



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 13TH MARCH 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. G. Watson-Smith

Cllr. G. Farmer

COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None.

ALSO, PRESENT

The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe, and two members of the public.

1. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING: -

a) Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85).

Cllr. Hardy has submitted an apology for absence. Clerk advised that he did not believe Cllr. Hardy was an appointed member of this Committee but will check and enquire if he wishes to join it.

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

None. Members were reminded that they should declare an interest if they became aware of one at any point in the meeting.

c) To resolve that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 9th January 2018 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Draft minutes of this meeting had been circulated to the Councillors in advance. It was **RESOLVED** that these be adopted as a true record and the Chair signed them.

d) Update regarding matters arising and action items from previous meetings. 12th September 2017 meeting of this Committee.

• Dropped kerb by the King's Arms.

Clerk has instructed East Sussex Highways and our contractors to liaise regarding timings for this work so that licence required for it may be dealt with and installation undertaken; all other formalities relating to the Licence are complete.

7th November 2017 meeting of this Committee (incorporated in Parish Council Meeting).

• Request to the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to address the May Annual Parish Meeting re: parking enforcement and other Highway matters.

Commissioner's Office have advised that she is unavailable on this date. **ACTION** for **CLERK** to contact PCC's office and provide list of dates for forthcoming meetings of this Committee for that she could attend; profile of the meeting could be then raised to encourage parishioner attendance.

• Mark Cross – feasibility study into additional crossing point on the A267.

Officer dealing with this reports that existing road is not sufficiently wide to simply allow some new islands to be installed and road widening would have to extend over approximately 120m due to the curvature of the road. In addition, there is underground Stats. apparatus within the western verge that may require alteration, although this would only be determined if the design of the scheme is progressed. Taking all this into consideration it is likely that the cost of introducing some additional

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

Tel: 01892 664245. Email: rotherfieldpc@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk Twitter [@rotherfieldpc](https://twitter.com/rotherfieldpc) and on Facebook

islands will be very high. Final report is subject to checking. Report will include estimated costs, and should be with the Council within the next few weeks.

CLERK to add item to next available agenda for meeting of this Committee or Full Council once final report received so that the report can be discussed and further action considered.

- **Agree details of proposal for improvement of parking area, subject to licence, opposite Highgate Flats.**

Nothing to report, Clerk to carry forward to next meeting of this Committee for an update from Cllrs. concerned with this.

9th January 2018 meeting of this Committee.

- **Update regarding progress with installation of signage and implementation of the enforceable ban on long vehicles passing through the Village.**

Highways officer dealing is still optimistic that all signs will be in place by end of the month; the 21 days “clock” will then begin regarding the ban becoming enforceable. Parishioners have been sending in photos of lorries that would be affected by the ban, Clerk will write to owners of these for which ownership is apparent from the vehicle. Council are not currently authorised to access the DVLA database to establish ownership details via number plate for vehicles for which this information is not displayed. Clerk has contacted DVLA seeking criteria for permission to be granted.

Other items being dealt with by Clerk.

- **Lamp column 68 - Hornshurst Road on corner by sub-station.**

Sometime over the Christmas period this was struck by a vehicle, owner/driver unknown, such that wiring was exposed; East Sussex Highways swiftly removed the column for safety reasons. There was a delay in the PC becoming aware of the matter. Highways have provided full details/cost of “like for like” replacement – in order of £3K - and matters are now being progressed via our insurers – a £125 excess will apply to the claim.

- **B2100 Church Road/Rotherfield Road repairs and resurfacing.**

East Sussex Highways website reports that the B2100 through Rotherfield features in the 2017/18 works programme. Intention is that the road will be resurfaced from near the junction with Western Road, Crowborough, finishing at the junction with New Road, Rotherfield, including Church Road. Case reference for this project is 131945. A Parishioner has approached Cllr. Standley (ESCC) with concerns regarding the surface condition of this route, background details sent to Cllr. Standley with request for an update should there be a change proposed to the timing for the work.

