



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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 29th JUNE 2017 AT 19:30
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL TN6 3LX**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. R. Harris (Vice Chair)
Cllr. T. Gilbert

Cllr. A. Hardy
Cllr. D. Hiles
Cllr. L. Henrick
Cllr. J. Kitchenham

Cllr. A. Martin
Cllr. J. Richardson
Cllr. G. Watson-Smith
Cllr. N. Wickenden

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None.

ALSO PRESENT

The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe, Cllr. R. Standley (ESCC), Cllr. P. Dixon (WDC) and the four candidates for Co-option to fill the current Councillor vacancy in Mark Cross Ward.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s 85).

Apologies for absence have been submitted by Cllrs. Thomas and Cahan. Cllr. Hiles has advised that he will not be present for the start of the meeting.

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

None declared.

c) District and County Councillor reports.

Cllr. R. Standley (ESCC)

Key points of Cllr. Standley's report were as follows: -

- Thanked the Parish for re-electing him as their East Sussex County Council representative.
- Grenfell Tower fire. Checks have been made to identify properties of a similar construction in the County. None have been identified in this area, some have been identified in Hastings. Checks are taking place on local schools, so far nothing has been identified.
- Council targets. 2/3 of the year's targets have been met, with the remainder just below target.
- Finance. Situation remains challenging but County did manage to "break even" in the 2016/17 Financial Year. Monies from the "Better Together" fund have gone toward Social Care and "one off" funds connected with Treasury Management and totalling £8m have also assisted.
- Corporate aims remain unchanged and are: -
 - Driving economic growth.
 - Keeping vulnerable people safe.
 - Helping people help themselves.
 - Making best use of resources.
- Public Rights of Way and Countryside Sites. A report has come before Cabinet on these matters. It has been decided that Rights of Way will remain under "in house" management. Some of the Countryside sites may be suitable for management by local volunteer groups, this is currently the case with the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Our nearest Countryside Site is the Cuckoo Trail, however, due to its nature, this will be kept "in house" and managed as a Right of Way.

- Highways challenges such as potholes and surfacing issues, remain. The Parish Council's frustrations are shared regarding the delays in implementing the enforceable long vehicle ban through the Village and implementing the 40mph limit at Argos Hill and High Cross. The latter project had first been discussed some five years ago, when Cllr. Standley was elected to ESCC. He will continue to press for a conclusion with both projects.

19:40 - Cllr. Hiles joined the meeting at this point.

Cllr. P. Dixon (WDC)

Key points of Cllr. Dixon's report were as follows: -

- Briar House Farm planning application WD/2016/2875/F was before the Planning Committee (North) today and refused by that Committee based on impact on the AONB.
- Telecoms masts. Central Government have relaxed planning rules regarding these, masts 20m and below may be treated as a permitted development, even if within an AONB, and no longer called into Committee.

d) Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 30th April and 25th May 2017 for approval and signing as a true record.

RESOLVED that this item be moved on the agenda and dealt with in conjunction with item 2i) later in the Agenda.

e) Selection of candidate for co-option to fill the current vacancy on the Council.

The four candidates, in alphabetical order, are as follows: -

- Jill Akehurst
- Glen Farmer
- David Proudfoot
- Alessandra Testai

Copies of their application forms have been circulated to the Councillors, together with the co-option policy and process document, candidates had also been provided with this document in advance of the meeting. Each candidate was given a maximum of five minutes to address the Councillors after which questions were asked of them. It was **RESOLVED** that selection of the candidate to fill the vacancy would be by recorded paper ballot, also that the candidates should leave the meeting room whilst the applications were discussed and the vote taken. The result of the voting was as follows: -

CANDIDATE FOR CO-OPTION	1 st voting round & Cllrs. voting	2 nd voting round & Cllrs. voting	3 rd voting round & Cllrs. voting
Jill Akehurst	Wickenden, Gilbert, Watson-Smith	Harris, Wickenden, Gilbert, Watson-Smith	Watson-Smith, Gilbert, Wickenden,
Glen Farmer	Henrick, Harris, Kitchenham, Martin,	Kitchenham, Hardy, Martin, Henrick	Harris, Henrick, Kitchenham, Richardson, Martin, Hardy, Hiles
David Proudfoot	None		
Alessandra Testai	Richardson, Hardy, Hiles	Hiles, Richardson,	

Glen Farmer was therefore selected to fill the Marks Cross Ward Councillor vacancy, Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by him and witnessed by the Clerk. He was welcomed to the Council, and the other candidates thanked for their applications and interest in the role of Parish Councillor.

