

Minutes of the **ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE** meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017 at 10.00 am in The Old Station, Groombridge

PRESENT: Duncan Sanders – Chairman Road Safety Committee, Barry Agutter (Vice Chairman), Cllr Diana Kelly, Jan Batchelor, Linda Weekes, Cllr Jane Clare,

In Attendance: Natalie Brett - Assistant Parish Clerk, (Minutes)
Mr A Simms – Member of the Public for item 5
Mrs J Rudden - Member of the Public for item 5

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 two members of the public present.

Mrs Rudden spoke on this issue of speeding cars on Cherry Gardens Hill. Her property is on Cherry Gardens Hill and she has lived there since 1998, she has seen an increase in speeding down this road which makes turning out of her property very dangerous. It was further commented that cars can often be seen dangerously overtaking on this road. There was a further concern for the safety of pedestrians and cars parked by the Forest Way, who then remove bikes ready for riding, due to cars driving by at great speed. It was also noted that two cars travelling at 60mph in opposite directions would lead to a 120mph crash and it was felt, an accident waiting to happen. Mrs Rudden further commented that the speed limit at Lye Green is 40mph and then changes to 60mph where it would be much more suitable for the 40mph to carry on.

Mr Simms shared his agreement with the comments made by Mrs Rudden and added that he has experience a significant accident with a car on his driveway being struck by a vehicle travelling along the road at great speed. He has seen many accidents on this stretch of road. He also commented that he has to walk his dogs along the road to access the footpaths and this is not only extremely hazardous but has led to Mr Simms being verbally abused by drivers. Mr Simms also considers to speed limit to be archaic for the road and believes it needs to be reviewed to take into consideration cyclists, pedestrians and modern driving.

The Chairman of the Committee thanked Mrs Rudden and Mr Simms for their comments which would be addressed in item 5.

1. ENQUIRE WHETHER ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING

The Assistant Clerk confirmed that she was recording the meeting for minute taking purposes and the recording would be destroyed once the draft minutes had been typed.

2. APOLOGIES -, Cllr Anne Jenkins, Michael Clare, Cllr Gwen Butcher

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4 MINUTES FROM MEETING OF 4TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The Minutes were agreed.

4.2 Matters Arising

Who	What	Update	Completed
Clerks	Parking at The Ridge	No further information available from highways. This will be re-action subject to further contact from The Ridge.	Completed
Clerks	Clarify whether ESCC would allow volunteers to undertake the works	Meeting to be held in January with Highways to move this forward	Ongoing
Mr Agutter	Obtain more information about the specifications and costings of the grasscrete bays installed by the Highways Agency	Information no longer required	Complete
Clerks	Follow up issues with railway bridge deck at Back Lane	No further action by SVR	Completed
RSC	RSC to continue to report obstructed, dirty or damaged signs/road markings directly to Highways.		Ongoing
Clerks	The Assistant Clerk to write to ESCC Highways regarding the inability to have a ball park figure for works.		
RSC	RSC to provide Assistant Clerk with list of concerns regarding cycle races		
Clerks	Forest Way – Raised at SLR and highways confirmed that all the road signage was in place and there was nothing further to be added.	It was agreed to request the Rights of Way committee review this for possible signing on the footpath.	
Clerks	Forest Way – Raised at SLR and highways confirmed that all the road signage was in place and there was nothing further to be added.	Assistant Clerk to contact Sustrans to see if they have any additional signage that could make the crossing safer.	
Clerks	Quality of Highways works to be raised at SLR	Quality of works was raised at the SLR and the discussion concluded to the satisfaction of WPC.	Completed

5 CHERRY GARDENS HILL

It was confirmed that Name Plates for Cherry Gardens Hill, which will identify it as a hamlet, as well as footpath signage will be installed by Highways before the next financial year. The option of mounting these on White Gates was currently on hold pending installation. It was noted that whilst the committee had received the request from residents to part fund a speed survey this must be looked at in conjunction with other road safety issues in the parish and prioritised. It was further noted that at the site meeting held on 16th March 2017 it was agreed to monitor the effect of the name plate before any further action was considered and the residents were requested to keep the parish council advised on their perception of this. It was advised that a speed survey may not always show what residents want and based on the frontage development of the road Highways had advised that a speed limit of 50mph would be the lowest that would be considered, it was further noted that funding for speed limit changes (traffic orders) by highways is very limited and it would be likely that this would not be funded by highways. It was noted that the Parish Council have to look at all of the costings not just the initial step, there would be little point funding a speed survey if the funding was then not available for the traffic order works which may well be in excess of £10,000. It was also discussed that speed limit changes would need to be agreed by the police however there are no locations on this road where enforcement can take place. It was agreed that at this present time the committee would be unwilling to invest in speed surveys for Cherry Gardens Hill. It was commented that Highways base all decisions for traffic orders on KSI's which only include data on accidents where there are injuries or deaths. The committee wished to stress that they do not want to put barriers in the way of residents trying to find ways to reduce speeding on the road and would continue to work with Highways on all of the roads of concern in the Parish within the powers that they have.

