



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

**MINUTES OF THE "VIRTUAL" MEETING OF THE  
HIGHWAYS LIGHTING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 19:30**

As permitted by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 this meeting was conducted online via "Zoom".

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Cllr. A. Martin (Chair)  
Cllr. J. Kitchenham (Vice Chair)  
Cllr. L. Buck

Cllr. L. Henrick  
Cllr. P. Kember  
Cllr. D. Hiles.

Cllr. R. Harris  
Cllr. A. Moore

**COUNCILLORS ABSENT**

None.

**ALSO PRESENT**

The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe, Adam Hardy, (Administrative Support) and two Parishioners.

**1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -**

- a) **Public forum.**  
None.
- b) **Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)**  
None.
- c) **Declaration of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda, and updates to members' register of interests.**  
None declared. Chair reminded councillors that they should declare an interest if, at any point in the meeting, they became aware of an interest in a matter being discussed.
- d) **To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 21st July 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**  
It was **RESOLVED** that these be adopted and signed as a true record of the meeting, and they were signed the Chair.
- e) **Budget report to date for this Committee and consider any actions required.**  
Budget report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Chair noted that there was a minor correction required relating to entries for Speed Indication Device costs. He will provide the Clerk with details so that these may be dealt with.
- f) **Report and updates regarding matters arising and actions from, previous meetings**

**26th May 2020 meeting.**

**Eridge Station Parking Survey.**

The East Sussex Highways Community Team have been contacted to establish whether they are now able to investigate and report on this – a "socially distanced" site meeting has been suggested to them.

**Reconfiguration of North Street/High St. junction.**

The Parish Council have now paid the survey fee for this and the report is anticipated in around six weeks.

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### **Footway at the bottom of Rotherfield Hill B2100.**

From conversations with our ESCC Councillor it appears that there is little likelihood of any funds from County to support this. Cllr. Kember has offered to host a site meeting to consider the future direction of the project. **Cllr. Kember** to please advise date and time for Councillors to meet at the Milk Lodge layby so that Councillors can be informed. **CLERK** to share the 2016 feasibility study report with the Councillors.

### **Dog bins in Horsegrove Lane and Mark Cross, junction of Brickyard Lane and A267.**

Both bins installed and in use.

### **21st July 2020 meeting**

#### **Long Vehicles**

Cllr. Martin reported that he has spoken to the manager of the local Tesco who has promised to pass our concerns on to their transport department. Their lorries are generally avoiding the Village but unfortunately those from "Arla" continue to pass through on a daily basis. Other than continuing to report incidents it is not clear what more can be done without visible and effective enforcement.

#### **Speed Awareness measures for Village entry points**

Once again, the Highways Community Team are dealing with this, and the Clerk has suggested to them that a socially distanced site meeting be held to progress this.

#### **Highways are able to host "Virtual" SLR meetings and Clerk recommends that we ask for one to be arranged.**

Highways are happy to run these on a "virtual" basis.

#### **Parking area under the Rec. bank opposite Highgate Flats**

Cllr. Harris' report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. His view is that, as residents are already using this as a parking area, there would be little benefit in officially taking the site over via a licence from ESCC. The layby section is in reasonable condition and the presence of an electricity supply pole would reduce the scope for extending the parking. Recommends that some tidying up the grass and hedges and some minor filling of the surface would be sufficient to encourage further use. Cllr. Buck has spoken to the School who advised that the introduction of staggered "pick up" times had improved the traffic situation at the end of the school day. The parents and governors had offered to assist with improvement works. It was agreed that Cllrs. Harris and Martin are to inspect the site to see what would be involved in improving this area, and report.

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

### **a) B2100 Rotherfield Hill. Speed limit concerns arising from recent accident and resident's suggestion for changes to the speed limit in this location.**

Local resident involved with this incident hopes to be present "virtually". Stats from "SID" for both directions in this location, at which National Limit of 60mph applies, are in the team folder for this meeting.

Standing orders were suspended to allow a resident from the area to address the meeting. They had been involved with an accident whereby they were emerging on to the B2100 from their drive and their vehicle was hit by a fast moving van. The Council's speed monitoring device has been placed near this location to record vehicle speeds in each direction. The resident's suggestion was that the Crowborough bound de-restriction sign be moved further down the hill toward the current bend warning sign or, alternatively, that the 40mph limit be extended to cover the entire length of road from the end of 30mph limit leaving Rotherfield to the start of the 30mph limit at the junction with Tubwell Lane, Jarvis Brook. Chair outlined the processes that the Council had followed regarding reducing speed limits on the B2100 Catts' Hill and B21010 High Cross. Local campaigning was important in encouraging change and Cllr. Kember suggested that a local petition be organised; he would be willing to arrange this,

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and Cllr. Moore offered to assist with this. Cllr. Kitchenham also suggested that “knocking on doors” is a more effective means of gathering signatures. Cllr. Buck also suggested that this should feature in the forthcoming Parish Newsletter.

**RESOLVED** that Cllrs. Kember and Moore, with the assistance of Cllr. Kitchenham, are to organise a petition in the name of residents to encourage East Sussex Highways in reducing the speed limit on Rotherfield Hill.

