

ROOTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS, LIGHTING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2011 IN ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. C. Clibbens (Chair)	Cllr. C. Dennison	Cllr. C. Prince
Cllr. R. Harris (Vice Chair)	Cllr. Mrs. P. Halse- Adamson	Cllr. D. Thomas
Cllr. M. Hall	Cllr. J. Padfield	Cllr. Mrs. A. Watson
	Cllr. L. Pike	Cllr. N. Wickenden

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk to the Council, Trevor Thorpe, and one member of the public.

- 1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s 85).**
An apology was received and accepted on behalf of Cllr. Miss N. Bolton.
- 2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.
- 3. RECEIVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2011 AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.** It was AGREED that these minutes be adopted and the Chairman signed them, there were no matters arising.
- 4. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE.**
It was RESOLVED that Cllr. M. Hall and Cllr. R. Jaques be made members of the Committee.
- 5. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.**
 - a) Approval of budget and precept requirements for 2012/13.**
Details of previous year's expenditure, and expenditure to date, were circulated to the Councillors and it was RESOLVED that the following budget be set for the forthcoming financial year.

LIGHTING

Lighting & Maintenance contract	6000
Repairs	2000
Capital Works: New Installations	1500
TOTAL	9500

HIGHWAYS

Footpaths	1000
Seat repairs	500
Street sweeping	1600
Fingerposts & signs	1500
Bus shelter refurbishment	500
Traffic control	2250
Other maintenance	500
Dog bin emptying	500
Ground maintenance contract	1250
TOTAL	9600
GRAND TOTAL	19100

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- b) Information regarding road conditions on B2100 Catt's Hill and further action.**
ESCC Highways have been contacted and confirm that there was drainage issues identified leading to the placing of temporary skid signs. Clerk has asked for update on what further action is proposed as the assertion from local residents is that the road surface is creating a hazard and may have contributed toward two recent accidents, a response is awaited from ESCC. Subsidence just below Jameah has also been reported to ESCC, this appears to have been caused by inadequate utility reinstatement. An item will be added to agenda of January SLR to discuss concerns with ESCC Highways and also desirability of an extension of the 40mph limit throughout from Town Row to the A267 junction.
- c) Updated cut list and invitation to tender letter.**
Amended list and draft letter were circulated to the Councillors. The amendments were AGREED, CLERK to issue invitations to tender and add to agenda of November meeting for quotes to be considered.
- d) Mark Cross Road layout and signage issues in Village Centre and possible extension of parking area opposite Church.**
Letters received from residents raising concerns that the "one way" slip road by the Church encourages vehicles to enter the village at speed and enquiring as to the rationale for the road layout at this point. There are also concerns that large vehicles are using the slip road as a route to access the Wadhurst road. There are two signs directing vehicles from the Wadhurst direction to turn left to access the A267, there are no equivalent signs directing vehicles from the Tunbridge Wells direction. ESCC have been contacted for information regarding this but have yet to respond. ESCC have also been contacted to seek whether they would licence an increase to the parking area opposite the Church to include surfacing and bollards, this to cover the area of verge currently in use "unofficially". Response is awaited. RESOLVED CLERK to contact Church, Nursery and School to seek support for closure of the slip road with a view to approaching ESCC Highways to progress this, also seek additional signage to direct through traffic away from this route.
- e) Acceptance of quote for replacement bus shelter at Mark Cross.**
ESCC have issued a licence for the new design, 3 quotes received in response to the 4 invitations to tender. A condition of the licence is provision of a litter bin. WDC have no funds to provide but they can arrange a bin on a "charged for" emptying basis, cost believed to be similar to dog bin charge of £4.65 pw. RESOLVED as follows:
- Accept quote from G. Burrige for the work at cost of £2175 with an additional £40 for wood treatment.
 - Choice of colour for treatment will be decided after reference to sponsor.
 - Replacement shelter to be insured on and "all risks" basis at cost of £1.45/£100 premium.
 - Approach WDC to see if bin can be relocated from elsewhere in Parish.
- CLERK to arrange.
- f) Parking issues on verge of A26 adjoining junction with Forge Lane and concern raised regarding lack of street lighting near the station.**
Parishioner has raised issue of lack of street lighting outside Eridge Station; the meeting considered that if the train operator provided adequate lit parking for the demand at the station this would no longer be a problem. Clerk has investigated the "East Sussex Act 1981" to see if this could be used to deter parking on the verges of the A26. Having discussed this with ESCC and another Sussex Council who have tried this method it would appear that this is unfortunately not a feasible solution due to difficulty of effective enforcement. Response awaited from Southern Trains regarding extension to car park. Cars are encroaching further onto the A26 and are regularly parking on the verge near the bus stop on both sides of the junction, vehicles are reported to the Police but it is considered that they are not committing an offence by parking here. RESOLVED to approach ESCC again to press for double yellow lines on both sides of the entrance to the junction.

