



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

**MINUTES FROM THE HIGHWAYS LIGHTING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 AT 19:30 IN THE  
MEMORIAL INSTUTE, NORTH STREET, ROTHERFIELD, TN6 3LX**

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 start 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 Rotherfield library in Rotherfield St. Martin, at [www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)  
Or by contacting the Deputy Clerk on 01892 664245.

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Cllr. J. Kitchenham (Chair).	Cllr. P. Kember (Vice Chair).	Cllr. A. Martin
Cllr. B. Johnstone	Cllr. N. Wickenden	Cllr. J. Fryatt
Cllr. R. Harris	Cllr. P. Turner	

**ALSO PRESENT:**

- Deputy Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe.
- A parishioner in connection with the agenda item concerning street lighting in Station Road
- A parishioner wishing to address the meeting regarding parking and road crossing issues. in the village centre.

**ABSENT**

None.

**TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -**

**a) Public forum.**

The items below were dealt with at this point in the agenda as two Parishioners were present and wished to address the meeting regarding them.

**Street lighting matters**

A Parishioner was invited to address the meeting regarding the agenda item relating to Station Road streetlighting. They use the path on a regular basis and were concerned that the current lighting was inadequate for the safety of those using it. Particular focus of concern is the section of path from the Town Row village board; this heads away from Station Road and emerges in Chant Lane. There is one lamp column on the corner of the path but beyond there in each direction it is pitch black. From past experience it was noted that installation of new lights was costly, particularly if there is a need to install a mains supply and there is not one nearby.

**RESOLVED** that **DEPUTY CLERK** is to make enquiries of solar powered street lighting and enquire of other Councils as to cost and effectiveness of these. Council Chair is to also to investigate if any of the property owners near the path would be willing to allow a connection made to their supply with the Council covering installation and operating costs. **DEPUTY CLERK** is to also investigate a lamp in Court Meadow which requires attention.

**Pedestrian crossing in the Village Centre.**

A village resident addressed the meeting to highlight their previously raised concerns regarding pedestrian safety that was compromised by the presence of parked cars, and he wished the Committee to find a simple solution to the issue. There are dropped kerbs

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on both sides of North Street by the Institute, but the double yellow lines are regularly ignored and there is no enforcement. Permanent pedestrian warning notices have been considered but East Sussex Highways would require licencing these, after surveys, as to suitability and it is believed that permission would not be forthcoming.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council is to arrange for the yellow lines in the location to be repainted. **DEPUTY CLERK** to arrange.

**b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)**

Cllr. G. Watson-Smith tendered an apology for absence, and it was **RESOLVED** that the reason for his absence was accepted.

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

Cllr. Fryatt declared a personal interest in connection with the agenda item relating to Eridge Station parking as he lives nearby.

**d) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 8th November 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.**

It was **RESOLVED** that these were a true record of the meeting, and the Committee Chair signed them.

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

Details had been circulated Councillors prior to the meeting and it was **RESOLVED** that no action was required in relation to this.

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

Updates from actions and items from the November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting of the Committee: -

**Cllr. Kember** - Mark Cross Millennium Green licence renewal. Cllr. Kember requested that he be provided with correspondence, plans and other documents in relation to this. He considered that the situation of one public authority (ESCC) charging another – the Parish Council – regarding licencing a public open space was iniquitous as both were funded by the Council Taxpayers.

**DEPUTY CLERK** to provide details of the lease and plans and add an item to the January Parish Council meeting agenda to discuss and agree a response to ESCC.

**Clerk/Cllr. Kember** – Response to the social media post to gauge interest in providing electric charging points in the Parish. It was agreed that, as this was a matter already being considered by County and District Councils, and private suppliers that no further action was currently required although a “watching brief” will be kept on the subject.

**Deputy Clerk – site meeting re. drainage issues at New Road/B2100 junction, also at the bottom of Catts' Hill.**

Site meeting has been organised with a Highways Officer on site at 0900 on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> to view the issues here and at the bottom of Catts Hill.

**Cllr. Buck** – not a member of this Committee but has raised concerns regarding misuse of disabled bays by Highgate Flats and need for more designated bays. **Cllr. Buck** to please let **Deputy Clerk** know if this is still an issue.

**Rights of Way**

Clerk has left a message with the ESCC team seeking an update on the condition of ROT/LF033/1 Jarvis Brook – Rotherfield parallel to the railway. This was raised by a footpath user, and it was understood that, as a result of our report, an inspection was to have taken place and results sent to us.

