex 3 of the report, be re-advertised, with any objections received being reported back to the Dover Joint Transportation Board.

190 NEW STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS IN KENT HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Board was advised that, following strategic, legislative and budgetary changes, Kent Highway Services, now known as Kent Highways and Transportation (KHT), had been restructured. The new structure had come into effect on 1 July 2011, and highway stewards and statutory highway inspectors now replaced community liaison officers and highway inspectors.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

191 HIGHWAY WORKS PROGRAMME 2011/12

Mr Valek introduced a report on the Highway Works Programme for 2011/12 which set out the current position regarding the schemes that had been approved for construction during 2011/12. In respect of Appendix B3, the Board was advised that Kathryn Lewis, the new drainage manager, had been unable to attend the meeting but would attend the next one. Members were referred to the list circulated at the meeting which gave details of the 29 flood areas in Deal. Works on most of these areas were complete and works on the remainder would be carried out by the new drainage engineer. Mapping of the drainage network would be done as part of routine gully cleaning. Members were advised that specific details of drainage problems in other areas should be reported to KHT so that feedback could be given at the next Board meeting. In respect of the implementation of the Surface Water Management Act, the Board was advised that the Surface Water Management Committee had met the previous day and the outcome would be reported to the next Board meeting.

With reference to Appendices B2 and D3, it was agreed that updates would be given at the next Board meeting. Regarding D3, Councillor Cowan advised that he was looking at various schemes, including ones at Park Avenue and New Street, Dover, and the provision of dog bins and salt bins. Mr Valek advised that, of the £2.5 million allocated to the county for pot-hole/weather damage repairs, £220,000 had been spent in the district. In addition, roads in Lydden, Alkham, Nonington, Eastry, Whitfield, Eythorne, Dover and Deal had been or were due to be permanently resurfaced, utilising the additional £4 million allocated to Kent for surface treatment works.

RESOLVED: (a) That an update on the Buckland Avenue Footway Scheme and County Member Highway Fund Works be given at the next meeting of the Dover Joint Transportation Board.

(b) That the report be noted.

192 APPLICATIONS FOR DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING BAYS

The Highway and Parking Officer presented a report which detailed proposals for a permit parking scheme at Westcourt Lane, Shepherdswell, and the removal of five disabled parking bays which were no longer required by the original applicants who had moved house.

The Board had resolved at its meeting held on 9 June 2011 that the provision of a permit parking scheme be investigated since, if approved, applications for two

disabled parking bays in Westcourt Lane would increase the number of bays in the street beyond the 5% guideline recommended by KCC (Minute No 55). Local residents had subsequently been consulted and had indicated their support for the scheme which would be limited to the eight bungalows fronting the lay-by. Councillor G Cowan commented that consultation with the appropriate County and District Members would have been helpful. Members were advised that KCC was currently conducting a verification review of all blue badge holders. It was suggested that it would be timely for KCC to consider the effect of an ageing population on future demand for blue badges.

- RESOLVED: (a) That the proposal detailed in Item A and Appendix A2 of the report be formally advertised and, in the event that no objections are received, be recommended for sealing by Kent County Council (with any objections being referred back to a future meeting of the Dover Joint Transportation Board for further consideration).
- (b) That the five disabled parking bays detailed in Item B of the report be formally advertised with the intention to remove them and, in the event that no objections are received, be recommended for sealing by Kent County Council (with any objections being referred back to a future meeting of the Dover Joint Transportation Board for further consideration.)

The meeting ended at 7.38 pm.