



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 14TH JANUARY 2025 AT 19:30 IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM AT ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr J Fryatt (Chair)	Cllr J Gosney	Cllr R Harris
Cllr P Beach (Vice-Chair)	Cllr B Johnstone	Cllr D Hiles
Cllr P Snelling	Cllr D Johnstone	Cllr P Kember

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr P Turner (Rotherfield Parish Council), Adam Hardy, Clerk to Rotherfield Parish Council

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Public forum.

None.

b) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85).

No apologies for absence were received.

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

None.

d) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 15th October 2024, be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes 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.

Documents had been circulated to Committee members ahead of the meeting.

The Clerk reported that there had been no change to the budget since its presentation at the November Parish Council meeting.

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

- The Clerk reported that the item regarding the Kings Arms Pub and lorries through the village set in the last minutes for discussion at this meeting had been further postponed. The Clerk will add to a Full Council agenda for further discussion.
- The Clerk confirmed that he had raised the time frame for repairs of streetlights with East Sussex Highways. Clerks across Wealden have the same concerns. An item to discuss this has been added to the Strengthening Local Relationships meeting on Friday 17th January 2025.
- The Clerk reported that he had received no further correspondence on the possibility of a drainage trench across the bottom of New Road.
- The Clerk reported that he had not yet made progress on purchasing additional flood protection measures. He will arrange a meeting with Cllr Beach to explore this further.
- The Clerk confirmed that he had requested that East Sussex Highways clean the drains on South Street and New Road.
- The Clerk confirmed he had circulated the approved SID sites.

2. TO RESOLVE THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST FOR THIS COMMITTEE FOR 2024/2025.

The Clerk reported that the Council had accepted the Committee's budget request, and the precept request to Wealden District Council had been made.

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

i. Discuss and consider additional street lighting at Mark Cross.

Cllr Johnstone reported that she had met with some Mark Cross Residents, and the lack of lighting on the road from Pennies Nursery to the Mark Cross Millenium Green Car Park had been raised. The suggestion of an illuminated bollard to show the footpath has been put forward.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would produce media to canvass residents' view of the extra lighting in this section of Mark Cross. **Clerk** to gather residents' comments and report back.

ii. Receive an update on and consider further action on New Road flooding.

The Clerk confirmed that this has been confirmed as an agenda item for the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Meeting on Friday 17th January 2025.

It was **AGREED** that the Council should write to the property owner in New Road who has blocked the drainage channels for water. **Clerk** to write a letter to the property concerned.

Cllr Turner reported on a site meeting with the Chair and Clerk where different drainage options were looked at; it was decided that extra drainage channels off the field were required. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the landowner to request that existing drainage channels be dug out and cleared.

iii. Discuss and consider additional disabled parking spaces at Rotherfield Village Hall carpark.

It was **RESOLVED** to add two more disabled spaces to the car park at the front of the Village Hall. **Clerk** to obtain a quote for the work from Ace Road Markings.

iv. Discuss and consider possible action in relation to the poor bus service provided by the 51 Bus

Cllr Gosney updated the Committee on recent experiences of using the bus and if there was any way the Council could intervene to help improve the service for parish users. Cllr Beach reported that he had reached out to his contacts at Stagecoach and had been monitoring the situation. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would try and set up a meeting with Stagecoach to express our concerns at the route performance. **Clerk and Cllr Beach** to arrange a meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that this item was also on the agenda of the forthcoming SLR meeting.

v. Discuss and consider the introduction of EV charging points in public car parks.

Cllr Beach asked the Committee if it felt it was time to reconsider the provision of EV Charging Points in the Parish. After the debate, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would run a public consultation to gauge views on the need for EV Charging Points in the Parish. **Clerk** to organise a consultation.

vi. Discuss and consider actions regarding the poor state of repair of the A26 Eridge to Boarshead.

It was **RESOLVED** to lobby East Sussex Highways to increase the priority of the poor state of the A26 surface from Boarshead to Eridge. This will be raised at the forthcoming SLR meeting.

vii. Discuss and consider options for reducing illegal and nuisance parking.

The Committee reviewed all the options that the Council has explored in the past with regard to parking in this area. It was **AGREED** that until Wealden takes on responsibility for Car Park enforcement or the responsibility is moved through the Government's Devolution Paper, the Council had limited powers in this area. It was **RESOLVED** to work on another considerate parking campaign in the Eridge Station Area. **Clerk** to arrange campaign.

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

Tuesday 25th March 2025, 7:30pm in the Library Room at Rotherfield Community Hub (Memorial Institute).

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

- The Clerk suggested that the Council might like to issue a media release in relation to the acceptance of the gift of land adjoining the Rotherfield Bowls Club. **Clerk** to prepare a media release.
- Cllr Harris shared communications and the outcome of a conversation he had with a Church Road representative regarding the parking and traffic in the centre of the Village. In principle, the Council is open to most of the actions proposed by the resident. **Clerk** to meet with the resident to discuss the options further.
- Cllr Turner advised the Council that he would raise the sightlines and parking at the junction of New Road and South Street with East Sussex Highways at the SLR and subsequent site visit.

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The meeting closed at: **20:53**

Signed:

Date: