



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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 25th APRIL 2019 AT 19:30
IN THE MARK CROSS COMMUNITY CENTRE, MARK CROSS, TN6 3PJ**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. R. Harris (Chair)	Cllr. N. Glynn	Cllr. A. Martin
Cllr. L. Henrick (Vice Chair)	Cllr. A. Hardy	Cllr. J. Richardson
Cllr. J. Cahan	Cllr. D. Hiles	Cllr. G. Watson-Smith
Cllr. G. Farmer	Cllr. J. Kitchenham	Cllr. N. Wickenden
Cllr. T. Gilbert		

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

All Councillors were present.

ALSO PRESENT

T. Thorpe, Parish Clerk, Cllrs. R. Standley and F. Whetstone (ESCC), Cllr. P. Dixon (WDC) and three members of the public.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

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

None.

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

- Cllrs. Hardy and Harris declared a personal interest in item 3 iv).
- Cllr. Wickenden declared a personal interest in 3i) as a relative owns land adjacent.
- Chair reminded those present that they should declare an interest if they became aware of one at any point in the meeting.

c) District and County Councillor reports.

Cllr. Whetstone.

Expressed concern regarding the continuing issue of long vehicles ignoring the length limit and that neither Police or Highways appeared interested in positive action to prevent further damage to the King's Arms.

Cllr. Standley.

- Has met with Highways who are assessing various options, none of which appear ideal to him. Suggestions included the following: -
- Suspending parking near the "Catt's Inn" to allow large vehicles more space to manoeuvre when emerging by the King's Arms.
- Flashing sign by Town Row bridge advising large vehicles to turn back.
- Large metal pole on approach to the King's Arms which vehicles would strike instead of the building.

The Councillors also suggested the following: -

- Implementations of an enforceable 7.5t weight limit on the B2100 from Mark Cross to the Village and signing the B2101 High Cross as the route for large vehicles to use, thus avoiding the turn by the King's Arms.
- Amending the junction at Mark Cross so that entry to the Rotherfield bound carriageway is made more difficult for HGV's to turn into if heading toward Frant. Bus service would be not be affected as they only approach/leave from the Frant direction.
- Effective Police enforcement. Clerk reported that, whenever clear details are provided to him of offending vehicles he sends details to an Enforcement Officer contact in the Driving

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

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and Vehicles Standards Agency who speak with the Transport Managers of the companies concerned. Clerk also sends a report to the Sussex Police's "Operation Crackdown" who issue letters to the vehicle owners.

- These actions are reliant on information and photographs from a small band of "lorry spotters" to whom he is grateful. It is hoped that interrogation of the data captured by the CCTV on the Stores will enable more vehicles to be reported and add weight to the provision of effective enforcement.

Cllr. Dixon.

- Due to the forthcoming District Council elections and associated "purdah" period there was little to report.
- Review of Conservation Areas is continuing, and he advised that this did not include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSI).
- Between 20 April and 31 May, Wealden District Council will be participating in the "Love Your Local Market" campaign which aims to raise the profile of local markets and encourage people to enjoy locally produced goods.

d) Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 28th March 2019 for approval as a true record.

Draft minutes have been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record and they were signed by the Chair.

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

- Beacon in Rotherfield Rec. Quote for replacement with a metal pole and in a new location agreed at recent Recreation and Burial Committee meeting, Clerk to deal with arrangements. At the same meeting it was agreed to fund replacement of the life expired flag pole at Mark Cross.
- Lamp column outside the Old Bakery, Rotherfield High Street. East Sussex Highways have been chased for a quote for a "like for like" replacement so that this may be progressed.
- Path to the bowls club has now been completed.
- ESCC have been chased for the paperwork in respect of the pavement opposite Mark Cross Church and hope to have this with us within the next 14 days so that Contractors be instructed.

2. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT END OF OCTOBER 2018, REVIEW EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET TO DATE AND NOTE OR AUTHORISE PAYMENTS.