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g) Progress report regarding “part night” conversion work to street lighting.

107 letters sent to households in Spout Hill and other areas of the Parish inviting comments, of the 15 replies received to date only 1 has been against the proposal. ESCC have been requested to provide quote for conversion work and an item will be on the agenda of the November Council meeting to consider this.

h) Progress and further action with formation of Speedwatch Group in the Parish and other speeding issues.

Training scheduled for November 24th at 11:00 in the Parish Council room, one session has already been held and “hi vis” jackets have been provided by Sussex Police. The officer dealing with scheme is to appeal against decision not to authorise some of the sites put forward for use. It is understood that the sites authorised can be used to monitor traffic in both directions.

i) Analysis of information from traffic loops in Station Road and any further action.

The following information was circulated to the Councillor’s.

ROTHERFIELD STATION ROAD TRAFFIC LOOPS INSTALLED AND MAINTAINED BY THE DFT IN 2003								
Speed limit at this point is 30mph								
Direction 1 Westbound, toward Village								
	2007	2008	% increase previous year	2009	% increase previous year	2010	% increase previous year	% increase over period
Annual Traffic volume	659,816	657,568	-0.3%	661,951	0.7%	675,072	2.0%	2.3%
% of vehicles travelling above 30mph	74.8%	73.3%	/	73.6%	/	69.8%	/	/
Estimated "85th Percentile" band	36-40	36-40	/	36-40	/	36-40	/	/
Direction 2 Eastbound, toward Town Row								
	2007	2008	% increase previous year	2009	% increase previous year	2010	% increase previous year	% increase over period
Annual Traffic volume	661,505	652,363	-1.4%	668,443	2.5%	684,904	2.5%	3.5%
% of vehicles travelling above 30mph	71.7%	69.1%	/	68.2%	/	63.7%	/	/
Estimated "85th Percentile" band	36-40	36-40	/	36-40	/	36-40	/	/

j) Progress and further action regarding road maintenance issues in the Parish.

Response awaited from ESCC as to whether there is any likelihood of patching work in New Road, it is believed that some budget was remaining for this and an ESCC officer was recently spotted measuring in the road.

k) Report from ESCC regarding seasonal closure of Chant Lane at the Eridge Lane and surfacing works. Comments from the Parish Council are invited regarding the closure proposal.

Report from ESCC was circulated to the Councillors. It was RESOLVED to endorse the ESCC decision for winter closure to vehicles of the section from the allotments to Eridge Lane to prevent surface damage, also to take no further action regarding surfacing issues. CLERK to write to ESCC indicating support for closure.

Parish Council Website: www.RotherfieldParishCouncil.co.uk

Email: rotherfieldpc@yahoo.co.uk

Clerk: Trevor Thorpe, 82, Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BJ 01892 664245.

