

Hamsey Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at BEECHWOOD HALL on Thursday 8th March 2018 - 7.15pm

Present: Cllr.D'Arienzo, chair
Cllr. M.Dodd
Cllr.K.McBrown
Cllr.R.Baughan
Cllr.J.Harmer
Cllr.A.Suttie

Apologies: Cllr.Ian Ginn, vice chair

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council.

		Action
98	Apologies for absence - None	
99	Questions from the public - None	
100	Declaration of interest by Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests. Cllr.Dodd declared an interest in 7aSDNP/18/00689/HOUS as he is a neighbour	
101	Minutes of the meeting held 11 th Jan. 2018 were agreed & signed as a true record	
102	Update on any matters arising from last meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda) None	
103	Financial matters	
103.1	<i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300274 £86.96 Chair's expenses *Cheque No.300275 £20.00 National Trust – Beacon licence *Cheque No.300276 £622.38 Clerks salary & expenses for January *Cheque No.300277 £632.38 Clerks salary & expenses for February	
103.2	Council noted the current financial situation.	
103.3	Council considered the financial regulations for the council and no changes were needed	
104	Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee	
104.1	SDNP/18/00689/HOUS Pippins, The Street, Offham - Erection of a front extension Cllr.Dodd left the meeting and council discussed the history of this application. They had objected strongly to the property being built in a conservation area and against the recommendations of the LDC conservation officer. Development in conservation areas should preserve or enhance them and make a positive contribution to the area and council felt this property did not meet that criteria. Permission was originally granted due to the applicant wishing to downsize so an extension so soon after completion should not be necessary. The council will object to the application.	
104.2	LW/18/0098 Former Hamsey Brickworks South Road - Variation of condition 27 relating to planning approval LW/14/0712 whereby the wording of the condition be changed to: "No more than 50% or 24 residential units hereby approved shall be occupied until one of the B1 commercial units approved as part of this permission have been constructed in accordance with the approved details and made available for occupation. The parish council have had many meetings with the developers regarding community space and access to the woodland and lakes. Access had been agreed but it now appeared that access would be to the woods only as the developers wish to apply for further housing around the lakes. Council agreed they could not agree to any change in conditions until an agreement to grant residents access to the woods and possible community space, had been received in writing. Chair to pursue.	Chair

104.3	LW/17/1055 North End Barn, North End Lane Section 73A Retrospective application for the erection of a single storey 3 bay store – The planning committee had visited the site and although planning would not have been needed if the original building had been replaced like-for-like, the new building was different. Council felt the new design was an improvement and noted there was a hedge to screen it from a neighbouring plot and a catslide roof to reduce its impact. Council had <i>-no objection</i>	Cllr.Baughan
104.4	TW/17/0121/TPO T1- Chatfields Yard, Cooksbridge. Field Maple with small Ash adjacent: Remove stem overhanging site at base. Lift crown to six metres from level of house foundations. Cut ivy stems on both trees. T2 - Ash. Appears to be dead. Fell, remove and burn. T3 - Goat willow (not part of TPO) does not appear on any plans and is too close to house. Fell. T4 - Field Maple and Prunus. Old hedgerow trees in poor condition. Fell and re-plant with two Semi Mature Field Maple. - <i>no comment</i> made by the parish council but Cllr.Baughan will be looking at the plans and will contact the developers to ask about the planting and landscaping schedule as good screening of the site is important.	
104.5	Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP SDNP/17/04678/FUL Land adjacent to Offham Barns The Street Offham: 2 additional pitches and conversion of 2 stables to day rooms ancillary to Gypsy site with alterations to existing site access – <i>granted</i> LW/17/0994 The Malthouse Cooksbridge Road Cooksbridge: Conversion of Village Hall to form two houses with separate garages and associated courtyard car parking – <i>granted</i> LW/17/0988 Chatfields Yard, Cooksbridge Road - Variation of condition 23 relating to application LW/16/0935 to allow additional external (porch) lighting – <i>granted</i> LW/17/1002 Chatfields Yard Cooksbridge Road - Variation of Condition 1 of planning application LW/16/0935 for the alteration of approved materials – <i>granted</i>	
105	Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall	clerk
105.1	Update on new play equipment for the park. The very wet weather means that it is not likely to be possible to get a crane onto the field at the end of March so a new installation date of end April/early May has been agreed. Clerk will arrange to have the old equipment removed.	
105.2	Update on installing CCTV. An acceptable quotation had been received from AM Fire & Security and chair proposed that the PC proceed with AM asking for £1578 as a grant from hall trustees, being 50% of the cost. Seconded Cllr.Baughan and agreed by 3 councillors with one abstention.	
105.3	Update on installing extra car parking. Clerk has applied for grants. The estimates are around £25,000 for the work.	
105.4	Update on installing an all weather multi-use games court. Council agreed any estimates will need updating but no more can be achieved until the second batch of CIL monies are received.	
105.5	To consider a larger sign for Dogs on Leads- the clerk had asked a resident to put their dog on a lead and been told the sign was too small to notice. Council agreed that a much larger sign should go on the main field gate.	
105.6	Council consider appointing the mowing contractor for 2018 and only Barcombe Landscapes had responded with quotes for the work. Council agreed to appoint Barcombe landscapes again for 2018/19	
105.7	Council considered further measures to prevent dog fouling at the park. Chair had looked into the idea of introducing a DNA scheme which people could join at £35 per dog and only DNA registered dogs would be allowed into the park. Council felt this might be hard to enforce, especially with the public footpath running through. For the short term council agreed to trial using the old playground area as a dogs off leads exercising area. Subject to funding for the car park becoming available. Owners would still need to clear away dog mess.	
106	Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting	

