

Minutes of the **ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE** meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 10.00 am at Groombridge Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Barry Agutter (BA) (Vice Chairman & Highways Coordinator), Jan Batchelor (JB), Cllr Andrew Fane (AF), Cllr Diana Kelly (DK), (KO), Duncan Sanders (DS) (Chairman), Linda Weekes (LW).

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

1. ENQUIRE WHETHER ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING - None
2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN  
On the agenda in error as election took place at the last meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.
3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN  
On the agenda in error as election took place at the last meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.
4. APOLOGIES – Cllr Keith Obbard
5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

6. MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

**001821 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

6.2 MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM THESE MINUTES.

Completed

- Slow marker at Cherry Gardens scheduled in as part of agenda item 12
- A264 white lining now completed
- East Sussex County Council advised they would not consider an extension of the 30mph limit along Station Road, Groombridge.

Outstanding

- The Assistant Clerk was asked to flag up pavement parking and blocking of the pavement to the Community Warden as a persistent problem.
- Wildlife verges to be added to a later agenda

7. TO CONSIDER REQUESTING A NO HGV SIGN FOR BEECH GREEN LANE

The difficulty of large vehicles using Beach Green Lane was raised, in particular when diversions were in place. It was agreed that should the Parish Council be notified of any diversions that would impact on this road the Assistant Clerk would write to East Sussex Highways to request a temporary “No HGV” sign to be placed at the end of Beach Green Lane. It was also noted that there was a permanent highway “No HGV” sign at the A264 end of Beach Green Lane but not at the other end. Assistant Clerk to contact East Sussex County Council to enquire why this was not at both ends of the road.

8. STATION ROAD GROOMBRIDGE FENCING

The Finance and Administration Committee had resolved to retain the fence along Station Road and review in two years as to whether the hedge is sufficiently established to lay. The Road Safety Committee was happy with the decision of the Finance and Administration committee but requested that a consideration should be given to any dying back through damage or disease which could leave the hedge vulnerable to openings.

9. TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SID'S)

The committee agreed to recommend Quote A to Full Council further to the paper provided by the Assistant Clerk. It was also agreed to delegate to the Assistant Clerk in conjunction with the Clerk to fund a tablet for the sole purpose of the data collection up to the value of £328.

The costs for posts, installation and East Sussex County Council costs were also agreed subject to no significant increase in the estimates. Should there be an increase agreement would be sort by email from the Committee.

Next steps were agreed as letters to residents where the poles will be installed and take the decision for approval to Council. Once this has been achieved the Assistant Clerk will provide a risk assessment, guide and schedule for changing of the device locations. The committee requested the changing of the device location be added to the Parish Maintenance Person's Role.

**001822**

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the Assistant Clerk proceeds with the installation of SID's further to the costs provided.

10. UPDATE ON SLR'S

A new Terms of Reference had been received from East Sussex Highways for SLR's. A maximum of two SLRs are available to Parish Councils a year. A minimum of four weeks' notice is required, and agenda items are to be provided with a minimum two weeks' notice. The Customer Service Manager is now able to attend the meetings and arrange for other specialist areas to attend if needed.

11. HIGHWAYS COORDINATOR REPORT

11.1 Drainage

11.2 Street Lights

11.3 Relations with East Sussex Highways and East Sussex County Council

11.4 The Clapper

11.5 General Matters

Appendix 1 provides a copy of the detailed report circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. The Highways Coordinator gave a verbal overview of the document.

It was agreed to provide the Local Church and Village Magazines with an advert promoting safe pavement parking. BA to work with the Assistant Clerk.

It was recommended that residents who have water on their land are provided by East Sussex County Council with guidance on what is required of them.

A request was made for the Parish Maintenance Person to sweep the double yellow lines by the post office should he be able to do so without stepping in the road.

BA was acknowledged for the excellent information provided in the report and it was agreed to circulate this to Council at the next Council Meeting. It was further noted that relations with East Sussex Highways and progress on issues had been greatly improved since BA had been in the role of Highways Coordinator and he was thanked for all his work.

12. B2188 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - KINGS STANDING TO GROOMBRIDGE

Notice had been received from East Sussex County Council regarding signing and lining improvements to the B2188 from Kings Standing to Groombridge. However, it was noted that this did not include Cats Eyes which the committee agreed were vital in a rural setting for the safety of a road. The Highways Coordinator confirmed that he was following this up with East Sussex County Council.

13. EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS RURAL CUT

The second rural cut for Withyham Parish Council took place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The Assistant Clerk was asked to confirm when the first rural cut was and write to East Sussex Highways as it was felt this was very late in the season. It was also advised that unless the gullies are swept at the same time the rural cut often leads to issues with drainage. It was agreed to contact District Cllr Obbard to request a copy of the street sweeping schedule.

14. TO NOTE COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Community Warden written report to follow and the Community Warden to be in attendance for the next Road Safety Committee meeting.

