



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, JULY 19TH, AT 19:30 IN THE MARK CROSS COMMUNITY CENTRE, MARK CROSS, TN6 3PJ

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend. At the start of the meeting, the public are invited to identify to the Chairman any Agenda item they would like to express a view on for a maximum of three minutes in total. The Public Forum at the end of the meeting will give an opportunity for the public to make statements or ask questions about matters not on the agenda. When published, the minutes of this meeting can be viewed at www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk, or by contacting the Clerk on 01892 664245.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. J. Kitchenham
(Committee Chair).

Cllr. P. Beach (Committee
Vice Chair).

Cllr. G. Watson-Smith

Cllr. R. Harris

Cllr. P. Kember

Cllr. N. Wickenden.

Cllr. N Wickenden

ALSO PRESENT:

Parish Clerk, Adam Hardy, Deputy Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe and eight Parishioners in connection with item b) iv relating to North Street.

ABSENT

None.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public forum.

The Parishioners present were invited to share their concerns regarding the proposal to make alterations to the junction of the High Street and North Street.

The Parishioner who had originally suggested the alterations addressed the meeting and the key points were as follows: -

- His home is adjacent to the junction. There are double yellow lines outside, but these are frequently ignored, and vehicles parked on the these block his light.
- There is no enforcement of parking restrictions by either Police or councils.
- There is an unmarked crossing point with dropped kerbs in North Street close to the junction.
- He has observed that vehicles turning left into North Street are a hazard to pedestrians using the crossing.
- His proposed changes had been reviewed and refined by East Sussex Highways and the Parish were considering funding the works with match funding from ESCC. If the project came to fruition it would benefit parking availability and pedestrian safety at this location, and further down North Street.

The key points raised by the Parishioners present opposed to the plan were as follows:

- The plans put forward included shrub planting by the Old Bakery which had not originally featured in the proposal.
- A petition signed by 90 Parishioners was presented to the meeting – see also item 2b) iv on the agenda.

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ

Tel: 01892 664245. Email: clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter [@rotherfieldpc](https://twitter.com/rotherfieldpc) and on Facebook

- A letter from Rotherfield School, opposing the changes, had been received.
- Parking outside Rotherfield St Martin would be affected; there are regular “drop off” stops there.
- Councillor Martin stated that the original plans put forward to East Sussex Highways were of a more modest scale.
- Similar changes had been mooted in 1991 but had not been taken forward.
- Improving pedestrian safety was one of the benefits put forward but there had been no pedestrian incidents that could be recalled, and the changes would increase the risk of these.
- School traffic has increased in volume in line with an increase in the school roll. It was acknowledged that the school were aware of traffic issues as drop off/collection times. Parents are encouraged to drop older children by the Station Road steps. The arrangements would create delays that would contribute further to exhaust emissions.

Councillors reassured the Parishioners that the project was not a “done deal” and that their concerns would be noted and considered. The future direction of the project will be discussed at the next Council meeting. **CLERK** to please add to the August agenda.

- b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)**
Councillors Cahan and Johnstone.
It was **RESOLVED** that the reasons for their absence were noted and **APPROVED**.
- c) Declaration of personal, prejudicial, and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda, and updates to members’ register of interests.**
None declared.
- d) To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 23rd May 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.**
It was **RESOLVED** that these be adopted as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair of the Committee.
- e) Budget report to date for this Committee and consider any actions required.**
The budget and nominal ledger reports had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and it was **RESOLVED** that there were no actions required in respect of these.
- f) Report and updates regarding matters arising and actions from previous meetings**
Updates from the 23rd of May meeting.

Drainage issues in New Road.

Residents have decided that they no longer wish this work to take place.

Light column 79 in Hornshurst Road

Highways will be repairing this shortly.

North Street junction changes

An Item is on the agenda of this meeting to review.

A267/B2100 junction at Mark Cross.

Temporary changes to the junction, to discourage large vehicles using Catts’ Hill, are still scheduled for the late summer.

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ

Tel: 01892 664245. Email: clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter [@rotherfieldpc](https://twitter.com/rotherfieldpc) and on Facebook

Fingerposts.

Our contractor has been instructed to proceed with the work they identified in their annual inspection report. Highways are, subject to agreement, willing to fund the cost of refurbishment of two posts per year.

DEPUTY CLERK to identify two posts requiring the most work and forward details to ESCC requesting a contribution from them.

Speeding matters

- **Match funded speed awareness measures for the entry points to the Village.** Highways have been instructed to proceed with these and a progress report has been requested.

- Inspector Buck of Sussex Police was scheduled to attend this meeting but is now unable to do so. An alternative date is sought for her.

DEPUTY CLERK to contact Sussex Police with list of forthcoming meetings that she, or an alternative representative, can attend so that arrangements may be made.

- **Cllrs. Kember and Martin to please update on Speedwatch matters.**

Speedwatch signage has now been installed; there have been no monitoring sessions recently. It was also agreed to not proceed with the purchase of an "A" board to display when monitoring is taking place.

g) Review the Terms of Reference for this Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that no changes were required other than those to reflect that duties may be undertaken by either Clerk or Deputy.

CLERK to please amend and add to Council website.

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

a) Highways and Lighting matters

i. Review the proposed North Street junction realignment project.