	<p>Council discussed correspondence received from a resident who complained that minutes from the community meeting of November 30th were printed in the community newsletter. The clerk had replied and invited the resident to attend the council meeting but this was declined. Following a discussion on the continuing anti-social behaviour issues throughout the parish, Cllr Baughan said that he would circulate information on the Community Trigger scheme, which is an option open to residents to address persistent problems of this nature.</p> <p>Residents had contacted the PC regarding the state of the pavement between Malthouse Way and Offham. This has been reported (attached report) and this was also raised at the recent SLR meeting.</p>	Cllr.Baughan
107	<p>To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk Minutes from the SLR (strengthening local relationships) meeting held between the parish council and ESCC highways, have been circulated. The chair felt these meetings would prove to be very useful.</p>	
108	<p>Council considered rail and bus issues. - Report from Cllr.Baughan attached A meeting with Network rail on 22.2.18 discussed plans to replace crossing equipment at Cooksbridge which should start in April and last up to a year. There will be some overnight closures. The new rail timetable includes extra trains at 6am and some evening trains. Still not a full service but a significant step.</p>	
109	<p>Highway and Traffic issues - Report from Cllr.Baughan attached The post at Downsvew has been replaced. Potholes on the Drove have been filled and new safety measures are now in place at The Rainbow.</p>	
110	<p>Council considered any environmental issues- Report from Cllr.Baughan Council needs to respond to the ESCC waste site consultation by May 15th. Cllr.Baughan will look at the proposals and circulate a response. Future litter picks are planned for Sundays in the hope of getting more volunteers. There are plans for anti-idling signs at the Cooksbridge crossing to reduce exhaust pollution.</p>	
111	<p>Update on the parish emergency plan Cllr.Suttie has updated the plan and will type it up prior to the May meeting.</p>	Cllr.Suttie
112	<p>Council considered the risk assessment for Hamsey parish council and felt this was still fit for purpose – no changes needed</p>	
113	<p>Council considered the standing orders for Hamsey parish council and felt these were still fit for purpose – no changes needed but a review may be necessary following introduction of new data protection rules in 2018.</p>	
114	<p>Council considered training for use of a defibrillator Training has been arranged for May 14th from 1.00-3.00pm. There are still a couple of places available. Clerk will put this in the next newsletter.</p>	clerk
115	<p>Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda The Hamsey parish meeting will take place on May 10th at 7.00pm to be followed by the annual council meeting. Councillor roles will be decided at the May meeting</p>	
116	<p>Meeting dates for 2018 - May 10th, 19th July, 13th Sept., 8th November. All at Beechwood Hall</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

JT 12/03/18

Signed.....(Chairman) Dated.....

