



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

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, INCORPORATING BUSINESS
OF THE HIGHWAYS, LIGHTING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE,
HELD ON TUESDAY 20th JULY 2021 AT 19:30
IN THE MARK CROSS COMMUNITY CENTRE, TN6 3PJ**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. J. Kitchenham (Committee Chair)	Cllr. L. Henrick (Council Vice Chair)	Cllr. L. Buck
Cllr. A. Martin (Committee Vice Chair)	Cllr. J. Cahan	Cllr. J. Richardson
Cllr. R. Harris (Council Chair)	Cllr. P. Kember	Cllr. N. Wickenden

ALSO PRESENT:

Parish Clerk Trevor Thorpe, Deputy Clerk Adam Hardy, three candidates
for co-option to the Council and one member of the public.

ABSENT

Cllr. Hiles.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public forum.

The Parishioner who suggested changes at the North Street/High Street junction addressed the meeting; Six months has elapsed since he had raised the issue. He stressed that his suggestions were to improve the area for the benefit of pedestrians not vehicles. Cllr. Kember commented that the Council had commissioned a feasibility study from ESCC, and their report had largely ignored his suggestions and those of the Councillors who had attended a site meeting regarding the junction. He also commented that a 1991 traffic study commissioned by the Parish of the site had reached largely the same conclusions as the more recent survey - that altering the junction would be beneficial. It was **AGREED** that Councillors would hold a site meeting with ESCC Officers and the parishioner during the school holiday period with a view to moving the project forward so that works could take place during the 2022 school holidays should they be agreed..

b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85).

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllrs. Glynn and Watson-Smith and it was resolved that their reasons be approved.

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

None. Chair reminded the Councillors present that they should declare an interest at any point of the meeting if they became aware of one in connection with an item being discussed.

d) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of the Highways, Lighting and Transport Committee held on 25th May 2021 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record and that they be signed at the next meeting of the Committee.

At this point the Council Chair took over the meeting from Cllr. Kitchenham so that item g) regarding co-option could be dealt with.

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The three candidates were each given the opportunity to address the meeting with their reasons for wishing to join the Council and to give details of any personal skills and interests that would help and support the Community. The other two candidates left the room whilst this took place.

All candidates then left the meeting whilst a paper ballot was undertaken from which Paul Beach was the successful candidate. Chair thanked the other candidates for their interest in joining the council and hope that, if vacancies arose in the future, they would apply again. Cllr. Beach signed his declaration of acceptance of office form and the clerk witnessed this. He will complete and return the register of interests document. **DEPUTY CLERK** to please email scanned copy of the completed document to the Democratic Services team at Wealden District Council.

Cllr. Harris stood down from the Chair at this point and Cllr. Kitchenham resumed the meeting.

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

Due to IT failure clerk was unable to produce this report.

ii. Merging of Santander bank accounts.

Council currently have Santander current account - £9,248.89cr and deposit account of £77,501.63cr. Clerk recommends that the current account is closed, the balance merged with the deposit account and sufficient funds transferred to Unity to reduce the Santander Balances to below the £84K covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

RESOLVED to proceed with this. **CLERK** to draft letter to Santander for completion by three authorised signatories to authorise this.

iii. Authorisation of payments.

- It was **RESOLVED** to authorise payment to Chris Croft of £1031.94 in respect of painting the play equipment prior to the installation of the new items.
- It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to an inspection by Cllrs. Wickenden and Harris and confirmation that they are satisfied with the work, that payment of £30392.65 (including recoverable VAT) be authorised to Proludic for supply and installation of the new play equipment. Funds to come from those held in the Community Infrastructure levy earmarked reserve and payment made at the August Council meeting as the invoice allows this.

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

- Spa Valley Railway – letter to various bodies re: bridge strikes – Still work in progress.
- Long vehicle issues – Councillors who had attended the recent site meeting reported that ESCC consider that placing bollards at the A267/B2100 junction at Mark Cross could discourage large vehicles using this route but with due regard that buses use the route. It is understood that ESCC funds may be available for this.
- Village Gateway – ESCC propose taking a report on Community Match funding to Lead Member for Transport & Environment in September/ October 2021. That report will seek approval for schemes including the one at Rotherfield - this is a separate scheme to the speed limit changes requested further down the hill toward Crowborough.
- B2100 speed limit extension – item on this agenda.

g) Consider candidates for Co-option to the Council to fill the current vacancy.

Dealt with above item d) above.

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

a) Rights of Way matters requiring action

Cllr. Hiles was not at the meeting to provide further information regarding the popular “unofficial” footpath near the old railway line in the Sheriff’s Lane area. Cllr. Wickenden considered it unlikely that the route would ever be given official status.