At this point in the meeting it was **RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be suspended. This to allow the Parishioners present to address the meeting regarding the recent ESCC report commissioned and funded by the Parish Council regarding possible speed limit reduction and awareness measures in the Village Centre. The report was originally discussed at this Committee’s January meeting and it was agreed that the matter would be carried forward to the agenda of this Committee’s May meeting. This would give time to consider the impact on vehicle speeds of the implementation of the long vehicle ban and the Church Road resurfacing. Red tarmac and road surface roundels were suggested as an affordable means of raising limit awareness should other methods prove impractical or unaffordable.

- a) **Committee financial report and agree any actions required.**

Report circulated prior to meeting. Overall budget is within limit and it was **RESOLVED** that no action was required.

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

- a) **Installation of CCTV in Village Centre – update regarding cost and feasibility.**

No progress on this matter, **CLERK** to carry forward to the agenda for the May meeting of this Committee.

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b) Trulls Hatch A267 – consider resident’s concerns and request for a reduction in the speed limit at this location.

Council have been contacted to seek support for a reduction of the speed limit here. In 2017 the limit was reduced on the Mayfield Parish section of the A267 near Argos Hill, and on the B2101 High Cross in Rotherfield Parish. The section of the A267 in Rotherfield appears to be split between the two ESCC electoral divisions serving the Parish. **RESOLVED** that **CLERK** contact the two Parishioners involved with the campaign and petition, and advise that they liaise with our two County Councillors regarding process for submitting petition to ESCC.

c) “Mayfield Turn” junction B2101/Castle Hill. Receive information regarding safety concerns raised by residents and action taken.

This item was dealt with as second in this section as a resident near this location was present and wished to address the meeting regarding the matter.

At their January meeting with the Parish Council East Sussex Highways discounted the suggestion of changing the priorities at this junction as a means of avoiding “near misses” here as reported by nearby Parishioners. Parish Council have subsequently contacted East Sussex Highways requesting the following to raise awareness of the junction for vehicles leaving the Village via this route: -

- Installation of a more prominent direction sign featuring a "slow down" warning, or as a separate sign.
- Installation of 30mph carriageway reminder.

Response is awaited from ESCC.

d) Mark Cross. Consider possible remedies for concerns raised by a resident re: churning of verges, lighting and signs.

It was considered that the verges in question were Highways Land. Suggestion was made that it may be possible for residents adjacent to the areas affected to apply for a licence to enable them to take over the responsibility of maintaining the verges themselves. Sign mentioned in the complaint has now been reduced in scale to bring it within limit beyond which planning permission would be required. **RESOLVED** that **CLERK** enquire of ESCC for information regarding licencing to pass on to the Parishioner. Cllr. Farmer has offered to assist the Parishioner with the licencing if need be.

e) Receive feedback from other Parishes regarding alternative providers of streetlight maintenance; consider changing to new provider or signing up to new arrangement offered by East Sussex Highways.

Several Parishes had responded, all speak highly of “Streetlights.co.uk” who provide a fast and efficient service. However, their annual charge per column is nearly £45 pa compared to the East Sussex Highways charge of £25. Whilst concerns were raised regarding aspects of the East Sussex service these were not considered sufficient to justify transferring to the dearer option. **RESOLVED** to accept East Sussex maintenance contract terms and costs for 2018/19 **CLERK** to complete, sign and return agreement to them, and ensure that future street light fault reports are monitored to ensure that response is within their published standards.

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

15th May 2018 19:30 in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall. As this is the day prior to the Annual Parish Meeting Clerk suggested combining this with the business of the 8th May Recreation and Burial Committee meeting. A decision will be made closer to the time once the volume of business for each meeting is known.

4. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF ANY URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA.

- Clerk reported that the War Memorial Project fundraising target of £12K target was met today. Cheques banked bring current total to £12014 from 160 donors. Item will appear on agenda of the March Council meeting and the working party will meet prior to this for discussion regarding the next stage of the project. The appeal remains open for donations.
- **CLERK** to investigate and report to ESCC surface issue in carriageway near the entrance from the High Street to the Surgery by the florists.
- Quote is imminent from groundwork contractor for proposed works in the Old Burial Ground. This will be sent to **CLERK** to forward asap to Cllrs. Harris and Gilbert.
- **CLERK** to purchase extension lead for Council use at meetings.
- **CLERK** to contact street sweeper requesting that grass cutting and other debris on the Station Road pavement be swept and removed.

The Chair declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 20:40.

5. PUBLIC FORUM.

None.

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