Minute 108 – Rail Report:

GTR May 2018 Timetable – The new timetable has now been published on the National Rail Journey Planner and Trainline websites and, in anticipation of formal publication of the new timetable by GTR, it appears that we have been successful in securing two new early morning weekday trains from Cooksbridge at 06.06 (to London Bridge) and 06.22 (to London Victoria), an earlier train from Cooksbridge to Lewes at 06.48, two evening services from London Bridge instead of the current one as well as other enhancements incorporated in the re-cast timetable. The 08.20 stop at Cooksbridge, on the same train that will now also stop at Plumpton at 08.25 (referred to in Maria Caulfield’s email of 22 February), has also been included in the new timetable. Of course the campaign for a full off-peak weekday train service from Cooksbridge, as well as at weekends, will continue and a meeting is being planned at the earliest opportunity with Phil Hutchinson, GTR’s Head of Strategic Planning, and Maria Caulfield MP to progress this initiative.

· **Cooksbridge Station Partnership** – In reaction to an incident at a station on their network involving station partnership volunteers, GTR are in the process of implementing a new procedure whereby all station partnership volunteers now require a Site Access Permit with all work detailed in a method statement. We are now in the process of addressing the requirements of this new system, with all associated documentation now submitted to GTR for processing, in order that Site Access Permits can be issued in time for the start of this year’s gardening season.

· **Cooksbridge Level Crossing Enhancements** – Network Rail met with representatives of Hamsey Parish Council on 22 February to outline the planned enhancement works at Cooksbridge level crossing. The commissioning of the new level crossing equipment, with control transferred to Three Bridges Regional Operating Centre, is scheduled for 11 March 2019. In advance of this a series of enabling works will be undertaken in connection with the installation of a new equipment building, walking route, new fencing, new pedestals for the barrier machines, alterations to lighting and a new CCTV column and cameras. The majority of the civil engineering works will be undertaken between April and October 2018 utilising a combination of half road closures and night time full road closures, details of which will be provided by Network Rail in due course. To ensure engineering and safety compliance in preparation for commissioning, testing of the new level crossing equipment is planned to take place between November 2018 and March 2019.

Minute 109 -Highway and Traffic Report

Case 114200 – Damage to footpath and wooden post – Raised on 02-06-17. As well as the repair to the damaged footpath in front of Downsview Cottages, the wooden post has now been replaced.

· **Case 204158 – Potholes on The Drove** – Raised on 15-02-18 – The potholes have now been patched (although there are now many others on the Offham side of the level crossing to be addressed). East Sussex Highways are currently assessing potholes in the Offham area with a view to potential resurfacing of the A275 in this location.

· **Improvements to the junction of A275 and Town Littleworth Road** – Raised on 05-12-17. In response to issues raised during the residents’ meeting of 30 November 2017, East Sussex Highways confirmed that a recent review of the road accidents at this location identified that localised improvements on the A275 in the vicinity of the junction with the Town Littleworth Road would be appropriate. As part of this initiative, new hazard marker posts have now been installed to help make drivers more aware of the alignment of the road and the junction.

Pending Issues

- **Case 93114 – Repairs to damage caused to the verges of Hamsey Lane and The Drove as a result of road traffic diversions associated with closures of Cooksbridge CCTV level crossing** – Raised on 14-03-17. East Sussex Highways have advised that that these repairs would be undertaken during February 2018 but to date they have not been completed.
- **Case 167567 - Bridge railings at North End** – Raised on 22-10-17. East Sussex Highways have advised that this work will be undertaken by a specialist contractor and are currently in the process of evaluating quotes prior to scheduling these works.

New Issues

- **Case 207892 – Damage to footpath south of Cooksbridge alongside the A275** – Raised on 20-02-18. The recent damage caused to the footpath by a contractor's vehicle has been reported. East Sussex Highways are currently in the process of examining this.

General

- Representatives of Hamsey Parish Council attended a Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with East Sussex Highways on 02-03-18. A number of issues were discussed including the current schedule of works (see above), school parking and potential speed restrictions at key locations throughout the parish. The meeting was a great opportunity to engage with the local East Sussex Highways team and to build upon the relationships we have already established.

Minute 110 - Environment Report

ESCC Household Waste Recycling Site Service consultation – East Sussex County Council have now launched a consultation on proposed changes to the provision of Household Waste Recycling Site services throughout the county.