**Briar House Farm and footpath issues.**

ESCC Rights of Way have updated us regarding this long outstanding matter and little or no progress has been made. **CLERK** has added an item to the January Council Meeting agenda for a discussion and agreement of the way forward.

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

**Rights of Way matters requiring action attention or action.**

**a) St Cheron Twitten.**

Report and actions from the site meeting held by Councillors and contractor to discuss and agree action and costs for long lasting repairs requested. **CLERK** to transfer this item to the January Council meeting agenda.

**b) Disabled access through the St Cheron Twitten including fencing and resurfacing. Receive information and costs of providing a “kissing gate” that would provide access by wheelchair.**

This item has been moved to the January PCM Agenda. Two quotes have been received, Deputy Clerk will check that the gates suggested would also allow mobility scooter access. Two companies researched, cost in the region of £350. **CLERK** to transfer this item to the January Council meeting agenda and **DEPUTY CLERK** also enquire if our local fencing contractor could be able to provide this.

**a) Highways and Lighting matters**

**a) A26 at Eridge – progress report re: verge protection measures and speed surveys.**

Frant PC have agreed to the 50/50 split of the cost of the study - £533 plus VAT for each Council. **DEPUTY CLERK** has agreed arrangements and funding with his Frant counterpart and ESCC Highways have been instructed to proceed with the survey. It was agreed that, as the A26 verges had bloomed with wildflowers, they will not be cut unless visibility is obstructed.

**b) Parking issues in the Eridge Station area and suggestion for remedies.**

- This is a long-standing issue, at least 10 years old. Vehicles parking on the roadside are increasing toward pre Covid levels and getting closer to the yellow lines at the A26 junction – our yellow parking warning flyers will be deployed if needed.
- We are waiting for a response to the request to ESCC Highways for provision of direction signs on the A26 to the station. **DEPUTY CLERK** contact Highways for an update, also if the provision of hard standing by the Sham Farm Road bus stop is proceeding once weather conditions are suitable.
- Station lighting matters – Deputy Clerk has spoken to Rob Whitehead from the rail company dealing with the matter with GTR who operate the station. He shares the frustration of the Council and residents affected by the lighting on the footbridge. Initial suggested solution is to instal frosted film on the windowpanes on the bridge, to be followed by fitting shrouding to the lights if this is not effective, A balance in the lighting is needed so that it is not an issue to nearby residents whilst still conforming to passenger safety standards.

**c) Station Road street lighting – request for improvement.**

See item at start of minutes.

**d) Snow, ice, and grit matters. Review any issues and actions arising from the recent snowfall.**

It was considered that current arrangements are still appropriate as these events are infrequent. Council have gritting stocks which are currently stored by a village business on our behalf. During the recent snowfall our groundwork contractor cleared snow from vulnerable areas and collected additional salt stocks from local sources.

**e) Concerns regarding the condition of the Great Dewlands road and the Station Road - Chant Lane bend.**

Clerk is to investigate Great Dewlands Road and report as necessary to Highways. Site meeting is to be held regarding the Station Road issues.

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**f) Horse aware road signage – progress update on locations and installation.**

Cllr. Martin informed the meeting that he will be meeting with a senior officer of the Horse Society at the beginning of February to view suitable Parish locations at which warning signs could be installed.

**g) Newly installed crossing and roundabout close to the Parish boundary. Concerns raised that the recently installed streetlights are yet to be commissioned and that the road markings are confusing.**

B2100 new roundabout, crossings and lighting by Jarvis Brook railway bridge. Although outside the Parish this is passed through by many residents. Concerns have been raised locally that the installation is taking a long time to finish and, although the lighting has been installed, it is yet to operate; currently it is considered that the installation is a hazard to both pedestrians and motorists.

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

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 19:30 in Rotherfield Village Hall .

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

- Deputy Clerk has requested further dates available for holding a Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with officers from East Sussex Highways.
- Hedges overgrowing local roads. **CLLR. MARTIN** to please identify areas that require attention and pass details to our usual contractor who has the plant and qualifications to undertake this work.
- **DEPUTY CLERK** to report to East Sussex Rights of Way that the Eridge Lane end of Chant Lane is eroded, consequently in a very poor state and requires attention.
- **DEPUTY CLERK** to inform WDC that their Station Road car park requires tidying and the overflowing recycling and waste bins need to be emptied.
- **CLLR. KEMBER** is to draft a letter to ESCC regarding the lack of parking available in the Parish. This leads to obstructive parking, in particular Station Road, and we will be lobbying them for possible solution.

The Committee Chair declared the meeting closed at 21:50.

Committee Chair.....Date

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