ACTION for **CLERK** to update Councillor contact details on the website and elsewhere.

f) Update regarding matters arising & action items from previous meetings.

Items from the 25th May Council meeting.

6 iv) Receive information regarding costs involved with installation of Broadband in the Scout and Community Youth Hall.

Information and quote provided by Cllr. Harris and circulated to Councillors. Cost for each option falls within delegated spending limits 4.1 in the Financial Regulations. Cllr. Harris is to liaise with the Company providing the equipment required who have offered a site visit to establish which option will be the most effective. Cllr. Hardy declared an interest in the item as he is an employee of the company involved.

6v) War Memorial Project.

RESOLVED the following: -

- **Cllrs. THOMAS and HARDY** to draw up specification with basic requirements and assumptions so that we may go out to tender for the work, details for inclusion are number and style of inscriptions and stone quality/dimensions. This will enable establishment of likely cost prior to seeking external funding for the project.

As Cllr. Thomas has submitted an apology for absence for this meeting this item is to be carried forward to the July agenda, CLERK to note. Cllr. Hardy offered to answer any Cllr. queries on the project in the interim. Cllr. Martin advised that, whilst dealing with Burslems regarding a non-Council matter he had mentioned the War Memorial project to them and he will speak to Cllr. Thomas regarding this.

2. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE BANK RECONCILIATION AND BUDGET REPORT AS AT END OF MAY 2017, REVIEW EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET TO DATE AND APPROVE PAYMENTS.

Reports had been circulated prior to meeting. Deposit account balance currently stands at £56813.08, current account at £39875.03. The latter figure is not adjusted for outstanding cheques. Clerk is to review items in various budget headings to ensure that they been allocated correctly, will adjust and report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation, Budget Report and the payments below be authorised.

PAYMENTS

Date Paid	Payee Name	Chq. No.	Payment Description	Amount
01/06/2017	Rotherfield Sports Club	S/O	May pitch maintenance	£325.00
19/06/2017	The Computer Studio	802298	Microsoft 365 upgrade	£816.08
29/06/2017	Trevor Thorpe	802299	June salary	£1,556.74
29/06/2017	H M R C	802300	June Tax & NI	£497.31
29/06/2017	Trevor Thorpe	802301	June expenses	£52.96
29/06/2017	Muriel Greenwood	802303	Fence repair	£385.00
29/06/2017	SSALC Ltd	802304	Good Councillor Guides x 4	£19.20
29/06/2017	Rotherfield Village Hall	802305	Hall Hire for May	£66.30
29/06/2017	CPRE	802306	Annual Subscription	£36.00
29/06/2017	A. Martin	802307	Various minor works	£202.26
29/06/2017	Katherine Luxton	802308	Work on War Memorial	£300.00
29/06/2017	Phil Ireland	802309	Parish Warden works	£607.95
29/06/2017	Teambase	802310	Stationery and ink carts.	£121.04
29/06/2017	Wealden District Council	802311	Dog bins Apr - June	£288.00
29/06/2017	L.J. Head & Son	802312	New tap in Cemetery	£71.76
29/06/2017	Tollwood Garden Service	802313	June groundworks	£1,458.00
29/06/2017	Tollwood Garden Service	802313	Adjustment	£0.60
29/06/2017	Rotherfield Primary School	802314	Stall at Summer Fayre	£15.00

