



Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross,
Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HIGHWAYS LIGHTING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14TH JANUARY 2020 AT 19:30
IN THE MARK CROSS COMMUNITY CENTRE, MARK CROSS, TN6 3PJ**

Cllr. A. Martin (Chair)

Cllr. J. Kitchenham (Vice Chair)

Cllr. R. Harris

Cllr. L. Henrick

Cllr. P. Kember

Cllr. A. Moore

Cllr. G. Watson-Smith

Cllr. N. Wickenden

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

Cllr. D. Hiles.

ALSO PRESENT

The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe, and two members of the public.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public forum.

It was established that the Parishioners present wished to discuss and comment on items 2iii and 2iv on the agenda and it was agreed that these would be dealt with at the beginning of section 2 of the agenda.

b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)

None.

c) Confirmation of the appointment of Cllr. Buck to this Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Buck be appointed as a member of this Committee, **CLERK** to update records.

d) Declaration of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda, and updates to members' register of interests.

- Cllr. Wickenden declared a personal interest in item 2iii as he lives next to Spout Hill.
- Cllr. Henrick declared a personal interest in item 2vi as she owns and farms the land over which the footpaths pass; Cllr. Martin also declared a personal interest as he is farm manager of the land.

Chair reminded the Councillors present that they should declare an interest at any point in the meeting should they become aware of one relating to an agenda item.

e) To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 12th November 2019 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The draft minutes had been circulated in advance to the Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** that they be adopted, and the chair signed them.

f) Budget report to date for this Committee and consider any actions required.

The report had been circulated in advance to the Councillors and had been examined by the Chair. It was **RESOLVED** that it be approved.

g) Report and updates regarding matters arising and actions from previous meetings.

- Lamp column by the "Old Bakery" - Now replaced by a new heritage style column.
- Grass "urban cut" and "Town Row" nameboards - Items on this agenda regarding these matters.
- Village nameplates - Jakk have been chased regarding these and the new the finger on

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the Danegate fingerpost.

2. TO CONSIDER INFORMATION AND MAKE DECISIONS ON ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURE AS REQUIRED REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

a) Suggestions and concerns raised by Parishioners and Councillors: -

i. Request for mirrors opposite the New Road Junction with Mayfield Road to improve safety.

Cllr. Henrick has tried to contact the owners of the property involved but has so far been unsuccessful. It is considered that, if permission is given, solidly constructed "Highways Standard" mirrors should be provided. **CLLR. HENRICK** to update Council when contact has been made, and the owner's views known, so that an agenda item can be featured to agree actions regarding the matter.

ii. Eridge Station parking/obstruction issues.

Clerk undertook a vehicle count on Thursday, 9th January around 10:00 with the following results:

Area	Number of vehicles
From A26 junction to the Forge Lane junction	28
Forge Road triangle	8
Forge Road triangle – by lane	0
From Forge Road junction past station to corner by the "Huntsman"	57
"Stump" of old A26 opposite the "Huntsman"	4
Opposite "Huntsman" to station car park entrance	10
Opposite "Huntsman" beyond station car park entrance	4
TOTAL	111
Car park (both sections) – 128 spaces available according to the "Southern" website.	59 spaces free

A nearby resident who had raised the issue submitted apologies that they were unable to attend this meeting.

- Clerk reported that none of the vehicles parked on the highway were creating an obstruction and there appeared to be adequate clearance should emergency vehicle access be required. At the time of the inspection no vehicles were parked at the Forge Lane entrance.
- Cllrs. Buck and Kember have volunteered to take this issue forward with Southern (train operator), and Network Rail, to seek solutions. A meeting with representatives of the rail organisations regarding parking in the roads surrounding the Station would be of benefit.
- Cllr. Kember reported that, at the recent meeting in Eridge regarding possible creation of an independent Eridge Parish, the perceived lack of activity to resolve this issue had been raised; he suggested that if the Parish Council purchased the car park and reduced the parking charge it would encourage usage and ease the roadside parking issue.
- It was noted that the Eridge parking charge is far lower than that of Crowborough (£2.90 daily compared to Crowborough's £4.75), also that the Eridge – London annual rail season ticket cost is far lower than that from Tunbridge Wells – London. (£3180 compared to Tunbridge Wells £4928).
- It was further noted that the Parish had campaigned for, and achieved in 2013, an extra 36 spaces in the car park and funded by Network Rail.
- Lack of enforcement on those parking illegally was also a major component of the issue.
- Based on comments recently made to the Clerk by a member of Network Rail staff repair/replacement of the footbridge is due to take place shortly; Although this will not initially feature disabled facilities the new/repared structure will be such that these can

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easily be added at a future date.

CLERK to research railway contacts so that a meeting may be arranged with Cllrs. Kember and Buck regarding this long standing issue.

iii. Dangerous parking at the bottom of Spout Hill and by the B2100 Junction with the High Street.

Dealt with as first item in Section 2 of the meeting. Comments had feature on Social Media regarding this location. A nearby resident summarised his views on this matter. They consider that the chevrons should be expanded to discourage drivers from “corner cutting”. This issue will be raised with East Sussex Highways at the forthcoming “Strengthening Local Relationships” meeting with the request that the chevrons being extended, or kerbing installed.

iv. Narrowness of pavement in Station Road.

Parishioner present had attended the meeting to convey thanks for the tidying work recently undertaken by the Council’s contractor on the verges and pavements in Station Road; this had greatly improved the condition for pedestrians using it. It was agreed that little could be done in respect of the mature tree that intrudes on to the pavement approximately mid way down the hill.

v. Speeding issues and possible resurrection of a Parishioner led “Speedwatch” Group.

Cllr. Kitchenham had been involved with the Group that operated in the Village from 2012 – 2016. He reported that 16 Parishioners had expressed an interest in the original scheme, this reduced to a “hardcore” of 7 who were trained in operating it and that when the scheme ceased this had further reduced to 3. In addition there were restrictions imposed by the Police as to the locations at which monitoring could be undertaken.

RESOLVED that **CLERK** to research and share details of the legality of displaying “30mph” stickers on local waste bins and cost of acquiring 100 for distribution to Villagers who were willing to display them.

CLLR. MOORE to please research interest via social media in forming a new “Speedwatch” group.

vi. Provision of dog stiles on the footpaths in the Hornshurst Road/Sherriff’s Lane area.

A parishioner has raised this issue regarding their dog walking routes. On the footpaths in question, 31a, 31b and 32a, there are a total of 14 stiles. Cllr. Henrick, as owner of the land, stated that she would not give permission for dog stiles to be installed. This is due to instances of her land being abused by those of using the paths by straying on to the fields, littering and dog fouling, also by an incidence two years ago of a dog attack on pregnant ewes.

RESOLVED not to progress with this suggestion.

b) Receive ESCC report regarding additional measures to discourage long vehicles passing through the Village and agree further action.

Report believed to have been published but a copy has yet been made available to the Council to enable comment.

c) Agree policy on the reporting and posting of details on social media regarding instances of dangerous and illegal parking.

Information from Adam Hardy to ensure that we comply with GDPR provisions had been circulated with key points as follow: -

- Photos of incidences should be taken on the Council camera and reports submitted to Operation Crackdown.
- If photos of vehicles are published identifying details should be redacted, and any details kept of a general nature regarding location and time.
- Councillors are welcome to submit reports in their own name and personal capacity, and taken on their personal devices, with general details sent to the Clerk.

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- Clerk to check with Adam Hardy if photos forwarded from private devices and then forwarded to Council devices and thence to the Council PC circumvent this requirement.
- Clerk to locate the “yellow cards” printed for Councillors to place on offending vehicles should they so wish and bring to the Monthly meeting.

d) Grass cutting arrangements for the forthcoming cutting season.

Paperwork has been completed and accepted by East Sussex Highways to allow a local contractor to undertake the “Urban Cut” of grass bordering roads in the Village retrospectively for 2019. A contribution from ESCC toward this of £739 is due shortly, an email has been circulated with details of arrangements for 2020 for which a reduced “offer” of £288 toward the work has been made. Although the deadline for accepting this has expired ESCC are happy to receive our decision no later than end of tomorrow.

RESOLVED that ESCC be advised that we will “self-deliver” the Cut for 2020/21, **CLERK** to advise them and note to contact our contractor when weather conditions are suitable for the cutting.

e) Location of “Town Row” signs on the B2100 Station Road and Catt’s Hill.

Sign in Station Road has been relocated so that it is no longer obscured by the corner warning sign. Progress report requested from ESCC regarding installation of the equivalent sign when approaching from Catt’s Hill as this is subject to issues with the location.

3. TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE.

Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 19:30 in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall.

4. REPORT DETAILS OF ITEMS AND ISSUES FOR INVESTIGATION, FURTHER ACTION OR FOR FUTURE AGENDA.

- Contractor to be requested to tidy leaves by first lamp column in Cottage Hill, correct PPE to be worn.
- Parking in North Street by entrance to Monastery Gardens. Mirror opposite are suggested to aid vehicles emerging, **CLERK** to add item to next agenda of this meeting. Vehicles are parking on the white access protection lines next to the entrance.
- Cllr. Kember enquired about responsibility for street cleaning, particularly of leaves which are a hazard to cyclists. Clerk advised that this was a Wealden District Council responsibility and recommended that specific areas of concern be reported to them via their website. Issues regarding blocked drains are an ESCC Highways responsibility and should be reported to them.
- Cllr. Martin reported the ESCC contractors had cleared the drains in Church Road although one was not accessible due to a parked vehicle. Some of the drains along South Street have also been dealt with but once again parked cars prevented some drains being dealt with. Drainage matters are to be discussed at the next Strengthening Local Relationships meeting.
- Cllr. Wickenden has visited Eridge Station with the artist who is painting the map mural of rail routes in the Parish and has discussed siting and material to be used. Item to be added to January meeting agenda to agree details and costs.
- Clerk reported that the restored direction fingers on the Stores have been reinstalled, also that the posts and rails surrounding “Johnson’s Pond” had been repaired/replaced.

.....Chair.....Date

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