

Minutes of the **ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE** meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
September 2019 at 10.00 am at Groombridge Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Barry Agutter (BA) (Vice Chairman & Highways Coordinator),  
Cllr Andrew Fane (AF), Cllr Diana Kelly (DK), Cllr Keith Obbard  
(KO), Duncan Sanders (DS) (Chairman).

**In Attendance:** Natalie Brett – Assistant Parish Clerk (Minutes)

Members of the public are encouraged to come to the meetings and there is a 10-minute opportunity at the start of the meeting for them to address the Road Safety Committee. There were no members of the public present.

As Chairman of the Council DK chaired the meeting to item 2 whereby the elected Chairman of the Road Safety Committee took over chairing of the meeting.

1. ENQUIRE WHETHER ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING - None

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

**001723 RESOLVED** unanimously to elect Duncan Saunders as Chairman of the Road Safety Committee

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

**001724 RESOLVED** unanimously to elect Barry Agutter as Vice Chairman of the Road Safety Committee

4. APOLOGIES – Linda Weekes, Jan Batchelor and Cllr Nick Anderson.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

6. MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

**001725 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

6.2 MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM THESE MINUTES.

Completed

- Community Warden issued with parking notices
- Priority list amended as per previous minutes
- Lye Green junction report supplied to East Sussex County Council and raised at SLR
- SALC contacted regarding Purdah

Outstanding

- Slow marker at Cherry Gardens Hill not yet reinstated
- A264 white lining still outstanding

It was noted in response to the last set of minutes that Speed Watch had one new fully trained member and a number of new sites that had been approved by the police. KO and DS to work closely to facilitate a new way of scheduling sessions to attempt to optimise attendance. KO to look into the possibility of engaging with schools on speed watch

AF expressed an interest in joining sped watch.

7 SLR FREQUENCY AND ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE NEXT STEPS.

It was noted that the Strengthening Local Relations (SLR) meetings had been reduced to 2 a year by East Sussex County Council. East Sussex Highways had followed this by also reducing their attendance to two a year and limiting this to their Highway Steward. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would write to East Sussex County Council to express the Committees unhappiness a this.

It was agreed that whilst the Road Safety Committee have always been scheduled to interact in with SLR's this had in recent years become less important with the Road Safety Committee having its own remit independent of the interaction with the SLR's. It was agreed that for the remainder of the year to keep the frequency of the Road Safety Committee to quarterly, but with flexibility on the date to ensure maximum attendance by both councillors and resident members. It was agreed that greater feedback from residents was needed and the meetings needed to continue to be strategic.

8 WILDFLOWER VERGES

The committee agreed that these would be a nice addition to the parish however there were concerns over initial costs, benefits, maintenance, winter view and locations. The Assistant Clerk was asked to investigate this further and bring details to a later meeting.

**Assistant Clerk to follow up and report to a future Road Safety Committee meeting.**

9 THE CLAPPER

A paper was circulated in advance of the meeting (Appendix 1). The recommendation in the paper that "*Parish Council write a strongly worded letter to ESCC and SE Water demanding that the Clapper is repaired and reinstated to a usable raised walkway that can be used in flood conditions*" was unanimously agreed. BA to provide the Assistant Clerk with the wording of a letter to be sent.

10 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES UPDATE

The Assistant Clerk advised that she would be writing to residents in the areas that had been approved by East Sussex County Council to advise them the SID would be installed. The Committee agreed that they would like the SID to display the speed of the driver and a happy or sad face depending on speeding. Assistant Clerk to research timings of location changes for the display unit.

11 HIGHWAY COORDINATORS REPORT TO INCLUDE WARD REPORTS

BA thanked LW for her ward report. An updated was provided to the committee on recent successes and some outstanding matters. It was advised that our Customer Service Manager at East Sussex Highways had changed, both the Assistant Clerk and BA were working to build a strong working relationship with her.

12 MATTERS OF URGENT IMPORTANCE FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

It was noted that a resident had requested the Parish Council contact East Sussex County Council to request a speed limit change along Station Road in Groombridge to extend the 30mph zone. The request to East Sussex County Council was made but no response had been received at this time.

Resident request to add “A new 30 mph speed limit in Withyham” to the next agenda.

13 DATE OF MEETING - to note that the date of the next meeting to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 11.40am

## Appendix 1

### THE CLAPPER (RAISED WALKWAY) CORSELEY ROAD, AT ENTRANCES TO WATERWORKS AND FOREST WAY.

Report with recommendations from the Highways Coordinator.

**Recommend that the Parish Council write a strongly worded letter to ESCC and SE Water demanding that the Clapper is repaired and reinstated to a usable raised walkway that can be used in flood conditions. Particularly that the concrete plank section is replaced with the original specification before the handrails were cut off by SE Waters' fencing contractor. Not only is this an essential asset, especially as more severe rain events are predicted, it is a historic landmark in the parish. It is thought to be only one of two still in use in East Sussex.**

A meeting has already taken place between ESCC and SE Water to discuss the problems WPC were not party to this meeting although we were told we would be consulted on this matter.

Set out below are some of the issues around this structure and its' history.

- The concrete structure is only structurally sound if the handrails are an integral part of it as they prevent movement of individual planks. (Since the removal of the integrated handrail two planks have already fallen/pushed off their support) There is a suggestion to replace the integrated rail with an independent one making the structure unstable.
- It is the opinion of the Highway Coordinator that this ancient structure could predate the installation of the waterworks. This is due to the concrete sections being substituted with timber boards on brick stanchions where changes, over time, were necessary for access to the waterworks and the Forest Way.
- There is a concrete plank at the edge of the road, north end, by the entrance to Forest Way, indicating this was the start of the Clapper.
- After the railway to East Grinstead closed in 1967 the land was bought by ESCC in 1971 and designated a Country Park in 1974 subsequently Sustran upgraded the track surface in 2002. At some time between those dates additional brick stanchions and timber boards were built to traverse the entrance to Forest Way, either by ESCC Rights of Way or Sustran. There is the question who should have maintained this section?
- The concrete planks were replaced with timber boards when the rear access to the Waterworks was constructed, date of which unknown.
- The section around the main entrance to the Waterworks are mainly wooden boards on brick stanchions suggesting the gate way has been widened over the years and the crossover extended to take modern large vehicles.
- The handrail for this wooden board section was fixed to the oak palisade fencing (see Google Maps May 2011)

- To traverse the main gate way there is evidence from older villagers that the original gates had a walkway attached to them to allow passage during flooding.