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- l) **Design and quote for direction sign for Hall, Recreation Ground and RSM Centre.**
Details of design options and costs were circulated to the Councillors and it was RESOLVED to accept option 3 at £21.50 per sign to include installation, CLERK to arrange.
- m) **Information and further action regarding investigation of creating a cycleway/footpath between Rotherfield Village and Jarvis Brook.**
ESCC Officer looking at this proposal will not have anything to report until the end of the month, CLERK to carry forward to November meeting agenda. Notices regarding the scheme have now been placed at Crowborough Station and one message of support has already been received as a result.
- n) **Tree and hedge issues within the Parish and any further action required.**
Clerk reported actions taken regarding various areas in the Parish where these have been noted as causing issues and will follow up various outstanding reports of hedge issues. There are currently two areas outstanding in Spout Hill, action has already been taken by the owner in respect of one of these, CLERK to request ESCC inspect site to ensure that issue has now been resolved and also request progress report on other site. CLERK to liaise with Cllr. Dennison regarding Parish Magazine article regarding householder obligations to maintain their hedges and verges.
- o) **Footpath and right of way issues within the Parish as follows:-**
- **Dog fouling on FP22 Rochester Lane.**
It was reported by a Parishioner that this is an issue on this path; a dog bin has been suggested. RESOLVED not to install bin due to the annual cost of almost £250 for emptying, CLERK to investigate signage for this issue.
 - **Japanese Knotweed on FP37 Catt's Hill.**
Cllr Wickenden has offered to visit and investigate, CLERK to provide background information regarding landowners responsibility for clearance so that this may be given to the residents.
 - **Other areas requiring attention.**
Fly tipping of hedge cuttings in Chant Lane reported by a resident, debris appears to be near the Eridge Lane end, WDC have been made aware. Also reports a blocked gully further down, CLERK to investigate.
- p) **Information and further action regarding any contingency preparations to deal with snow and ice during the winter months.**
Reply still awaited from ESCC regarding availability of snow ploughs for use by local farmers. CLERK to reprint article featured in Parish Magazine last year and display in notice boards.
- q) **Consider agenda items for January SLR meeting with East Sussex Highways.**
Copy circulated to Councillors with Clerk's suggestions for content, item to be added regarding winter weather precautions.
- r) **Information regarding telephone kiosk in The Square.**
Parishioner has reported this as being out of order and also overdue a repaint as befits the listed status and location within the conservation area. Clerk has contacted BT to ask them to repair and also advise when a repaint is due - has escalated the enquiry to the regional manager due to a lack of response. Hedge surrounding the kiosk would benefit from cutting back. CLERK to monitor progress and report.
- s) **Request from Pre School for permission to install a sign at the Village hall entrance.**
Design circulated to the Councillors. RESOLVED to approve design and to request that sign be on a post rather than placed on the fence, CLERK to contact Pre School.

6. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- There will be a Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with Highway's Officers of ESCC at 13:30 on Wednesday 11th January.

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- Provisionally the next meeting of the Committee will be on Tuesday 17th January 2012 subject to confirmation by the Hall and adoption by the Council.

Both meetings will be in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall.

7. **TO CONSIDER URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA.**

- December Parish Council meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday 15th December at 19:30 in the Village Hall.
- Surgery has raised concerns regarding potential hazard branches of adjacent oak tree overhanging their roof, and Clerk has agreed work within his discretionary work powers.
- Position of bench on bank by Bowls Club to be marked, Cllr. Prince and Cllr. Pike will deal with this.
- Progress with digging hole for drain off to Cemetery tap. Cllr. Prince is dealing.
- Weather permitting white lining work will take place in the Rec. car park tomorrow from 13:00; Clerk has advised regular users of this via e-mail.
- Agenda for forthcoming WDC North Planning Committee meeting has been circulated, neither of the current major applications for the Parish feature.
- Spout Hill parking is still an issue and will be added to the SLR agenda for discussion.
- CLERK to investigate pothole reported on B2101 near Grub Reed.
- Two RTC have occurred, one on A267 between Mark Cross and Frant and the other at the A26/Sham Farm junction. It is believed that neither resulted in injury.
- Tree warden has discussed an issue with a Parishioner regarding an overgrowing tree and has recommended that they discuss their concerns with the WDC arboculturalist.

The Chairman closed the formal business of the meeting at 21:50.

8. **PUBLIC FORUM.** None.

.....Chairman.....Date