15. MATTERS OF URGENT IMPORTANCE FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA - None
16. DATE OF MEETING - to note that the date of the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 10am in the Parish Office.

Meeting closed at 11.42am



## **Highway Co-ordinator Annual Report 2019**

Highways Coordinator: Barry Agutter

Total number of reports to East Sussex Highways (E.S.H.) and Wealden District Council (W.D.C.) in 2019 : **207**

Completed @ 1/1/2020 : **126**

Ongoing @ 1/1/2020 : **81**

Still outstanding from 2017-2018 :**26**

### Comments

1. Many have had to be reported more than once
2. Some reported below intervention level
3. Still issues over replacing worn out white lines and replacing Cat's Eyes
4. Some items not fixed to reasonable and expected standard
5. Still items get lost in the system

### Successes

- Clearance of the Clapper (raised walkway) at the Tanyard. Assurances from S.E. Water and E.S.H. that the Clapper will be fully reinstated to useable condition following damage by S.E Water's Contractor and general dilapidation.
- Siding of footpaths - Station Rd Groombridge  
– Path from Station Road, Withyham down to the river bridge
- Resurfacing of St Johns Roads around School Lane
- New barrier fencing on Station Road Groombridge
- White Lining replacement A264 Centre double lines, B2110 remarking of mini roundabout and entry roads
- Substantial Progress in the implementation of S.I.D 's within the Parish at two sites
- Numerous out of date and expensive streetlights replaced with modern low running cost LEDs, including two column replacements due to structural problems
- Significant progress in improving relations with various departments of E.S.H. and E.S.C.C.

- Meetings held with:
  - a) E.S.C.C. Contracts Manager (for Highways Contract) and their Stakeholder & Engagement Manager.
  - b) Stakeholder & Engagement Manager and Steward
  - c) Customer Service manager E.S.H.
  - d) New Customer Service Manager & Steward
  - e) Customer Service Manager & Representative from Drainage E.S.H.
- f) Two Parish Tours with Highways Seward identifying areas of concern
- g) E.S.C.C. Transport Development Control Manager re: Highway Boundary Plans
- Various Parish inspections in conjunction with the new Parish Administrator, Deputy Chair and a number with the E.S.H. Highway Standard

### Outstanding and Ongoing Issues

- W.D.C. Return to regular and efficient Road Sweeping – still awaiting new schedule, previous one was on a 12 weekly basis
- Replacement of Cat's Eyes / Road Studs and the basis on which the decision is made to re-mark
- Corseley Road Footpath Incident of cars mounting pavement following kerb renewal
- Kerb and Road edge clearance B2110 Ham Cottages to Ladies Mile. No progress.
- Re-surfacing footpath in Gromenfield and Station Road Withyham. No Progress.
- S.L.R. meetings reduced from four to two a year but with our increased direct contact with the contractor E.S.H. it may not be an issue as they know who we are, what we want and where we are.
- Drainage
  - a) Eridge Road by Harrisons Rocks – Broken pipe identified awaiting dig team to fix it.
  - b) Junction Eridge Road and Station Road Groombridge - CCTV identified utility strike (appears that the Gas pipe has been moled through drainpipe) – Action Enforcement to follow up the utility for remediation.
  - c) Mini-Roundabout B2110 to river, Groombridge - Partial clearance but requires heavy root cutting. Root Cutting programme to commence 13/1/20 over 500 sites identified.
  - d) B2110 Ham Cottages to Ladies Mile - Fully aware of the problems of both the Parish and a resident of Withyham Road – Possible remedial scheme planned.
  - e) B2110 from Tylers to Florence Lane - As above Possible Scheme.
  - f) B2110 The Ridge - As above.

- g) Corseley Road Spring Farm Cottage to Waterworks entrance. Various Issues here
- i. Broken pipes
  - ii. Roots in drains
  - iii. Ownership of culvert (pipe) under the road from the Tanyard Cottages and to S.E. Water property – Email sent to Transport Dev. Control Manager Oct 19 – drawing taken by Drainage Rep
- h) London Road C11 above Forest Fold - E.S.H. believe there is a missing gully following resurfacing works some time ago. Further investigation planned and suggested a metal detector.
- i) Summersales Hill to Lye Green - Problems in accessing manholes buried in overgrown hedge.
- j) Cherry Gardens Hill B2188. Ongoing problems of gullies being blocked by debris suggested more frequent clearing.
- k) Sussex Lane / Ironchurch Lane - Ditch and Grips. Dispute on Highway ownership. Needs involvement of Transport Dev Control Manager. Sketch of drainage issues in Iron church have been taken away by Customer Services Manager.
- l) Broadwater Forest Lane / Station Road Groombridge - Gullies not visible – Steward aware. Drainage Rep – Works to do.

#### Information Collated at Parish Office

- Missing section of Highway Boundary Plan now received following meeting with Transport Development Control Manager. The Parish has been identified as an area to trial their new system.
- Streetlighting being plotted on Parish Online Software to produce accurate information and asset data sheet.