



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 17th JULY 2018 AT 19:30
IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL TN6 3LX**

Cllr. A. Martin (Chair)

Cllr. T. Gilbert

Cllr. L. Henrick

Cllr. J. Kitchenham (Vice Chair).

Cllr. R. Harris

Cllr. N. Wickenden

Cllr. Cahan, although not a member of the Committee, also attended the meeting to provide information regarding items 2a) i and 2b).

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None.

ALSO PRESENT

The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85)

Cllrs. G. Farmer and G. Watson Smith have submitted apologies for absence and it was **RESOLVED** that these be accepted.

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

Cllr. Cahan declared a personal interest in items 2a)ii and 2b) as she is a parent of children at Mark Cross School.

c) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 22nd May 2018 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting and the Chair signed them.

d) Update regarding matters arising and action items from previous meetings.

Numbers reference the May meeting minutes:-

2d) Fingerpost maintenance.

JAKK, usual contractors for this work, are to inspect our stock of fingerposts. Those merely requiring a clean, wash and paint will be dealt with – cost £75 each – any requiring additional work will be reported to us so that action may be agreed. JAKK advise that Highways are still prepared to contribute toward work based on 2 x fingerposts being refurbished and Clerk will approach them for this.

2f)i Damaged street lamp 16 on B2101.

Our insurers have accepted the claim for this and Clerk will liaise with them and ESCC regarding replacement. Column 68 in Hornshurst Road, also subject of an insurance claim, has been replaced recently and awaits installation of lantern unit and reconnecting.

2h)i Roadside advertising and licencing land.

Clerk has submitted documentation to ESCC for licencing land at Mark Cross A267, Town Row Rotherfield B2100 and Danegate Triangle, Blackdon Hill, Eridge.

It was agreed that, although initially considered, the Council did not wish to take on

the responsibility of the Milk Lodge lay byes on the B2100.

An item features on the agenda of the July PCM to consider adoption of a roadside advertising policy.

e) **Committee financial report and agree any actions required.**

The report's details were noted and it was **RESOLVED** that no actions were required.

2. **RECEIVE INFORMATION AND MAKE DECISIONS ON ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURE AS REQUIRED REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

a) **Consider the following projects for Community Match funding applications**

Documents relating to the application process for this scheme have been circulated to Councillors, deadline for this "round" of applications is 31st October. Clerk reminded Councillors that the 2018/19 budget contains the following:-

- Mark Cross Highways projects £2,000.
- Traffic awareness measures £5,000.
- £20612 from Community Infrastructure Levy payments held in earmarked reserve; further substantial funds are anticipated from this source but timing of receipt of these is outside the Council's control.

i. **Speed awareness/speed limit reduction measures in Rotherfield Village.**

ESCC feasibility study was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Measures suggested in this were estimated to cost in order of £20 - £25K depending on extent of scheme and if all the elements were approved by East Sussex Highways.

RESOLVED that Cllrs. Henrick and Martin meet with the Parishioners who had originally put forward the proposals for speed awareness measures, this to discuss and complete an application for measures to be considered by East Sussex Highways on a "match funding" basis.

ACTION for **CLERK** to forward scheme forms to Cllrs. Henrick and Martin.

ii. **Additional safe crossing point on the A267 at Mark Cross.**

ESCC report circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Report estimates that the total cost of the project in order of £105K, if fully match funded 50% of this would come from ESCC. The following points and concerns were raised:

- Even if a "traffic island" arrangement was put in place, it would still be potentially hazardous for a parent and children to wait on the "island" for 40mph traffic to pass.
- A pedestrian controlled crossing with traffic control would be a far safer option; this had been informally costed and would increase the cost of the project to in the region of £170K.
- Could a pavement/footway from Brickyard Lane to the Garden Centre "island" be a cheaper and safer alternative?

RESOLVED that the Mark Cross Ward representatives, Cllrs. Farmer, Hardy and Watson-Smith, together with Cllr. Kitchenham, are to arrange a public meeting/consultation with residents to seek their views on the proposal.

ACTION for **CLERK** to add the feasibility studies for this project, and that for speed reduction measures in Rotherfield, to the website and Social Media.

b) **Mark Cross – Consider issues raised regarding signage and parking near the School, and suggestions for improvements and provision of additional parking.**

Reponses from residents and businesses affected by this issue had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The following key points were raised:-

- Lighting on the Millennium Green would be welcomed as school/nursery staff are reluctant to use the Millennium Green car park, particularly during the dark mornings and evenings of winter.
- Could additional parking spaces be created on the Millennium Green?
- There is no streetlighting in the area from the Millennium Green to the Pennies

- Nursery, and only a small number of lights alongside the main A267.
- It is difficult to persuade parents to park in the Millennium Green car park and walk their children to School. Matters could be helped if the short section of pavement from the Millennium Green car park entrance to the bus shelter and telephone kiosk were extended to opposite the Church.
- Without regular enforcement it was impossible to discourage parents parking on the School “zig zag” markings. Vehicles that did park here also had a “traffic calming” affect and reduced vehicle speeds at school times; it was rare to see children and parents crossing the road at this point.

