
Swale Joint Transportation Board

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT on Monday, 4 December 2023 from 5.30 pm - 6.42 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Alastair Gould, Angela Harrison and Karen Watson.

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS: Mike Whiting Alastair Gould, Angela Harrison, Karen Watson and John Wright (Vice-Chair, in the Chair).

KENT ASSOCIATION of LOCAL COUNCILS: Peter MacDonald (Parish Councillor) and Jeff Tutt (Parish Councillor)

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Councillors Simon Clark (Chair) and Elliott Jayes.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Philippa Davies.

OFFICERS PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Alan Blackburn, Mike Knowles, Daniel Rollinson and Richard Shelton (KCC).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (VIRTUALLY): Councillor Dolley Wooster.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Simon Clark (Chair), Richard Palmer and Paul Stephen and Kent County Councillors Mike Baldock, Andy Booth, Antony Hook, Rich Lehmann, Richard Palmer and Paul Stephen.

473 **Vice-Chair in-the-Chair**

Councillor Simon Clark (Chair) had sent his apologies and was in attendance remotely. Kent County Councillor John Wright (Vice-Chair) took the chair for this meeting and would be referred to as 'Chair' for the remainder of these minutes.

474 **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

475 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2023 (Minute Nos. 331 – 342) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

476 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

477 **Public Session**

There were no registered speakers.

Part One Minutes for recommendation to Swale Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee

478 **Formal Objections to Traffic Regulation Order - Swale Amendment 48 2023**

The Seafront & Engineering Manager introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers.

Some Members spoke in favour of the recommendation. Parish Councillor Peter MacDonald asked that it be recorded that he had abstained from voting.

Recommended:

(1) That the report be noted and the proposed loading bay in Victoria Street, Sheerness, be abandoned.

Part Two Minutes for recommendation to Kent County Council's Cabinet

479 Conditions on developers and utility companies

Parish Councillor Peter MacDonald introduced this item and explained that he considered that the conditions imposed on developers and utility companies should be tightened. He spoke on the poor quality of work carried out by utility companies; that the companies often said their work was an emergency; and he suggested the timescale and quality of some of the work needed to be tightened up.

The Chair responded and said that the Kent County Council (KCC) Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways was looking into utility companies, specifically when they did works under the 'emergency' status, when it seemed not to be an emergency. The KCC District Manager (Swale) explained that the Cabinet Member had recently given a presentation to Parish Councils about this matter, and he assured the Board that this was currently being looked into. In response to a question, he explained that guarantees on work carried out was two years for shallow repairs and five years for deeper repairs.

A Member suggested that an update report be brought back to the March 2024 meeting on progress made with work by KCC in relation to utility companies. Another Member suggested that repair statistics also be included.

The KCC District Manager noted the comments and advised members of the Board that they could visit the One.Network site via KCC's website for information on all road works, countrywide.

Recommended:

(1) That an update report be provided for the March 2024 meeting on the works carried out by utility companies.

Part Three Minutes for Information

480 Verbal update from National Highways on the M2 Junction 5 Stockbury Works

Daniel Rollinson, National Highways M2 Junction 5 Project Manager, gave a verbal update on the M2 Junction 5 Stockbury Works, Sittingbourne.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- Welcomed the improved communications on social media;
- the aerial shots and maps were very useful;
- clarification sought on connectivity from west to south east and whether there was going to be an access route across the A249?;
- acknowledged and congratulated the team that work had continued at a good pace;
- raised concern with the traffic light system on the roundabout which caused queues; and
- there was a lack of signage to get into the correct lanes.

In response, the Project Manager said that the feasibility of a bridge had been looked into about one year ago, but there had not been enough support for it, from Stockbury, and proof was also needed that there was a need for it. He explained that traffic light phasing was constantly being reviewed and tweaked to give the best traffic flow. The Project Manager acknowledged the signage query, but explained that this had scored highly in a review and he noted that some issues were due to driver behaviour.

The Chair thanked the Project Manager for his update.

Resolved:

(1) That the verbal update be noted.

481 Verbal update from Kent County Council on the Grovehurst Road Junction works

Richard Shelton, Project Manager (Major Capital Programme Team, KCC) gave a verbal update on the Grovehurst Road Junction Works, Sittingbourne.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- Suggested this scheme adopted a similar media campaign and updates as on the previous agenda item;
- there was an issue with speeding vehicles;
- there were traffic issues from vehicles coming over the old Sheppey bridge into a single lane; and
- there needed to be a public meeting in advance of further work going ahead.

In response, the Project Manager explained that speed limits were being looked into, and he acknowledged the access issues from the old Sheppey bridge. He said that a meeting would be held in due course.

The Chair thanked the Project Manager for his update.

Resolved:

(2) That the verbal update be noted.

482 Highways Work Programme

The KCC District Manager (Swale) introduced the report as set out in the agenda

papers.

In response to some questions on some of the schemes, the KCC District Manager advised that the Parish Councillor could meet on site with the relevant officer.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

483 Progress Update Report

The KCC District Manager referred to the Eurolink update (727/02/23) and explained that a plan was available, and Members should contact him if they would like a copy. A Member advised that historically the KCC Regulations Committee might have some information on that site which could be beneficial.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

484 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Swale Joint Transportation Board would be at 5.30 pm on Monday 4 March 2024.

Chair

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