

## Hamsey Parish Council

[www.hamsey.net](http://www.hamsey.net)

Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council  
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### DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at BEECHWOOD HALL on Thursday 12th September 2019 - 7.15pm

**Present:** Cllr.D'Arienzo, chair  
Cllr.R.Baughan, vice chair  
Cllr.J.Harmer  
Cllr. M.Dodd  
Cllr.K.McBrown  
Cllr.Ian Ginn

**Apologies:** Cllr.N.Kinch  
LDC Cllr.Isabelle Linnington

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

		Action
9191	<b>Apologies for absence</b> – as above	
9192	<b>Questions from the public</b> None	
9193	<b>Declaration of interest by</b> Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests. Cllr.Ginn, Cllr.Baughan – Item 6c	
9194	<b>Minutes</b> of the council meeting held 11.7.19 were agreed & signed as a true record	
9195 9195.1	<b>Update on any matters arising from last meeting</b> (not elsewhere on the agenda) <i>Min.no: 7195.1 – The chair continues to contact Gold properties re. Their parking obligations. LDC are also following this up. Gold have asked for for the parish council to agree to them allocating parking spaces under a licence to the cottages adjacent to the development but have not said what the terms of the licence would be. Cllr.Baughan said the council has raised concerns over any cost for a licence which might prevent residents from taking up the spaces. Presently the pavement is completely blocked by vehicles endangering pedestrian access to the bus stop. The PC has plenty of evidence to show that parking for the cottages was always offered and was part of the planning documents. PC will continue to push for a resolution.</i>	
9195.2	<i>Min.no: 7195.2 – The Meridian marker has been smartened up by the Monday Group but at some point this may need replacing.</i>	
9196 9196.1	<b>Financial matters</b> <i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300362 £36.00 CPRE subscription. Cheque No.300363 £199.02 Upperbridge web.fees (replaces 300361) Cheque No.300364 £88.57 Zurich Insurance Cheque No.300365 £28.80 KPS. Mowing Malthouse park Cheque No.300366 Clerk. Salary/expenses for July *Cheque No.300367 £28.80 KPS. Mowing Malthouse park *Cheque No.300368 £84.00 SALC. Training workshop for chair *Cheque No.300369 £216.00 Barcombe Landscapes. Mowing B.Park *Cheque No.300370 £480.00 PKF Littlejohn. Audit Fees *Cheque No.300371 Clerk. Salary/expenses for August	
9196.2	<b>Council noted the current financial situation</b>	
9196.3	<b>Council considered</b> a request from Cooksbridge Station Partnership for a grant of £200 towards an Open Day at the station on Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December to celebrate the restoration of a full weekday and Saturday train service. Council agreed to vire £200 from the unspent section 19 funds towards the costs of the day.	Clerk
9196.4	<b>Council agreed</b> a subscription to the Lewes District Association - £20	
9196.5	<b>Council agreed</b> to adopt the new financial regulations	