Faced with the need to save a further £17 million from Council services in the next financial year, East Sussex County Council has stated that they have to make some tough choices. The Council's annual budget approved by Full Council on 6 February 2018 included a requirement to reduce the waste and recycling budget by £720,000. Accordingly, they have carried out a review of their Household Waste Recycling Site service and believe that they can make service changes that will bring significant savings while maintaining a good service.

The proposed changes include:

- The introduction of charging for certain waste types that are not 'household waste' (i.e. rubble, soil, plasterboard, tyres and asbestos) at the Household Waste Recycling Sites
- A review of recycling site opening hours against demand for the service
- The possible closure of the part-time recycling sites at Forest Row and Wadhurst

ESCC state that no decisions have yet been made on these savings proposals or the future of any of their recycling sites. Accordingly, residents and organisations are being asked to consider the proposals through a 12-week public consultation on the Household Waste Recycling Site service which ends on 15th May 2018.

We shall be responding to this consultation on behalf of Hamsey Parish Council, paying particular attention to how much coordination with district councils has gone into the proposed changes given that both tiers of local government combine to provide an overall recycling service. In our district, LDC are already making changes to their own recycling service which will undoubtedly impact on ESCC demand.

The proposal to alter opening hours to 'better suit demand' is likely to mean an overall reduction in opening hours if looking for cost savings. Accordingly, we will be keen to

understand how future 'demand' will be determined when all the other changes are taken into account, including services provided by LDC.

Finally, we will challenge the assertion that flytipping is unlikely to increase as a consequence of the proposed changes, with charging for certain items and reducing sites / opening hours. We will be keen to understand the rationale behind this argument and whether ESCC have calculated the additional costs of clearing up additional fly-tipping to offset against the anticipated overall savings?

Litter Heroes – We are continuing to do all we can to encourage more residents to adopt their local areas as a key initiative to complement the quarterly parish litter picks. If you, or any residents you know, wish to take part in this initiative and 'adopt' their part of our parish please do let us know.

Parish Litter Picks – Seven hardy local residents took part in another successful litter pick on Saturday 13th January when yet again a significant quantity of rubbish was recovered from our parish verges including litter, abandoned signs and car tyres. Going forward, we have decided to move the quarterly parish litter picks to take place on Sunday mornings, meeting at 10.00 at Beechwood Hall, in the hope that these will prove to be more convenient for local residents and hence encourage greater participation. All litter picks will continue to be publicised in the Hamsey News, the community website and by posters, with the next litter pick now scheduled to take place on Sunday 8th April 2018.

All are welcome and we hope very much to see as many parish councillors as possible taking part in this regular opportunity to keep our parish clean!

Dog Fouling – This issue continues to be a problem within the parish, with regular breaches by some local dog owners of the Beechwood Hall trustees' decision that dogs should be kept on leads when in the recreation ground.

The LDC Public Space Protection Order (PSPOs), covering dog fouling anywhere in Lewes district, came into force on 27 November 2017 with anyone found not to be clearing up after their dog facing a potential fine of up to £1000.

To complement this, and potentially in partnership with LDC, we are now considering options involving Dog DNA registration (for details please refer to email to all councillors of 20th February 2018) as a further measure to address this issue, with associated costs potentially partially offset by any resulting fines.

Pollution at Cooksbridge level Crossing - We are continuing to pursue a number of work-streams to address the issue of pollution from road vehicles waiting at Cooksbridge level crossing. These include the potential repositioning by Network Rail / GTR of the stopping point of long London bound trains to reduce barrier down times and the provision of appropriate anti-pollution road signage by Network Rail, East Sussex Highways and on the fencing of selected local properties

As part of this initiative, we have now made a specific request to the Network Rail project team responsible for the forthcoming upgrade of the level crossing at Cooksbridge for the provision of new signage, requesting motorists to switch off their engines whilst stationary, as recently installed at Plumpton as part of the recent upgrade of the level crossing at that location.

Vision - Tamsyn and Robert are continuing to talk with neighbouring parishes to share information and to join forces on environmental initiatives. We have many really exciting initiatives now in progress and more ideas in the pipeline and we would always welcome contributions and suggestions for consideration.

We continue to share a vision of Hamsey parish as a community working together to ensure a clean and sustainable environment for present and future generations.