



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 TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2021 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. J. Kitchenham – Chair.
Cllr. K. Rignall – Vice Chair.
Cllr. L. Buck.

Cllr. R. Harris
Cllr. L. Henrick
Cllr. P. Kember

Cllr. A. Martin
Cllr. A. Moore
Cllr. G. Watson-Smith.
Cllr. N. Wickenden

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None

ALSO PRESENT

The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe, and Administrative Assistant Adam Hardy.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public forum.

No members of the public were present.

b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)

None. All members of the Committee were present.

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

Cllr. Harris declared a personal and pecuniary interest in respect of item 2b) iii as he owns and farms land adjacent to the Lane. Councillors were reminded that they should declare an interest at any point in the meeting if they became aware of one.

d) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 10th November 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Copies had been made available to the Councillors in advance of the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that these minutes be adopted as a true record and signed when circumstances permit.

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

Budget and nominal ledger report had been made available to the Councillors in advance of the meeting and it was **RESOLVED** that these be approved.

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

Items considered at the 10th November meeting of this Committee.

2a) Speeding issues on B2100 Rotherfield Hill. Cllr. Standley presented the petition regarding this to the 1st December meeting of the ESCC; a response is awaited.

2c) "Urban Cut". Clerk has spoken with the Contractor who undertook this last year. He is willing to undertake this work again and has been asked to provide the paperwork required by ESCC in this connection so that matters may progress, and their financial contribution made.

2d) Eridge Station. A feasibility study is to be undertaken by ESCC at this Council's request to consider various improvements to parking and accessibility issues; creation of "Blue

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Badge” bays at the front of the station will form part of the study. The documents relating to the study have been submitted to East Sussex Highways who indicate a lead time of 4 – 6 weeks for the report.

- 2e) “Station Partnership” for Eridge Station – an item appears on this agenda to consider information regarding this to enable a decision.
- 2f) North Street junction reconfiguring. An item is on this agenda for updating and agreeing further action.

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

a) Eridge Station

i. Consider contribution from the Council to support the refurbishment and reopening of the waiting room.

A sum of £500 has been proposed for contributing toward furniture for the “main line” waiting room which has been closed for a number of years; a plaque acknowledging a Council contribution is suggested for installation should the contribution be agreed. The funding for the main refurbishment of this building has come from the Passenger Benefit Fund set up by “Southern” – the rail operating company. The Community Rail Development Officer for the Uckfield Line, who is based at the Station, was successful in an application to the scheme. It is intended that the refurbished building will be a “Community Space” as well as a waiting room.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council contribute a £500 grant toward furnishing in the refurbished waiting/community room. **CLERK** to liaise with the Community Rail Development Officer regarding payment of the grant.

ii. Consider benefits of participating in the “Station Partnership” scheme.

Adam has reviewed what this would involve for the Council. The Scheme does not cost anything directly to join, the main condition is completion of a detailed Risk Assessment by the Council. This will involve visiting the station and addressing all possible issues regarding minor project we might like to take on such as providing/maintaining flower boxes on the platform. A document relating to the Scheme may be viewed in the shared folder for this meeting; The submission to join the scheme must detail enhancements suggested by the partner organisation and it was suggested that the mural, soon to be installed on behalf of the Council, be mentioned as example of the Council’s wish to be involved with improving the station and its surroundings.

RESOLVED that the Council are to apply to join the Station Partnership scheme; Cllr. Harris has offered to deal with the risk assessment required.

b) Rights of Way matters.

i. By-way 77 at Danegate. Motorcycle issues.

Clerk suggested that it is attempted to get this route “downgraded” from current byway status so that motorised vehicles cannot access it. It is recommended that a list of rights of way issues be compiled and site meetings arranged with ESCC rights of way officers once the situation with Covid has eased such as to permit these.

ii. Stile on 34a near Bletchinglye Lane.

This, together with other issues in the area, has been reported to the Rights of Way team for attention.

iii. Chant Lane surface and Motorcycle issues.

As with BW77 it is suggest that it is attempted to get this route “downgraded” from current byway status so that motorised vehicles cannot access it .

iv. Surface condition of the Fp31a St Cheron path at the New Road end.

This has been reported to the rights of way team for investigation and action.

- Concerns were again raised regarding the slip hazard created by the poor surface condition on the slope on a section of fp22a/22b running from Court Meadow toward the golf course. It is understood that ESCC are planning to install steps on the slope and, last year, they undertook clearance work on along the route.

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- Cllr. Rignall considered that, in its current state, this path represented a hazard to users who risked slipping into barbed wire fencing.
- It was agreed that, although the Parish Council had no liability for the path, a laminated sign is to be installed at each end, also for a note to be added on our social media to warn of surface conditions. **CLERK/ADAM** to arrange.
- Cllr. Henrick asked for fp32a by the old railway bridge near to Sheriff's Lane to be investigated by Rights of Way for flooding and surface damage. **CLERK** to report
- Cllr. Watson Smith reported that an "official" ESCC sign had recently been installed on byway 77 near Danegate to warn motorcycle users to be aware of walkers and horse riders on the route; **CLERK** to request installation of similar signs in Chant Lane where motorcycles also create a hazard to other users.

c) Highways and Lighting matters

North Street junction reconfiguration proposal

- Cllr. Kember reported that the resident who raised this issue has offered to obtain quotes for implementing the simplified scheme he suggests, this as opposed to the more complex and expensive scheme detailed in the ESCC feasibility study.
- The resident seeks "in principal" support of his proposal by the Council so that he can obtain quotes for his suggested scheme for further consideration.
- Councillors expressed concerns that restricting the width of the junction at this point would add to the traffic issues already experienced in the centre of the Village.
- Cllr. Buck declared a personal interest in this item as a resident of Monastery Gardens. She also commented on the proposal and considered that restricting the width at this point would add to congestion problems in the Village centre, particularly at "school time".
- Cllr. Martin suggested that the lack of a site meeting ESCC officers had led to their report not addressing the issue fully.
- Cllr. Henrick also commented that the proposal would add to traffic issues and, until traffic levels returned to normal levels, the proposal could not be tested.
- Cllr. Kitchenham agreed with the siting and installation of the pedestrian crossing but could not see how narrowing of the carriageway would help traffic matters.
- Cllr. Rignall agreed with the concerns raised regarding the proposal and commented that the traffic cones currently sited at the junction were unsightly, although it was acknowledged that they served the purpose of discouraging parking.