9197	<b>Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee</b>	
9197.1	<b>SDNP/19/03437/DCOND Offham Farm, Offham</b> - Discharge of Conditions 4, 5 and 6 of P.P ref: SDNP/19/00618/FUL(Change of use and conversion of redundant pig barn to accommodate new farm shop. Use of existing shop for ancillary purposes including staff rest area and storage of agricultural equipment)- <i>no comment needed</i>  <b>LW/19/0524</b> Knights Court, South Road - Variation of condition 31 (Planning permission reference LW/17/0030) for Antler Homes– <i>No Objection, based on Highways recommendations</i>	
9197.2	<b>Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP</b> <b>LW/19/0468CD</b> Discharge of conditions 35 and 36. Former Hamsey Brickworks - <i>Decision by LDC is – Not discharged</i> <b>LW/19/0380</b> The Barn, Former Hamsey Brickworks, South Common: relocation of 5 car park spaces and re-orientation of commercial (B1) unit in relation to app. LW/18/0849 - <i>granted</i> <b>SDNP/19/02291/HOUS</b> 1 Bretts Cottages, Whitfeld Lane, Hamsey: single-storey conservatory to the side elevation- <i>granted</i>	
9197.3	Cllr.Ginn asked the council to note that the Malthouse conversion had received an award for the work carried out.	
9198	<b>Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall</b> There has not been a trustees meeting as they are still awaiting correspondence from the Charity Commission regarding the changes required to make the parish council the sole trustees. The 5 year electrical safety test has been carried out. The windturbine has been serviced and the contract with Kingspan has ceased. Chair will meet a plumber on site to discuss possible installation of a water fountain. The large recycling bin has been installed (although recycling is still being put into the litter bins). Kate will alert hall users to use the new bin. The PC agreed to ask trustees to arrange a contract with LDC for the bin to be emptied monthly. This will need to be monitored depending on usage.	Chair
9199	<b>Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting</b> Cllr.Dodd took the SDNP plan	
91910	<b>To receive any reports from, or meetings attended by Councillors</b> Chair said facebook is working well to keep in touch with residents. She will update the website. Council wished to congratulate Cllr.Kinch on her excellent work in her new role dealing with Highways concerns. Cllr.Dodd and Cllr.Baughan and the chair will investigate any progress on the proposed sustrans cycle route. Chair will forward any emails she has on this item.	Chair
91911	<b>To consider dates for council meetings 2020</b> Council agreed to keep to Thursdays at 7.15pm.	
91912	<b>Any update on the parish emergency plan</b> This item need to come off the agenda for now	Clerk
91913	<b>Highway, Parking and Traffic issues (Report attached).</b> Cllr.Kinch circulated her report	
91914	<b>Rail and bus issues.</b> A report from Cllr.Baughan had been circulated (attached). The event at 10.30 am on December 21st will be timed to coincide with the first Saturday trains to stop at Cooksbridge station for over 35 years. Residents, Councillors, and figures from key organisations including GTR, SDNPA, etc will be invited to celebrate the full weekday and Saturday service introduced with the December 2019 timetable change. Council congratulated and thanked the Station Partnership team for their great success after 10 years of campaigning. Cllr.Baughan distributed some example SDNPA leaflets that show walks from stations and	Cllr.Baughan Clerk

	explained that the Station Partnership is currently in dialogue with SDNPA with respect to similar leaflets for Cooksbridge, for which SDNPA would welcome a donation. Council requested some additional information and it was agreed that the subject of a potential donation would be an agenda item in November.	
91915	<b>Council considered Police/Neighbourhood watch issues</b> Chair said there had been a theft from a Cooksbridge property where access was gained at night through an unlocked back door. Residents are advised to lock all doors at night.	
91916	<b>To consider any environmental issues.</b> (Report from Cllr.Baughan attached.) <b>Trees/rights of way</b> – Cllr.Harmer had contacted the landowner about a blocked path in Hamsey. The footpath from the station to Beechwood Lane has been cleared by Network Rail but on the section of this footpath outside their ownership old fence posts are leaning over and restricting access. Cllr.Harmer will contact the landowner about this issue. He has checked the fallen Beech branch in Deadmantree Hill to assess the condition of the tree.	Cllr.Harmer
91917	<b>Any report on improvements to the Malthouse play park</b> Contractors are due to carry out the repairs by the end of September. The moss and dirt need to be cleaned off the surface before they can start. Cllr.Baughan will ask about the £500 which the Malthouse Way residents had offered towards the cost.	Cllr.Baughan
91918	<b>Council considered GDPR requirements and website accessibility.</b> The clerk will ask the web provider for a quote to bring the website into line with the new accessibility requirements.	Clerk
91919	<b>Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda</b> The clerk/RFO is planning to retire at the end of the financial year (March 2020)	
91920	<b>Meeting dates for 2019</b> – November 7 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Meeting dates for 2020</b> – January 9 <sup>th</sup> , March 12 <sup>th</sup> , May 14 <sup>th</sup> , July 9 <sup>th</sup> , September 19 <sup>th</sup> , November 12 <sup>th</sup> All at Beechwood Hall 7.15pm	

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

JT 13/09/19

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

3 reports attached

### Highways Report – September 2019

Since the last report, it has been a busy time liaising with East Sussex Highways. Hamsey Parish Council have continued to seek resolution of safety related aspects and will do so in the future in order to seek clear commitments and deadlines from East Sussex Highways in resolving any outstanding issues and anything further that arises.