A petition containing 90 signatures objecting to the proposal has been presented to the Council. The wording of the petition is highlighted below: -

We, the undersigned Rotherfield Parishioners, object, to the Parish Council proposals to alter the junction of North Street and the Square (as detailed in the attached plan) on the following grounds: -

- 1) Narrowing the roadway on the eastern side – the resulting inevitable congestion with traffic backing up into the Square is disproportionate to any minimal risk to pedestrians using the existing pathway and road crossing. There is no recollection of any pedestrian v vehicle incident at that junction.**
- 2) Removing 3 parking spaces outside the Old Bakery, Catts Inn Cottage and the Catts Inn. The village is already short on street parking for both residents and local business customers – removing these spaces will add to problems elsewhere in the village.**

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ

Tel: 01892 664245. Email: clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter [@rotherfieldpc](https://twitter.com/rotherfieldpc) and on Facebook

There have been three instances in the past five years where vehicles coming up from Jarvis Brook have failed to make the right turn in The Square and have collided with cars parked in the spaces for removal – two of those instances resulted in damage to two listed buildings that would have been far worse if parked vehicles had not absorbed much of the impact energy. If anyone had been passing along the pavement severe injury would have been sustained.

ii. **Speed Indicating Device (SID). Recruit and train additional Councillor volunteer(s) to manage, install and retrieve data.**

Cllr. Martin has requested for volunteers to be trained in the installation, removal and data collecting from this device. Cllr Harris has offered to assist, other councillors to please contact Cllr. Martin if you wish to be trained.

iii. **Receive information regarding the ESCC “Wildlife Verge” scheme and consider if any Parish verges would benefit from this designation.**

It was **RESOLVED** that the proposal to designate the verges on the A26 between Boar’s Head and the Eridge Station turning as wildlife verges was supported by the Council. It was also suggested that the Millennium Green at Mark Cross, and the verge opposite, should be designated thus. Suggestions for other verges to be designated should be passed to the Clerk with photos of the area in question and reasons for the application.

iv. **Agree arrangements for the 2022 Christmas lights.**

Mark Cross Community Centre have submitted a request for financial support to install mains powered lights that would use the outdoor power points installed by them. Cllr. Martin stated that the lights proposed for use were not safety compliant.

It was **RESOLVED** that Parish Cllr. Martin will approach the contractors used to for the Rotherfield Village lights, Ultralite, and enquire if they could provide and install Christmas Lights at Mark Cross, and report to the Council for discussion at the August Council meeting. **CLERK** to add to August agenda. **DEPUTY CLERK** to contact Ultralite to enquire as to dates available for installation; also, to contact Les Pike inviting him to assist as in previous years and Sussex Trees to enquire regarding Christmas tree costs.

v. **Consider suggestions for improving parking availability in Rotherfield and Mark Cross.**

As Councillor Johnstone was not present to present her suggestions this item is to be carried forward to the next Highways, Lighting & Transport agenda, **DEPUTY CLERK** to note.

vi. **Usage of disabled parking bays in the Village and Hornshurst Road.**

It has been reported that these are being misused; bays in the public highway outside private properties are not enforceable. **CLERK** to seek an update from Cllr. Buck regarding this matter and report.

vii. **Update regarding licence renewal for the Mark Cross Millennium Green.**

Cost for this will be in the region of £900 for 10-year renewal. Highways been asked if the renewal could be for 20 years to save future costs, but officer dealing is currently on

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ

Tel: 01892 664245. Email: clerk@rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter [@rotherfieldpc](https://twitter.com/rotherfieldpc) and on Facebook

holiday, so an update is not available. Cllr. Kember raised concerns as to how these costs could be justified, particularly if they are for community benefit, and will raise the matter of the licence costs for the Green and Christmas lights with our County Councillor. **Cllr. Kember** to please report outcome.

viii. Adding parking and disabled bay lining for the Surgery car park.

The Contractor who dealt with the lining of the Village Hall car park, Ace Contractors, is of the view that there is room for 15 spaces to be marked to include 4 places marked for Doctor/Staff use and a disabled bay adjacent to the surgery entrance. Work is to be undertaken after 14:00 when the Surgery is closed and Cllr. Martin has offered to be on site whilst this work is being undertaken. Quote of £425 plus VAT has been accepted and will be funded from the Council's surgery account. **CLLR HARRIS** to please arrange with the contractor for the work to take place. Concerns were raised that the parking area is being misused and may require monitoring.

b) Rights of Way matters requiring action.

Rights of Way officer has held a site meeting with a colleague and the owner of the land over which Footpath Rotherfield 27 passes. After lengthy discussions it was suggested that the owner apply for a formal diversion of the route which he has agreed. The diversion would be on the eastern side of the hedge and his field. Due to the Rights of Way team's workload, it would be October before any formalities would be dealt with regarding the diversion.

3. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ON BEHALF OF OTHER COMMITTEES

No matters were raised.

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

20th September at 19:30 in the Village Hall Committee Room.

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

- It was confirmed that an application for a Lawful Development Certificate from a Parish business would be considered at the 2nd August Planning and Building Committee meeting together with that for three new houses off Court Meadow Close. Councillors were reminded that they should consider if they needed to declare an interest in this.
- Cllr. Kember gave notice that he would be absent for the July Council meeting, and that of the 2nd August Planning and Building Committee

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:05.

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