The following was **RESOLVED**:-

- CLERK** to investigate cost of providing lighting on the Millennium Green with a view to Councillors investigating commercial sponsorship for installation.
- CLERK** to investigate ownership of the land between the bus shelter and parking area opposite the Church.
- Cllrs. Harris and Henrick to approach local landowners to discuss possibility of leasing/licencing of land to use for parking at school times.

c) Installation of CCTV to record overlength vehicles and anti-social activity in the Village centre.

At the June Council meeting Cllr. Martin outlined details of a scheme he had researched for installation of CCTV system in Village. Estimated cost of four cameras is £4.4K plus VAT, this to include installation and provision of “hard drive” storage to store 60 days of video footage. Image storage and control will be based in the Memorial Institute with cameras monitoring North Street, High Street and South Street. This could discourage/monitor “anti-social” behaviour and overlength vehicles, and in part compensate for a lack of visible police presence. Clerk has previously recommended that proper regard should be made to any planning, conservation area or listed building issues arising from the installations; this was noted.

RESOLVED that installation be agreed at the price quoted above and that Cllr. Martin to advise the supplier. Allocation of the cost of the project will be decided when the invoice for payment is presented. Cllr. Martin advised that he had previously been an employee of the company providing the scheme but now no longer had any business connection with them.

ACTION for Cllrs. Harris and Martin to obtain formal written confirmation from the owner of the Stores, the Institute and Rotherfield St Martin that they agree to installation of the cameras on their premises and hosting of the data storage system.

d) Long vehicle issues in the Parish – report and update.

Clerk presented the information below relating to large vehicles passing through the Village:-

Station Road B2100 North of Orchard Cottages		
	2017	2018
January	6	4
February	7	3
March	7	4
April	7	3
Rotherfield Hill B2100		
January	9	5
February	10	5
March	5	12

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April	12	5
South Street B2101 Horsegrove Farm		
January	8	9
February	5	4
March	10	8
April	11	10

Note:

1. Data has been extracted from information provided by East Sussex Highways as recorded by their fixed traffic monitoring loops at the above locations.
2. Figures represent daily averages and are the total for both directions of travel.
3. Categories of vehicles included in the figures are rigid HGV and trailer, and articulated HGV.

- Clerk reported that “Tesco” lorries are still noted passing through the Village and a member of the “lorry spotting” team had photographed one earlier that day turning into Station Road by the King’s Arms; details will be sent to Tesco. Cllr. Wickenden had spoken to the driver of such a vehicle who advised that although he was using HGV “SatNav” that it had not identified the restriction, **CLERK** to investigate.
- Cllr. Gilbert had recently noticed another “Stobart” articulated vehicle passing through the Village, driver advised him that he was delivering to a builder’s merchant in Crowborough.
- Frustrations continue at the delay in East Sussex Highways completing the project. it is understood that only one sign installation remains outstanding and once this is completed there will then follow a 21-day period before the restriction becomes legally enforceable.
- A Freedom of Information request had been submitted to East Sussex Highways seeking the total cost of the scheme to them; reply indicated that the final figure will be in the order of £107K.
- Clerk suggested that, once the scheme is complete and enforceable, there is an official “launch” involving press and TV if possible to raise the profile of our concerns.

e) **Agree 2018 Christmas Light arrangements for Rotherfield and Mark Cross.**
RESOLVED that Ultralite again be used for the installation in Rotherfield, **CLERK** to advise them. They indicated last year that the work would cost in the region of £2.5K, £3K is allocated in the current budget.

f) **Consider Parish Council funding of work to deal with overhanging trees on the bank in Station Road.**
RESOLVED that the quote of £750 plus VAT from T.C. Woodgate be accepted, **CLERK** to contact and request that work be dealt with during the school holiday.

g) **Action regarding subsidence of the “Church Path” Fp22c.**
Clerk and Cllr. Wickenden have inspected and can see no signs of any areas regarding urgent attention. Clerk clarified that this path falls under the responsibility of the East Sussex Rights of Way team for maintenance. The Churchyard itself is “Closed” with Wealden District Council responsible for maintenance, including paths therein, of a standard to keep it in “decent order” as per the relevant section of the 1972 Local Government Act.

3. **RECEIVE DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE**
Tuesday 18th September at 19:30 in Rotherfield Village Hall.

4. **REPORT DETAILS OF ITEMS AND ISSUES FOR INVESTIGATION, FURTHER**

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ACTION OR FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Clerk has instructed Solicitors to issue formal letter to ESCC regarding their responsibilities under their lease of the Pre-School and the currently unresolved issues of the damp affecting the storage area beneath.
- Cllr. Harris requested Clerk to seek information re: The King’s Arms “twtitten” Fp31a as the surface is collapsing and will be brought to the attention of the ESCC Rights of Way team. Past correspondence indicates that in the past maintenance has been carried out by the Parish Council with agreement from the Rights of Way team and a contribution from them toward the cost.
- Cllr. Harris reported that a Parishioner is to check the soundness of the beacon in the Rec. before it is lit for the Armistice centenary event.

Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 21:20

5. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

**Adopted as a true record and signed by the Chair of this Committee
at its 18th September 2018 meeting**

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