It was **RESOLVED** that the budget, reconciliations and payments listed below be approved and confirmed.

Payments since March meeting

Payee Name	Amount	Transaction Detail
Teambase	£69.53	Stationery
Tollwood Garden Service	£487.50	March grass & other work
Tollwood Garden Service	£1,523.00	April grass & other work
Coppard Plant Hire Ltd	£346.32	March invoice
Cade Street Nursery	£520.48	"Rotherfield in Bloom" project
Rotherfield Village Hall	£44.80	March meeting room hire
Phil Ireland	£377.42	April sweeping/litter picking
Forest Row Parish Council	£139.50	Community Warden shifts

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Action in Rural Sussex	£50.00	Membership April 19-March 20
Rotherfield St Martin	£500.00	Support grant instalment one
Wealden Citizen Advice Bureau	£300.00	Support grant
Samaritans	£200.00	Support grant
Rotherfield Friendship Club	£200.00	Support grant
Trevor Thorpe	£104.19	Expenses & reimbursements
Trevor Thorpe	£1,567.68	April salary
H M R C	£517.46	April Tax & NI
Figtree Fencing & Landscaping	£2,235.54	Path to Bowls Club
Cripps LLP	£888.68	Surgery fees final invoice
A. Martin	£544.44	Various works for Council
Mark Cross Community Centre	£27.00	Hall hire for April 2019 PCM
HM Land Registry	£3.00	Search fee
Total	£10,646.54	

Receipts since March meeting

Rotherfield Millennium Green	£31.25	Dog bin Jan - Mar 2019
Colin Phillips Funerals Ltd	£754.00	L34 fees and costs
Total	785.25	

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

i. Rotherfield Surgery - arrangements for the following matters: -

a) Management of the property and suggestion that this be done via a “working group” comprising Councillors and residents.

Chair, Vice Chair and a Parishioner have met with the Doctors to discuss management of the property now that it is in Council ownership. Further meeting will be held on May 14th to agree arrangements for the boiler work and other maintenance. The new permanent Practice Manager will be starting on May 1st.

b) Emergency access to the property if required.

Spare keys have been cut for this and Chair/Vice Chair and Clerk will hold these in case emergency access is required “out of hours”.

c) Repairs and refurbishment.

See a) above.

ii. Consider new projects and Parish issues for the new Council to address.

The following suggestions were made.

- LED conversion of street lights, subject to cost/benefit analysis
- Installing of electric vehicle charging point(s) in the Parish.
- Installation of further Defibrillator(s) in the Parish.
- Participation in the “Adopt a Station” scheme for Eridge Station.
- Provision of bus shelters at Eridge Station. Clerk recommended that potential users of these be encouraged to write to the Council so that cost/benefit can be determined.
- Pre School. Develop an area to the rear of the building for activities involving water and sand.
- Mark Cross – create a small fenced “Play Area” on the area of the Millennium Green licensed to the Parish Council.

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- Wooded area below the Pre School. Tidy and develop this area for “Forest School” activity.

CLERK to note and add to agenda of forthcoming meetings of Council/Committee concerned.

iii. Update regarding the “Rotherfield in Bloom” project.

Cllr. Glynn provided the following update.

- Baskets, pots and tubs have been purchased together with plants with which to fill them.
- Planting session is scheduled for Saturday 27th 10:00 – 13:00 on the Millennium Green, all welcome.
- Highgate Nursery have kindly offered to store the items until it is time for them to be installed.

iv. Consider assistance for the Clerk.