Case 207892 - Damage to footpath between Cooksbridge and Offham

This has been an ongoing issue for some time and has been raised on many occasions with East Sussex Highways. They have now agreed the pavement has deteriorated to a point where works are needed to be carried out and this will be done during this financial year. As of yet we do not have a date but will continue to press East Sussex Highways for resolution of this issue.

Case 00366034 reported 01/07- Risk to residents of overgrown vegetation throughout the Parish- this was reported to East Sussex Highways on 06/07/19. Regarding the safety aspects of our residents taking it upon themselves to cut back over grown bushes and shrubs and how Hamsey Parish Council feel it is unacceptable that our residents should feel the need to put themselves at risk of harm from passing traffic just so they are able to safely walk down the pathways. East Sussex Highways sent out the Highways Steward to assess the area. They cut back the overgrown vegetation and proceeded to give us the rural grass cutting schedule which is two cuts per year. Last cut being 9th September.

Case 00367773 reported 08/07- Highways Sign left on lay by after works carried out. This was promptly removed a few days after reporting it.

Case 00360391 reported 12/06- Missing road studs 'cat's eyes' on A275 between Offham and Landport Fork- East Sussex Highways have since been in touch after a long delay to say these works have been added to the database and due to be carried out in the near future. Unfortunately no date has been issued yet.

Case 1075067 - ongoing- Provision of a 'No through Road' sign for Malthouse Way, Cooksbridge - this issue has been regularly highlighted to East Sussex Highways and Lewes District Council. After an ongoing battle Cllr Baughan along with the help of Cllr Linington have managed to get the ball rolling into motion. This is currently under way with Lewes District Council and hopefully we will see the new sign erected soon. A huge thankyou to you both for your persistence in this matter.

Case 00368367 -Damaged street sign, Chandler's Mead, Cooksbridge. This was reported to East Sussex Highways and brought to the attention of Lewes District Council. The repair was carried out promptly.

Case 00360477 - Overgrown Vegetation restricting the view of oncoming vehicles and posing a safety threat, Landport Fork junction, A275. This was reported along side a report from a concerned resident. This has since been cut back and visibility has resumed.

Case -00379274 -reported 16/08- Large Fallen Branch from Oak Tree, Deadman Tree hill, Old Cooksbridge. Reported to East Sussex Highways, still awaiting the Highways steward to assess. We will continue to follow up on this matter.

Awaiting correspondence back

Further issues relating to case 00351312 - Defect to Southbound carriageway of A275 adjacent to traffic island to the north of Beechwood Lane- this is an ongoing matter with the utmost urgency. Many of you travel this road and have seen the road deterioration of the road's surface and how the defect has expanded. Residents in nearby properties have reported concerns over vibrations to their properties and the impact heavy good vehicles have passing through making the vibrations worse. Unfortunately I am still awaiting a reply but will continue to press for a rapid solution.

A local resident has raised concerns over puddling occurring outside of their property on the A275, Bouverie Cottage. This is causing damage to their new front door and windows from splashing water and fragments from the road ie. grit and stones.

This has been an ongoing issue since some re tarmac'ing took place some 4 years ago to repair patched on the road. The resident has been in constant talks with East Sussex Highways to come up with a solution but to no avail. I will contact East Sussex Highways to see if they can rectify the situation.

For any issues requiring the attention of East Sussex Highways, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will add the details to the log and report it to the appropriate department.

**Councillor Natalie Kinch**

## Rail Report – September 2019

Cooksbridge Train Service Enhancements – At a meeting on 16th July with Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), we received final confirmation that Cooksbridge will be provided with a full hourly train service throughout the whole of weekdays and on Saturdays with effect from the December 2019 timetable change. Furthermore, we are also working together with GTR senior management towards the introduction of a Sunday service next year although this is currently still a work in progress and subject to final confirmation.