29/06/2017	<i>Rotherfield & Mark Cross Bonfire Society</i>	802315	Stall at Summer Fair	£10.00
30/06/2017	Rotherfield Sports Club	S/O	June pitch maintenance	£325.00
Total Payments				£7,154.20

RECEIPTS

Date	Received from	Receipt Description	Amount	
23/06/2017	Dignity Funerals Ltd	Burial Fee J8	£300.00	
23/06/2017	Dignity Funerals Ltd	Gravedigging cost	£434.00	
23/06/2017	Tester and Jones Ltd	Memorial fee E13	£170.00	
23/06/2017	Tester and Jones Ltd	Interment fee M22	£300.00	
23/06/2017	Tester and Jones Ltd	Plaque fee P22	£150.00	
23/06/2017	Rotherfield Village Hall	Light replacement	£400.00	
Total Receipts				£1,754.00

Italicised items have been authorised by delegated authority contained in the Council's Financial Regulations section 4.1

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

i. Response from Councillors to Chair's statement presented at the 25th April Council Meeting.

Vice Chair summarised the background to this item, the intention of which is to give the opportunity for Councillors to respond to the allegations made in the statement, and for their responses be minuted. The statement made by the Chair has been published as part of the draft minutes of the April Council meeting and is in the public domain.

Clerk has circulated in advance copies of the statement ("the Statement") of Cllr. David Thomas, Council Chair ("the Chair") to the 27th April 2017 Council meeting; Clerk has added key points of each Councillor's comments made by them at that meeting in response to the matters raised. At the Council's May meeting the April minutes were not adopted and signed as a true record as the Councillors considered that, as there was no record of their response to the Statement, they were incomplete. Cllr. Harris, Council Vice-Chair, advised the meeting that this agenda item is to allow Councillors to make their individual responses to matters raised by the Statement, which forms part of the draft minutes of the 27th April meeting and are in the Public Domain. It is intended that the Councillor's comments at this meeting will feature in the minute; the key points of each Councillor's comments are below: -

Cllr Henrick.

- Still unclear as to what is behind the allegations made by the Chair in his Statement.
- Supports response by Cllr. Cahan in respect of the matter.
- Key points of the Councillor's responses to the April statement, as summarised by the Clerk, are unclear regarding the War Memorial Project. Point to be made is that it was inappropriate for the Chair to make allegations when it was he who had acted inappropriately regarding this Project.
- The background to the allegations is unknown, additionally the Chair did not pursue them at the May Council meeting; his stated intention had been to form a Committee to investigate the allegations.
- Situation is entirely unsatisfactory and it was entirely unexpected, and inappropriate, that the Council be put in this position.

Cllr. Richardson.

- Cllr. Richardson had submitted an apology for absence in respect of the April meeting hence only had the notes and minutes as background to the matter.
- Had nothing to add as she had seen nothing to clarify the points made in the Statement.

Cllr. Watson-Smith.

- Statement had come “out of the blue” and unclear what had prompted it.
- Felt that up that point the Chairman was doing quite well and there no real problems, also that the Chair has more to do for the Council.
- It was difficult to make sense of the allegations.

Cllr. Hardy.

- Echoes the previous comments in that the it is hard to make sense as to what had generated the Statement.
- As a newcomer to the Council some of the points, particularly relating to the “Speed Indicating Device” (“SID”), had occurred prior to him joining.
- Regarding the “SID” he is convinced that the Chair did acknowledge at the April 2017 meeting that “...I stand corrected...”; this after the Clerk had explained that formal tendering with three quotes had not taken place as the cost of the item fell below the limit set down in the Council’s Financial Regulations. Considers that the summary of the Councillor’s response to the Statement should reflect this.
- Acknowledged that he had accused the Chair of “charging ahead” with the War Memorial project without reference to the Working Party that the Chair had set up, also that the Council had not been kept informed. Chair has emailed indicating the desire to meet on his return regarding “hand over” of the project and the tendering process.
- A “lesson learned” from this matter is that Council should be clear regarding process for suspension of Standing Orders and that this should be reviewed.

Cllr. Martin.