RESOLVED that the scheme be held in abeyance until traffic levels return to normal levels. A site meeting with Highways Officers will then be arranged to consider other options for this site. Clerk to contact the Parishioner who raised the issue to report the outcome and note to review in six months.

d) Review and confirm "Urban Cut" arrangements for village verges for 2021 – 22

The official map from ESSC was shared; Councillors to please contact Clerk if they identify any verges or other public land requiring additional cutting so that Clerk may arrange with the appropriate contractors.

e) Condition of the "unadopted" section of New Road

- Cllr. Wickenden explained that heavy rain washes debris from the surface of the central area of this road down into the "bell mouth" at the Station Road junction. This creates a skid hazard and blocks the drains.
- Over the years there have been changes to drainage arrangements by some of the properties in New Road and these have added to this problem.
- It is considered that the Environment Agency should be contacted to make them aware of the "run off" issue. Councillors have in the past cleared this debris but are not prepared to continue undertaking this

CLERK to contact the Environment Agency and request that action be taken, also pointing out to them that Councillors are no longer prepared to deal with the run off debris.

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f) Licencing of the “parking area” by the bank opposite Highgate Flats to the Parish Council so that the surface conditions may be improved.

Cllrs. Harris and Martin have inspected the area and suggest that, after a Licence has been granted from East Sussex Highways, the following work could be undertaken on this area of approximately 120m in length. Parts of it have been surfaced to varying degrees and some areas remain as mud. The following work is proposed.

- Kerbing to be installed.
- Soil would be removed, a layer of “Terram” sheeting would then be laid with a further layer of “Type 1” to finish.
- Protection would be required for the electricity post, street lamp and road signs in this area.

Three quotes are to be obtained for consideration at a future meeting; a licence from ESCC Highways will be required should the scheme progress. **CLERK** to issue three invitations to tender for this work. Cllr. Harris or Martin will meet the contractors selected “on site” to discuss our requirements.

g) Streetlight issues.

A recent independent inspection report identified lamp columns requiring replacement as detailed below:-

- Column 69 in Hornshurst Road - £1730.37.
- Column 58 in Yew Tree Lane - £1683.08.
- Column 21 on the B2101 outside “Burwood” – currently this is leaning. ESCC are to investigate whether it can be restored to upright, rather than replaced. If restoring to upright is possible it will be at a cost of £1533.44; if replacement is required, this will be at a cost of £2352.47.
- All prices subject to reclaimable VAT.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the above quotes, replacement columns to be unpainted, **CLERK** to advise ESCC. The suggestion from ESCC that the column at the Sheriff’s Lane Junction, which is showing wear but remains safe, could also be replaced was not taken up.

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

Tuesday March 2nd at 19:30 via “Zoom” unless circumstances have changed.

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

- Cllr. Henrick. Report from the Surgery of a cable coming loose from its fixture to a soffit. Cllr. Henrick has inspected the location and Cllr. Martin has offered to tidy and fix the cables. As he will need to use a ladder a volunteer is sought to assist him.
- Surgery gutters were noted as being full of leaves, Clerk has asked James Valentine to clear them. Cllr. Watson Smith is to investigate cost of installing “brushes” in the guttering to enable easy clearance and report findings to the Clerk.
- Cllr. Watson Smith informed the meeting that Hornshurst Woods are very popular with dog walkers and families and that the signage installed to warn of pedestrians in the road were wrongly sited to be effective. Clerk requested that details of where would like them to be relocated be provided to him so that he may raise the issue with Highways.
- Cllr. Buck raised concerns that many pedestrians are using Eridge Lane to reach the recently opened café. Cllr. Martin will investigate cost of purchasing and installing “pedestrians in the carriageway” warning signs.
- Chair has provided requested that “thank you” letters be issued on behalf of the Council to those who allowed Christmas Lights to be attached to their properties, also to those involved with the installation. **CLERK** to action.
- Clerk to investigate if the Council are currently a member of Airs (Action in Rural Sussex). Membership would provide access to advice, legal and other support regarding public buildings, specifically the Memorial Institute. Membership would cost £144. If thought worthwhile the membership fee could be authorised under delegated spending powers.
- Adam has seen social media reports of increased Police presence and stopping of vehicles to check reasons for those travelling between communities during “Covid” Lockdown.
- Adam reported that a request had been sought for the transcript of discussions regarding an item featured at the recent Planning and Building Committee meeting. Clerk confirmed that

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meeting notes and recordings are destroyed/deleted once meeting minutes have been approved at the following meeting.

- Clerk reported that our street sweeper has recently been tested for Covid and found to be negative, his wife is currently recovering from having the virus. He enquired if we wished him to resume litter picking and sweeping duties and It was confirmed that the Council wished him to resume his duties on a socially distance basis if he is happy to do so.
- Cllr. Buck advised that the Covid warning signs attached to the playground equipment were no longer in place. Clerk advised that it was difficult to secure the signs and that many could have been removed by the wind and rain. He will print and laminate more and visit the Village to install them.

The Committee Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:15

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