This significant breakthrough is excellent news for all who live in the catchment area of Cooksbridge station and is the culmination of a sustained campaign by CARAG (Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group) that has lasted for over a decade. It is hoped that this transformation to the timetable at our station will also benefit those from further afield who may wish to travel by rail to Cooksbridge to visit family and friends, or to access the South Downs National Park, thereby also potentially generating additional custom for our local businesses.

We are now planning a launch event at Cooksbridge station on Saturday 21st December (the first day of the new Saturday train service) to celebrate the introduction of this new much improved timetable and we will be seeking a grant from the Parish Council to support this.

Passenger Benefit Fund – To compensate their customers for the disruption suffered during the introduction of the May 2018 timetable, GTR established a compensation fund of £15 million for enhancements to be used to 'provide tangible improvements for passengers', with £30,000 allocated for Cooksbridge as a Tier 3 station.

After careful consideration of all suggestions received, the Station Partnership has submitted a proposal based on costed potential options provided by GTR for the provision of enhanced cycle facilities, additional seating and an electric car charging point. These proposals are currently being evaluated by GTR and we are currently awaiting confirmation prior to their submission to the Department for Transport for final approval prior to implementation.

Lewes Bonfire Train Services – Following the decision of the multi-agency Tactical Coordination Group (TCG), to maintain the same arrangements as 2018 with the last train from London arriving at Cooksbridge at 17.20, we have written to re-state the position of Hamsey Parish Council and CARAG that a full normal timetabled train service should be provided from Cooksbridge throughout the whole of 5th November every year and that we shall be continuing to actively lobby on behalf of users of Cooksbridge station to achieve this outcome.

Station Accessibility – Cooksbridge Station Partnership recently met with GTR's local Access Ambassador to discuss measures to address the accessibility issues at the station. To enable 'step free' access to trains calling at Cooksbridge station (which is unmanned and therefore without the possibility of providing 'step free' access using portable ramps for driver only operation trains without an On-Board Supervisor), we have requested that GTR arranges for the provision of suitable raised humps on each platform. Also, as the only 'step free' access to platform 1 at Cooksbridge station is via the platform end ramp, which has an inclination that exceeds the maximum permitted, we have requested that GTR arranges for the provision of at least one handrail (preferably two) at this location.

GTR had maintained the position that they don't believe installing handrail(s) or raised humps are currently feasible at Cooksbridge. However, following the announcement on 8th July 2019 by the Department for Transport (DfT) that disabled rail passengers will benefit from a new £20 million fund to boost accessibility, we wrote again to GTR making the case again for these enhancements and we are pleased to advise that GTR have now agreed to the installation of a handrail(s) following completion of the Network Rail level crossing upgrade works. The campaign for the installation of suitable raised humps on each platform continues.

Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade – Following the successful commissioning of the new equipment at Cooksbridge level crossing in March 2019, Network Rail will be re-mobilising this autumn to complete some outstanding works. Due to the postponement of the planned commissioning of the main re-signalling works for the Lewes area (of which the Cooksbridge level crossing upgrade is part), Network Rail will be carrying out another small stage of works at Cooksbridge during the re-scheduled commissioning (28th November 2019 to 1st December 2019 inclusive) to transfer control of the level crossing equipment from the existing signalbox at Lewes to their new Regional Operating Centre at Three Bridges. To facilitate this, the existing relay equipment by Cooksbridge level crossing will be de-commissioned and the level crossing operated from the electronic system installed within the new relocatable equipment building (REB) installed last autumn.

The impact of these works on us at Cooksbridge is expected to be minimal and details of the full scope will be publicised as soon as it is known. As before, Hamsey Parish Council will be

liaising with the Network Rail project team responsible for this upgrade to ensure that bespoke letters are issued to local residents (as well as publicising on the community website and Facebook) before any weekend works, with detailed information relating to their potential impact and the mitigation measures to be adopted to address environmental issues including noise.