**b) Concerns raised by Trull’s Hatch resident regarding A267 vehicle speeds.**

Chair of the residents association addressed the meeting. A fatality occurred here in May 2017 and a pedestrian fatality nearby in May 2011. There are a number of exits on to the A267 which at this location is subject to a 60mph speed limit. The Trull’s Hatch side of the A267 falls within Mayfield Parish Councils jurisdiction and they will be made aware of the continuing concerns regarding these issues.

Cllr. Harris suggested that Sussex Police and the PCCC be made aware of the issues, which include speeding motorcycles at weekends, and that they be requested to conduct speed checks at this location. The residents did raise a petition after the 2017 fatality and contacted both ESCC and the local MP but to no avail.

**CLERK** to make Mayfield Parish Council of these concerns and pass their contact details on to the Trull’s Hatch residents.

**ACTIONS REQUIRED**

- Pass Mayfield Parish Council details on to the Trull’s Hatch residents.
- Investigate cost of arranging speed monitoring at this location.
- Contact Sussex Police to share these concerns.

**c) Christmas Lights in the Parish – agreement of arrangements for setting up, “light up” and expenditure.**

Cllrs. Harris and Glynn have been dealing with this. Trees have been reserved and 17 signed consents have been returned in respect of installing lights and trees to Village properties. A meeting is being arranged for Monday 28th with the contractor who installs the lighting to discuss installation and a possible increase in the area of the Village centre to be covered.

A meeting is still to be held as per August PCM minutes to discuss Christmas light plans for Mark Cross. Clerk reported that he had suggested that the Mark Cross Ward Councillors arrange to meet with the Mark Cross Community Centre, and that he would arrange the meeting, but no response had been received. This meeting considered that the additional lighting should be contained within the “30mph” Village centre by the School, Church and Millennium Green.

**RESOLVED** that the **CLERK** to contact the Centre and ask them for their plans/ proposals for Christmas lights.

**d) Streetlight safety inspection – receive report and consider actions required.**

Report from “Cabletest” has been received. Three “Category 2 – medium to high risk” columns were identified requiring attention within a maximum of 24 weeks” and these are as follows: -

- Unit 69 Hornshurst Road.
- Unit 61 outside “Burwood” - B2101 junction with Sherriff’s Lane.
- Unit 58 Yew Tree Lane by Cuckoo Line Stores car park.

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Column 34 in Catts Hill is a new column installed around three years ago after damage to its predecessor. Due to concerns at the cost quoted by ESCC for transferring the power supply a short distance from the old column it has yet to illuminate. Cabletest have offered to quote for the work and may be cheaper than the approximate £1600 figure quoted by ESCC.

**RESOLVED** that **CLERK** obtains quotes from ESCC for the work required to repair/replace these three columns, and a quote from "Cabletest" to reconnect Column 34; **CLERK** to add an item to the October Council meeting agenda to consider the quotes.

e) **Suggestion from a resident for improvements to the "Twitten" (footpath Fp31a) to make access easier for those with mobility issues.**

Cllr. Kitchenham has investigated and photographed the area. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Henrick contact the Millennium Green with the Council's suggestions for this location that could improve access for those with mobility issues whilst not compromising the security of the area in which the cattle graze. The ESCC rights of way team to be informed of proposals once arrangements have been agreed with the Green.

f) **Annual review of litter picking and street sweeping arrangements and rates.**

Hourly rate is currently £13.36 for 8 hours per week with extra hours worked on an "as and when" basis. Clerk has approached him and his deputy regarding taking over the responsibility for the weekly play area check, this as agreed at the previous Council Meeting. He is willing to do this subject to training and a disclaimer regarding issues arising as requested at the August Council meeting. Cllr. Harris expressed the view that this should remain the responsibility of the Councillors. **CLERK** to add item to the agenda of the forthcoming Recreation and Burial Committee meeting to agree terms and boundary of street sweeping, these to be reviewed by the Highways Committee prior to the Recreation and Burial Committee meeting. **RESOLVED** that the hourly rate remains unchanged.

g) **Purchase of new laptop for use with the Speed Indicating Device (SID).**

Current laptop is becoming unreliable and requires replacement. Adam Hardy estimates a laptop configured to deal with capturing and analysing of information from SID will cost in the region of £500. **RESOLVED** that a new laptop be purchased and funded from the Highways 4210 capital costs centres.

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

10th November 2020 at 19:30 – venue details to be confirmed. This meeting will agree the Precept and Budget figures for 2021 – 22.

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

- **CLERK** to liaise with ESCC Highways to arrange a "virtual" Strengthening Local Relationships meeting to discuss highways issues.
- Request from a member of the local horse-riding community that, due to the six month closure of Byway 45c, they would like ESCC to suspend the winter closure of byway 68 to allow riders vehicle free access between Blackdon Hill and Redgate Mill. Decision to leave open would rest with ESCC and it is understood that the route is closed over the winter due to use by 4 x 4 vehicles which damaged the right of way and neighbouring land. Clerk will encourage riders to contact ESCC directly regarding their request and also advise them that the Parish Council would not support the wish for the byway to remain open during the winter.
- Concerns raised locally regarding the currently closed Mark Cross Inn and possible loss of "school drop off" parking. Clerk advised that an item will feature on the next Planning and Building Committee meeting regarding possible designation as an "Asset of Community Value".

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- Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:00

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

Draft minutes subject to confirmatio and adoption as a true record

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