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b) Highways and Lighting matters

i. Eridge Station.

- **Agree wording of sign for the grass triangle.**
This is already in place.
- **Confirm participation in the “Station Partnership” scheme.**
Chair has signed the document and clerk will deliver it to the SSCRP officer for the Uckfield line.
- **Consider attendance at the Tuesday 3rd August event at the Station.**
Several Councillors indicated that they hoped to attend this event to celebrate the station's 157th Birthday and view the upgrades it has benefited from over the past year.

ii. Prioritisation of Highways Committee projects.

- **Changes to the junction of North Street/High Street.**
See comments and actions agreed under item 1a).
- **Speed awareness measures and speed limit changes on the B2100 Rotherfield Hill.**
It was agreed at this stage that a further survey, funded by the Council, would not be commissioned. It was **RESOLVED** that Clerk contact ESCC Highways to request removal of the two trees in their ownership that are considered to add to the hazard of this location, also that BT Openreach be requested to relocate the telephone pole further away from the verge.

Cllr. Kember is working with the residents who raised the initial concerns to influence ESCC to extend the speed limit as the recent petition requested. He clarified that he was acting in his personal capacity with regard to this and not in his role as a Councillor.
- **Improvements and extension to the parking area in Eridge Lane by the recreation ground bank.**
ESCC advise that they need detailed plans of what is proposed by the Council so that the possible impact on drainage and gullies can be identified. **RESOLVED** that Cllrs. Harris and Martin to obtain these and that expenditure of up to £500 be authorised for this.

iii. Other Highways matters

- **Drainage issues creating flooding in village properties and debris on Parish roads.**
Recent heavy rain has highlighted areas of Rotherfield village that experience flooding and ESCC have been requested to undertake a site visit with Councillors to identify these areas. It was **RESOLVED** that these details of specific sites to be forwarded to Cllr. Kember who will draft a letter regarding this and other highway issues of concern to the Parish. It is hoped that the letter will be ready in time for the July Parish Council Meeting at which it can be passed to Cllr. Standley; a copy will also be passed to the ESCC Lead member for Transport and Environment; Cllr. Claire Dowling. **CLERK** is to follow up request made to ESCC regarding drainage plans in the New Road/Horsegrove Lane/Twitten area.
- **Parking issues on B2100 Station Road.**
Contractors have been parking on the pavement here and creating a hazard to pedestrians, particularly at school times.
- **Impact on village HGV traffic created by temporary closure of Walshes Road in Crowborough.**
From July 26th water main replacement will be undertaken with an estimated 12 week duration in three stages. This was noted and, whilst concerns were expressed that this would increase the number of large vehicles passing through the Parish, it was considered that there was no alternative as this work was essential.

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iv. **Parish Christmas lights arrangements and licencing.**

The installation company have confirmed that they are happy to install for us this year, the tenth anniversary of Rotherfield Christmas lights. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with organising this.

- **CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK** to liaise with installers regarding suggested dates for agreement; once these have been determined licences are to be obtained from ESCC, also permissions from property owners who have in the past allowed anchor points to be fixed to their properties.
- Mark Cross Community Centre have requested 10 further sets of solar “fairy lights” and lights for the tree in the Community Centre at a total cost of £294.89 plus VAT. After discussing the option of providing a “centre piece” arrangement outside the Community Centre as an alternative it was **RESOLVED** that their request be agreed. **CLERK** to arrange purchase from PowerBee. Cllr. Martin wished it noted that he objected to the request and expenditure.

c) **Recreation and Burial Committee matters.**

i. **Pre School; Confirm arrangements and costs for creating a vegetable garden.**

It was **RESOLVED** that £1500 expenditure from the Recreation and Burial budget be approved for this, Cllr. Buck to make arrangements with the contractor.

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

- 21st September 2021 at 19:30 in Mark Cross Community Centre.

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

- Cllr. Henrick reported that Rotherfield St Martin may not need to vacate the Institute to allow repairs as checks have confirmed that the electrics are safe.
- Clerk is to enquire if the proposal to install internet access to Eridge Village Hall is progressing.
- Cllr. Martin reported that the “Speedwatch” team were now active. He also enquired if there was a volunteer to take over his SID and CCTV duties.
- Cllr. Buck reported that the St. Denys’ Friday clearing group will be meeting at 17:00 on the 23rd.
- Mark Cross Community Centre WiFi issues. Deputy Clerk suggested that Computer Studio be engaged to investigate and remedy these issues; he considers that £250 would cover the cost of the work required.

Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:40.

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

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