- Advice from the Wealden Monitoring Officer regarding suspension of Standing Orders was discussed. Even if Standing Orders are suspended Councillors should still act within the Code of Conduct.
- Expressed concern at the Statement ‘s claims that the Chair’s role had been “intentionally marginalised”; Chair is entitled to attend and vote at any Council or Committee meeting.
- If a vote went against the Chair he should not construe this as a sign of “being undermined”, but merely part of the democratic process.
- Chair is aware of all meeting dates but for many of them submits apologies for absence.
- Illegally held Finance meeting. Acknowledged that due to an oversight the agenda of the 18th April Finance and General Purpose Committee meeting had not been published within the requisite timescale during the Clerk’s holiday. Clerk had advised the requirements and publication timescale for this to the Council Chair and Vice Chair prior to his holiday. His apologies were only offered late on the afternoon of the meeting so had intended to attend.
- Claims of bullying Clerk, and abuse of the public, had not been recorded or substantiated and Chair seemed unable to substantiate them.
- SID – Further quotes were obtained for this in addition to the one ultimately selected. The Clerk had previously confirmed that there was no requirement in the Council’s Financial Regulations for these additional quotes.
- Wished it noted that he considers that the Chair has exceeded his authority in confronting the Councillors in such a manner as to cause embarrassment, discomfort and possibly fear in some.

- His request for a “vote of allegiance” may have influenced the voting for the Chairman at the Annual Council Meeting as Councillors may have felt obligated to him after confirming support for him whilst he was Chairman, which could be construed as Gerrymandering.
- Cllr. Martin has sought advice from Wealden DC, the Clerk to this Council, other local Clerks known to him, and the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils (“SSALC”) regarding the Chair’s election at the Council’s Annual Meeting as this had caused him concern. Opinion was that, whilst the Chair’s action in this respect were not illegal it was ill advised; the Chair has an original vote but it is frowned upon if put to his own use. The Chair’s casting vote was used in his own favour due to the equality of votes cast; this is considered un-ethical and if this action is considered to have disadvantaged the Parish a charge of misfeasance could be considered.
- Is unsure that he wishes to serve on this “broken council”.

Cllr. Gilbert

- This situation had appeared “out of the blue”.
- Concerned that the Statement had been made at the April meeting but nothing was then produced at the meeting to back up the allegations made within.
- Supported the Chairman regarding the War Memorial Project, but not “at any cost”.

Cllr. Wickenden

Had no comment to make and wished to draw a line under the matter.

Cllr. Kitchenham

- Wished to reiterate the statements made by Cllrs. Gilbert and Wickenden.
- Chair had contacted him prior to the April meeting seeking his support as he claimed there was a “conspiracy against him”.
- Whatever the reason for the statement the matter seemed to be “snowballing out of control”.
- A lot of Council time was being wasted on the matter but to what purpose?
- Agreed with Cllr. Wickenden’s view that a line be drawn under the matter.

Cllr. Hiles

- Considers that if allegations are to be made they should be specific and against named individuals so that they may respond.
- Whole episode has done nothing to increase his confidence in the Chair.
- There had been issues regarding the accuracy of meeting minutes which had caused concern over the past few months, recollections were that the Chair had been involved with these.

Cllr. Cahan

Cllr. Cahan had submitted an apology for absence in respect of this meeting, together with the following statement which she requested be read to the meeting on her behalf and the Vice Chair undertook this.

“I am concerned that vague and potentially false allegations were made in the Chairman’s statement on 25 April 2017. The chairman apparently had concerns for a while, and in one case at least 6 months, but did not raise the issues with the council or take any other action to address his concerns at the time the issues apparently arose, as far as I am aware. I am concerned that the Chairman’s statement has risked bringing the council into disrepute because of the nature of the allegations that were made and because of the delay in allowing Councillors to establish whether there is any substance to the claims.

Going forward I hope that we as a Council can reassure the Parish that the allegations are unsubstantiated and that all Councillors do act in the best interests of the Parish even where Councillors views differ. I also feel very strongly that the Chairman's role should be to unite the council despite any differences in opinion and to always act in the best interests of the Parish”.

