



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

**MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS LIGHTING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd MAY 2022 AT 19:30
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL, TN6 3LX**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. A. Martin (Committee Vice Chair). Cllr. R. Harris Cllr. N. Wickenden.
Cllr. P. Beach Cllr. P. Kember

ALSO PRESENT:

Parish Clerk, Adam Hardy, Deputy Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe and two Parishioners in connection with item vi) on this agenda, and other speeding concerns.

ABSENT

None.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public forum.

This was dealt with in conjunction with item vi on this agenda

b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs. Kitchenham and Watson – Smith and It was **RESOLVED** that the reasons for their absences be approved.

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

None declared. The 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. Councillors who are receiving payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Council are reminded to declare a personal and pecuniary interest. Cllr. Martin declared a personal interest regarding the agenda item regarding traffic speed reduction measures as he is a member of the Speedwatch team.

Cllr. Henrick joined the meeting at this point.

d) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 1st March 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

These had been circulated to the Councillors in advance of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that they be adopted as a true record, and they were signed by the Vice Chair of the Committee.

**e) Budget report to date for this Committee and consider any actions required.
Circulated prior to meeting.**

The end of year accounting process is not yet complete and reports cannot yet be generated; It will be available for Thursday's Council Meeting.

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

- East Sussex Highways have been reminded that we wish to renew the licence for the Mark Cross Millennium and that permission has been sought for a "food van" to locate in the parking area. They have acknowledged the reminder and are investigating the matter.

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- Electric vehicle charging points. Wealden District Council have appointed contractors to install these in their larger car parks. A presentation on this subject will be made at the next Wealden Clerks meeting.

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

a) Rights of Way matters requiring action.

- Council Johnstone joined the meeting at this point. It was reported that central part of BW73 was overgrown and impassable in parts. **DEPUTY CLERK** to report to the ESCC Rights of Way team for them to inspect and deal with the issue.

b) Highways and Lighting matters

i. Drainage issues in the unadopted lower section of New Road.

It was reported that there are concerns that improving the drainage could have the effect of encouraging more vehicles using New Road traffic. **CLERK** to add to agenda of the June Parish Council meeting for further discussion and agreement of further action regarding drains.

ii. Report from A267/B2100 junction meeting.

East Sussex Highways report that detailed design has been completed for the temporary measures proposed to discourage large vehicles using Catts Hill and passing through the Village centre. Allowing for processing the traffic orders/licences required it will probably be toward the end of the summer before the measures can be installed. If, after two months, they are deemed to have been a success, they will be made permanent.

iii. Fingerposts. Receive report from our contractor regarding repairs and repainting.

It was **RESOLVED** that our contractor be instructed to proceed with the works identified in the report. **DEPUTY CLERK** to advise them and seek funding support from ESCC Highways for the two units requiring the most work.

iv. Streetlights. Receive information regarding column 79 in Hornshurst Road and details of cost of repair/replacement.

It was **RESOLVED** that, when the ESCC Lighting team have inspected the unit, the work identified by them to repair or replace the unit should be authorised with an LED lantern and "part night" facility. The residents of the adjacent property have agreed that their garden can be entered to assist with inspection and repair work, and they should be contacted again when access is required.

v. North Street junction reconfiguration proposal update.

Plans and other papers produced by ESCC are held to support the scheme. It was **RESOLVED** that it be recommended to the Full Council that the project be moved forward and be adopted as the "match funded" project for 2023-24 Financial year should the scheme still be in operation.

vi. B2100 Speed awareness measures on Rotherfield Hill

Final plans for these measures at the road entry points to the Village were reviewed and discussed. Measures are proposed at the foot of Catts' Hill on the B2100, Station Road by the School Steps, Eridge Lane by Highgate Flats approaching the school, and between the laybys and Milk Lodge on the B2100. Plans for the B2101 junction at Cottage Hill have been postponed until the situation becomes clearer regarding the proposed housing development which would alter the layout of the junction if the scheme progresses.

Guideline cost to the Council for these works has been stated at £8K and would involve red painted warning area on the Highways to reinforce existing speed limit signage. It was **RESOLVED** that East Sussex Highways be instructed to proceed with the works proposed.

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At this point the two Parishioners present were permitted to address the meeting and discuss their concerns regarding vehicle speeds in the Village, and the Council's level of concern regarding road safety; also if any collaboration from Parishioners could assist.

Keys points of the discussion were are follows: -

- Attention was drawn to the Council's efforts to introduce a 20mph speed limit on the approach roads to the Village and the work undertaken by East Sussex Highways (ESH) in this respect as contained in their report produced in November 2017.
- This concluded that extending the 20-mph limit beyond the Village centre, as proposed would mean that traffic calming measures would be needed to reduce traffic speeds. Given speeds recorded at the approaches to the Village, the level of traffic calming required to ensure vehicle speeds were reduced below 20 mph was unlikely to be supported by Sussex Police or ESH.
- It was acknowledged that due to the congested nature of the Village centre that achieving a speed greater than 20mph was generally not possible and that speeding concerns centred on the approaches to the Village and in particular Station Road due to the school traffic.

As there is streetlighting on these routes that conform to the 183m spacing criteria no further speed signage is permitted. It was stated that, however, in Kent, there appeared to be far more speed awareness signage than in East Sussex.

- The Speedwatch team, of which the two parishioners are members stated that around 1 in 4 vehicles monitored by them. It was also suggested that many of those speeding are Parish residents.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following actions be undertaken to address the issues raised.

- Increase the Council's Social Media presence on speeding issues.
- That the parishioners present would lobby our County Councillors for action.
- Cllrs. Kember and Martin are approach their contacts at Sussex Police regarding support for more speed monitoring.
- A PcsO presence at Speedwatch sessions is to be requested.
- That an "A" frame sign acquired and used to indicate presence of Speedwatch activity.

3. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ON BEHALF OF THE RECREATION & BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE

- a. **To agree any repairs and re-staining of Council owned benches in Court Meadow Green.**

It was **RESOLVED** that no work was required as the items had recently been jet washed.

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

19th July 2022 at 19:30 at Mark Cross Community Centre

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

- **DEPUTY CLERK** is to purchase 60 bottles of "fizzy wine" and 20 bottles of lemonade for the Loyal Toast at the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Street Party. Rotherfield St Martin have agreed that these may be stored with them.
- Cllr. Martin raised concerns regarding the use of delegated powers for authorising payments. Cllr. Harris raised other concerns regarding use of these powers. Clerk advised that this was not the appropriate forum to discuss this and would be discussed at a future Council Meeting.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:56.

.....**Signed:**.....**Date**

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