Mr A Simms left the meeting

6. A264

Accidents on this road have been reported to the Assistant Clerk who is keeping Highways advised. Linda Weeks was thanked for providing detailed information on these. Details on the final agreement for any changes to the speed limit on the A264 are still awaited.

7. REPORT ON MEETING WITH KARL TAYLOR.

The notes that were circulated prior to the meeting were noted. Clarity was sort on the discussion regarding Community Transport and it was advised that this is early stages and the comments were based on current thinking and may well change.

8. SIGN BY PARISH OFFICE STEPS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN CROSSING.

The parish council had been approached by a local resident to request signage be placed at the crossing by the steps next to the parish office. It was agreed that this would be a good idea but it was highly unlikely that highways would consider any signage on the road. It was recommended that the Assistant Clerk look at possible signage that could be sited by the steps and on the tarmac for pedestrians to see.

Assistant Clerk to investigate costings, designs and possible locations of signs for circulation to RSC and onward agreement to council.

9. SPEED WATCH - EQUIPMENT FUNDING

It was confirmed that the speed watch group was well on the way to being active and a training session had been held recently with the police representative. The minimum requirement for speed watch is 6 members which we now have, however the committee was urged to spread the word and encourage people to get involved. A proposal to fund the cost of purchasing our own speed watch device after the initial loan period of 6 months was considered.

The costings would be approx. £300 for the device and £500 for the associated tablet = Total £800. This was agreed unanimously.

The RSC agreed to recommend to council £800 to be spend from the RSC budget on equipment for the Speed Watch Group once the loan equipment requires returning, subject to the Speed Watch Group operating successfully during that time.

10. DROPPED CURB FEASIBILITY STUDY

Highways confirmed at the last SLR meeting that they can see no way of making a crossing in this location. It was advised that in order to take this further WPC would need to pay £500 for a feasibility Study which would identify any possible option and their costs. It was further noted that Highways advised that any possible options highlighted would not be funded by Highways. It was discussed that other options in this location including pinch points had been looked at in this area historically and in addition to the costs there would also be ripple effects such as parking issues. It was agreed with regret that the Parish Council could take this no further.

11. COMPLAINS BY RESIDENTS & REPORTING METHOD TO HIGHWAYS

It was agreed to add a page to the WPC website to encourage members of the public to report highways issues directly to Highways whilst also letting residents know that the parish office is available and open to any residents who are unable to use the website and wish to report an issue.

Assistant Clerk to update WPC Website

12. SURVEY OF PARISH

It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would accompany BA on a highways survey of the parish in February 2018. This would be done by ward with the dates and times to be agreed in conjunction with the Clerk.

Assistant Clerk and BA to conduct a Parish Highways Survey

13. REPLY FROM HIGHWAYS ON PARKING LINES REVIEW

This was circulated prior to the meeting and noted. The Assistant Clerk was asked to *laisse* with the new Community Warden on parking issues. Should there be any that these are to be brought back to RSC for consideration in requesting a meeting from highways.

Assistant Clerk to *laisse* with Community Warden on parking.

14. JUNCTION OF B2110 WITHYHAM RD & B2188 HENDAL HILL

It was noted that the resurfacing of this area has now been completed and it was commented that the road markings are now much more visible which should make the junction safer. It was further commented that the junction has been moved forward slightly which leads to much improved visibility when pulling out of the B2188.

The lack of any signage after the works had finished but prior to the road markings being painted was noted. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact highways to advise them of this.

Assistant Clerk to advise Highways of missing signage during roadworks.

Mrs J Rudden left the meeting

15. ENFORCEMENT ON HEDGES AND TREES

It was noted that Highways will act on any hedges or trees that are causing and obstruction to the highway and these can be reported on their website.

16. WARD REPORTS

These were noted with thanks to JC, BA and LW for providing this valuable information.

In addition to the Blackham ward report it was noted that Oak Lane to the Church/Village Hall is becoming a rat run with cars driving too fast and not paying correct attention at the junction. It was asked that a sign at Iron Church Lane should be considered and it was agreed to take this to SLR.

Assistant Clerk to forward Ward Reports to the Highways Steward.

Assistant Clerk to add signage at Iron Church Lane/Oak Lane Blackham to SLR

17. ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

A review of the Road Safety Campaign was circulated prior to the meeting and noted. The Assistant Clerk and Clerk for Crowborough Town Council were thanked for all their hard work on making the campaign a success. It was agreed to recommend to council that this is run as a yearly event.

Recommend to council that the Assistant Clerk runs an annual Road Safety Campaign

18. MATTERS OF URGENT IMPORTANCE FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA - None

19. DATE OF MEETING - to note that the date of the next meeting is on Monday 5th March 2018 at 10am in the Parish Office, The Old Station, Groombridge.

The meeting closed at 11.30AM