Cllr. Harris, Vice Chair.

- Cllr. Harris wishes to see this matter finished with.
- He initially wrote in confidence to the Chair and believes this may have prompted the Statement.
- Was further concerned with the way the Chair spoke to Cllr. Gilbert regarding the War Memorial Project and certain payments.
- Also, had been concerned that the Chairs of the Committees were not being listened, their opinions not valued, and that the Chair did not like Councillors opposing and disagreeing with him.
- Committee Chairs had approached Vice Chair regarding these matters; he had written to the Chair in confidence raising these concerns in the hope that he could meeting and discuss them, but had received no reply.
- Chair had advised Vice Chair and Clerk of his intention to resign at the April Council meeting, but had then rescinded this.
- Cllr. Thomas remains as Chair and it should be borne in mind of the achievements made by the Council during that time.
- Agreed with Cllr. Hile's regarding minutes and is aware that the Chair has had an influence on this.
- Regarding the War Memorial project, everything should, in future, be agreed by the Recreation and Burial Committee at their meetings with no “secret” meetings.
- Is quite happy for Cllr. Thomas to continue as Chair and he has the Vice Chair's support.
- All statements made in respect of this agenda item should appear in the minutes and it is hoped that a line can be drawn under the matter.

After the individual Councillor's statements were made the following points were made in general discussion: -

- It is hoped that the Chair will be respond positively to the statements and draw a line under the matter.
- Conclude that he Councillors are happy for Cllr. Thomas to continue as Chair provided he abides by the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.
- Clerk was asked if there was a procedure to force the Chair to step down. Clerk advised, once again, that if any Councillor's conduct was considered by a fellow Councillor to have breached the Code of Conduct then the matter should be formally raised with the Wealden District Council Monitoring Officer, Trevor Scott. There is no internal process for the Parish Council to censure its members.
- Clerk is unsure as to what “punishment” may result if a Code of Conduct complaint is upheld **ACTION** for **CLERK** to research and circulate this information to the Councillors.
- The Council's Standing Orders should be reviewed by comparison with the “Model” document published by the National Association of Local Councils. **ACTION** for **CLERK** to circulate these documents.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council have responded to the Chair's statement and allegations made at the 27th April 2017 Parish Council Meeting and wish it recorded that the Council's position on the matter is to continue and unify.

RESOLVED that the minutes of both the April and May 2017 be brought before the June Council so that adoption as a true record may be considered.

Vice Chair stressed the importance that Councillors scrutinise the draft minutes of all meetings when they are circulated and raise any issues therein at the next meeting of the Council or Committee concerned. Once the minutes are adopted and signed the recordings relating to them are erased. Clerk raised a concern regarding the comments made regarding the accuracy of his minutes and commented that if the Councillors had concerns over their content why had they adopted them as a true record?

ii. **Response to concerns raised regarding decision on Council's recommendation agreed at the 10th January meeting of the Planning & Building Committee re: application WD/2016/2875/F.**

Cllr. Hiles, Chair of the Planning and Building Committee, dealt with this item at the request of the Council Vice Chair. Clerk confirmed that he had raised the matter with the Wealden DC Monitoring Officer. Clerk's view remains that Para 41(1) of Schedule 12 of the 1972 Local Government Act, which states that the signed minutes of the meeting serve as a legal record as to what has taken place, applies and that the minutes should remain as published.