Report circulated. The Chair declared an interest as he is related to Cllr. Hardy who has researched and written a report offering administrative support to the Clerk; the Vice Chair chaired the meeting for the duration of this item for which the key points were as follows: -

- Cllr. Hardy is standing down as a Parish Councillor at the forthcoming Elections.
- He is conscious of the ongoing concerning the workload pressures placed on the Clerk and has offered to provide Clerical support on an “as required” hourly rate basis of £12.50.
- Key areas of support that could be offered were review/redesign and maintenance of the Council website, General Data Protection Regulation matters, general IT matters and dealing with essential work such as issuing agenda and monitoring emails when Clerk is on holiday.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr. Hardy’s suggestion and commence on this basis for a six month trial period starting on May 3rd when Cllr. Hardy stands down as Councillor.

4. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

- 9th April – Planning and Building Committee meeting.

Draft minutes for the Finance and General Purpose, Communication and Social media and Recreation Committee meetings will be circulated and published shortly.

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

a) Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

- Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Gilbert reported the following: -
 - Their charges are to increase by 2%.
 - Recent electric installation tests disclosed that the Hall kitchen requires rewiring.
 - Cllr. Watson-Smith is to be passed details of the Hall’s forthcoming AGM, so he can attend.
- Due to unavailability of Committee Members the Sports Club did not hold a meeting.
- Councillor Watson Smith had attended the meeting of the North Weald Community Transport Partnership who provide the “Wealdlink” services connecting the Parish with Crowborough. As previously advised the Monday 224 service is to be withdrawn as Wadhurst Parish Council are no longer providing grant support.

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- Clerk attended a SSALC Clerk's Networking Day event at the Amex Stadium and will circulate notes.
- Cllr. Hardy had attended a meeting of the Sussex Community Rail Partnership.
- Cllr. Richardson had attended a meeting of the Twinning Association.
- Cllr. Farmer will attend the Saturday Open Day at the new Mark Cross Community Centre.

b) Clerk's updates and issues.

The Clerk will as a matter of urgency progress with publicising the Annual Parish Meeting on May 15th.

c) Items for next Parish Magazine column.

Suggestions to be passed to Cllr. Henrick.

6. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE.

- Spa Valley Railway - "Starter" magazine issue 69
- CPRE - Spring 2019 "Countryside Voice" magazine
- Uckfield Railway line - Minutes of March meeting and agenda for the 8th May meeting
Parishes Committee
- National Association of Local Councils - Winter 2019 LCR magazine

7. TO RECEIVE INSPECTION BOOK & REPORTS.

No items requiring urgent action were identified in the reports which were signed by the Chair. Chair reported that he and Cllr. Watson-Smith had infilled various holes in the Old Burial Ground on Saturday and a tracked barrow had been hired from Coppard to aid the work.

8. TO RECEIVE DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

- 30th April - Planning and Building Committee
- 15th May - Annual Parish meeting 19:00
- 21st May - Annual Council meeting 19:00 followed by a meeting of the Planning and Building Committee
- 28th May - Highways Lighting and Transport Committee.
- 30th May - Monthly Council meeting

These meetings will be held in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall, with the Annual Parish Meeting held in the main hall.

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

- Tap in the Cemetery has been repaired.
- Clerk is to circulate details of forthcoming School Fetes in the Parish at which the Parish Council will be represented.
- Flag in the Recreation Ground has been flown at half mast in memory of a Parish Royal British Legion member who had recently passed away.
- Chair thanked the four Councillors who are not seeking re-election to the Council for their efforts to support the Community and presented them with small tokens of appreciation.

Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 21:05.

10. PUBLIC FORUM.

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A local resident made the following comments and suggestions: -

- Gave thanks for the Council's provision of a new flagpole.
- Heavy traffic has spoiled the wildflower areas at the Village crossroads, the area by the closed off slip road was recommended as an alternative site for planting.
- Pavement outside Deilsfoot Cottages. Could this be widened as it is frequently blocked by parked vehicles and, even when not, is barely wide enough for a parent and pushchair to traverse. It was suggested that this be investigated to see if cutting back the overgrowing verge would help matters.

Adopted and signed as a true record at the 30th May 2019 meeting of the Council

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