Complainant was present and allowed two minutes to address the meeting regarding the matter. Technically he considered that the vote taken in respect of the Planning Application was recorded incorrectly and is the view that the Council needed to "tidy things up" so that matters are dealt with correctly in the futures. However, as the Application had subsequently been considered by the Wealden District Council North Planning Committee and a decision made by them, this specific case was no longer of relevance. Vice Chair stated that the Council were trying to learn from this issue for future procedures.

iii. **Receive and note contents of end of year Internal Audit report.**

Details were circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting. Contents were noted, there were no items of concern.

iv. **Funds held in the earmarked reserve accounts.**

Report detailing these circulated to Cllrs. prior to this meeting. Clerk recommends the following: -

- a) £6836 Recreation Ground facility reserve. **RESOLVED** that this sum is allocated toward current projects in the Rec. and in the interim it is discussed at the November Finance and General Purpose Committee meeting.
- b) Regarding the small sums designated as "...Comm Div. Grant..." for Mark Cross and Rotherfield, **RESOLVED** that the use to which these funds could be put is considered at the F & G P meeting as above.

v. **Scripts for Planning Applications.**

Cllr. Hardy advised that these were now in use and will send Clerk a copy, **CLERK** to note for these to be reviewed in 12 months.

vi. **Request from Parishioner that Council consider installation of CCTV in Rotherfield village centre to monitor anti-social activity and crime, and action requested regarding noise from licenced premises.**

Parishioner correspondence and responses have been forwarded to the Councillors, meeting agenda has been sent to the Parishioners concerned advising that they are welcome to attend the meeting. Clerk has recommended to complainants that noise issues are raised directly with WDC. Cllr. Martin has offered to speak with the Parishioner regarding the CCTV matter and that an item be added to the agenda of the July Highways Committee meeting to discuss the matter **CLERK** to **ACTION**. Vice Chair noted that he and Cllr. Henrick had recently held a productive meeting with Inspector Tony Wakefield of Wealden's Neighbourhood Policing Team. He recommended that all anti-social incidents be reported to them.

vii. Level of Councillor's personal contact information for publication by the Parish Council.

Currently name, phone number and Council responsibility is published. Recommend that bespoke "Council" email addresses are allocated to Councillors and publicised. **CLERK** to add to August agenda to consider this due to time constraints at this meeting.

viii. Location for replacement of the Council's Town Row noticeboard, included in current budget. Consider if there are other locations at which a noticeboard could be provided.

Clerk advised that, although current board is still usable, it is too small (6 x A4) and not in the best position. **RESOLVED** that Cllrs. Wickenden and Gilbert are to investigate and suggest locations at Town Row, **CLERK** to add agenda item for August to receive the recommendations and agree further action.

ix. Request from Pre-school for Grant Support.

Last grant paid to the Pre-School was £1000 in the 2015/16 Financial Year. Clerk advised that this had been agreed in the 2014/15 Financial Year during which a £500 grant had been paid. No further grant request had been received subsequently. ESCC pay the Parish Council £750 annually in ground rent. Vice Chair reminded the meeting that the other organisations operating in the Rec. pay only a "peppercorn" annual licence fee, also that the storage area under the Pre-School is used by the Council and other groups free of charge. **RESOLVED** that with immediate effect the sum received each year from ESCC be passed on to the Pre-School in the form of a grant.

x. Rotherfield Players "Raise the Roof" project for the Village Hall.

Email containing Council Chair's recommendation of the way forward with this project was forwarded to the Councillors prior to the meeting. **RESOLVED** that this be added to the agenda of the 22nd August Recreation and Burial Committee meeting for a decision on the way forward, **CLERK** to note.

xi. Report by Cllrs. Wickenden and Martin on condition of trees on Parish Council Land.

Cllr. Wickenden provided written report to the meeting. Whilst not on Parish Land a tree an Ash Tree on private land is considered by Cllr. Wickenden to present a potential hazard to the adjacent road. **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Wickenden establish ownership and approach landowner involved regarding the tree. Regarding the other trees inspected there are none requiring immediate action and CLERK is to add item to the 22nd August Recreation and Burial Committee agenda to agree actions and timescale on trees identified as requiring attention.

4. RECEIVE AND ADOPT COMMITTEE MEETINGS MINUTES.

- 11th April - Recreation and Burial Committee.
- 23rd May - Highways Lighting and Transport Committee.
- 30th May - Communications and Social Media Committee.
- 6th June - Planning and Building Committee.
- 20th June - Recreation and Burial Committee.
- 27th June – Planning and Building Committee.

Draft minutes of these meetings have been circulated to all Councillors and it was **RESOLVED** to note and approve the acts and proceedings of them, confirm recommendations contained therein and, as far as requisite, the action taken by them except for the 27th June meeting as Councillors have not yet had the opportunity to view these draft minutes, **CLERK** to carry forward to July monthly meeting agenda.

5. TO RECEIVE OTHER REPORTS AND CONSIDER ACTIONS ARISING FROM THEM.

a) Other committees and sub-committees.

Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with Highways Officers, **CLERK** to ensure all Councillors have received a copy of the draft minutes of this meeting.

b) Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

- i. Cllr. Gilbert has attended the recent Village Hall Committee and Rotherfield Sports Club meetings on behalf of the Council. Reported that Bowls Club will be approaching us to seek a contribution toward new fencing.
- ii. Cllr. Kitchenham has attended the recent meeting of the Mark Cross Community Centre project. Due to a delay in receipt of funding commencement of building work has been delayed. Cllr. Kitchenham is to contact Mark Cross School to arrange for the September Parish Council to be held there.
- iii. Cllr. Richardson had today attended the funeral in the Village on behalf of the Parish Council and was thanked by the meeting.
- iv. Parish Planning Panel meeting at Wealden DC. Cllr. Wickenden attended this, will report at next month's Council meeting as he has not yet received the draft minutes.

c) Clerk's updates and issues.

Attended the quarterly meeting of Wealden Clerk's at Polegate. Will circulate some "bullet points" regarding this.

d) Items for next Parish Magazine column.

- Dog Ban on Court Meadow Green – article regarding trial suspension of the ban.
- Update on ongoing Highway's projects affecting the Parish – enforceable long vehicle ban and implementation of a 40mph speed limit on the A267 at Argos Hill and B2100 High Cross.

6. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE.

- Spa Valley Railway – Summer 2017 edition of "Spa Valley Starter" magazine.
- Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee – Minutes of 8th March 2017 meeting.
- CPRE Sussex – Spring/Summer 2017 Sussex News.
- Local Council Review – Summer 2017 edition.

7. TO RECEIVE INSPECTION BOOK & REPORTS

No issues requiring urgent action had been noted other than mossy paths in the Old Burial Ground, see section 9 below regarding action on this.

8. TO RECEIVE DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

- 18th July - Planning and Building Committee.
- 25th July - Highways Lighting and Transport Committee.
- 27th July - Monthly Parish Council meeting.

These meetings are to be held in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall, and start at 19:30.

9. REPORT DETAILS OF ITEMS AND ISSUES NOTIFIED TO CLERK IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING FOR INVESTIGATION, FURTHER ACTION OR FOR FUTURE AGENDA.

- **Cllr. Henrick** advised that Council have a stall at the Rotherfield Primary School Summer Fayre Saturday 1st 12:00 – 15:00, also at the Rotherfield and Mark Cross Bonfire Society Fair on Saturday 15th. Any help at these events from other Councillors will be welcomed.

- **Cllr. Richardson**

- Had been advised by a Parishioner that white sacks of grass cuttings have been dumped on the footpath opposite Sheriff's Lane beyond the bollards – Rotherfield byway 29.
- Brambles encroaching over pavement by School reported by a Parishioner. Requested that Parishioner advises of specific location so that this may be dealt with.
- Hole in fence in Old Burial Ground and mossy pathways. Cllr. Martin is to be authorised to spray this with cost charged to burial grounds budget, also investigate the hole and report recommended action.

- **Cllr. Watson Smith.** "Dogs in the road" signs requested at Millhole Woods had not appeared – Clerk to check minutes and follow up progress with this.

- Cllr. Wickenden. Property in Village has had an advertising sign outside for some while and Parishioners have complained to him about this. **CLERK** to raise this with Wealden Planners.

Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 22:30.

10. PUBLIC FORUM.

None.

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

Draft minutes subject to confirmation and adoption as a true record