Any damage caused to pathways, verges, fencing, etc by the level crossing upgrade works will be repaired and restored by Network Rail to at least as good a condition as that existing before the works were undertaken, with all due to be completed before the final demobilisation of the project after this re-scheduled commissioning.

If any of the above requires further clarification please don't hesitate to let us know and we will do all we can to assist.

Councillors Robert Baughan and Ian Ginn

## **Environment Report – September 2019**

Anti-Litter Road Signs installed by Lewes District Council -

Roadside signs have been installed by Lewes District Council around the district urging people not to litter and make sure all their rubbish is taken home. Lewes District Council is highlighting the cost of picking up litter and street cleansing across the district, which amounts to £800,000 annually. Littering is a criminal offence and carries a maximum fine of £2,500. Councillor Julie Carr, Cabinet Member for Recycling and Open Spaces, said: "It is a priority for us to keep our district clean and tidy. Most people value our well-kept environment but there is a minority of offenders who carelessly throw litter out of car windows or leave it behind in public places. These irresponsible individuals are not only damaging the area we live in but unnecessarily costing £800,000 a year in clear-up expenses that we would much rather allocate towards priority spending. This unacceptable behaviour must stop."

Councillor Sharon Davy, ward councillor for Chailey, Barcombe and Hamsey, said: "Littering is a serious offence and these signs are a reminder to those who flout the law. The council will prosecute offenders whenever possible and investigate all reports of littering from vehicles."

As part of this initiative, an anti-litter sign has been installed by Lewes District Council at one of our 'hotspots' – the Cherry Seller's layby on the A275 just north of the junction with Wickham Lane. We will of course monitor to see if this sign has any impact in reducing the quantity of litter discarded at this location.

Parish Litter Picks –

Following the latest successful litter pick on 7th July, our next litter pick is planned for 13th October when we hope very much to see as many of you as possible taking part in this regular opportunity to keep our parish clean!

Based on the success so far, we intend to continue with the Sunday dates going forward and the dates for litter picks throughout 2020 will be published soon.

Vegetation Management by Network Rail –

During August, Network Rail undertook management of the lineside vegetation throughout our parish. This involved the removal of all vegetation within a seven metre envelope of the running lines with the principal aim of facilitating the ongoing safe operation of the railway and avoiding incidents such as that created by the fallen tree at Cooksbridge station on Saturday 10th August which blocked the railway for many hours. Naturally the removal of this vegetation, including the felling of many trees, has been viewed with concern by many residents and we continue to hold Network Rail to account with respect to all environmental issues within our parish.

In May 2018, the then Minister for Rail, Jo Johnson MP, commissioned an independent review to examine Network Rail's approach to lineside vegetation management across England and Wales. John Varley was appointed to lead the review in June 2018, using his significant experience in environmental land management. John Varley's report, which was published in December 2018, contained six recommendations, which were welcomed by Network Rail. In July 2019 the Department for Transport published a policy statement entitled 'Enhancing Biodiversity and Wildlife on the Lineside' which addresses the first of these recommendations where through careful planning and management, and by working in

partnership with its neighbours and environmental groups, Network Rail can improve biodiversity, while at the same time continuing to improve safety and performance. The Government expects Network Rail to achieve no net loss in biodiversity on its existing lineside estate by 2024 and to achieve biodiversity net gain on each route by 2040. We will be seeking details in due course of what specific measures Network Rail intends to adopt to achieve this objective within our parish.

#### Sussex Air Planning Guidance –

As part of their role in promoting improvements to air quality, the Sussex-Air Partnership have just published planning guidance for local authorities as air quality is a material consideration in deciding a planning application.

The purpose of this guidance is to provide clarity as to how authorities interpret relevant Local Plan policies, provide advice for developers and their consultants on how to assess and mitigate the impact that new developments may have on local air quality and to detail a consistent approach by developers and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to:

- address impacts on local air quality
- ensure optimum scheme design and
- avoid unnecessary delays in the planning process

#### Recycling Bin for Events at Beechwood Hall –

Working in conjunction with the Beechwood Hall Trustees, a recycling bin and associated enclosure from British Bins has now been installed to be used for events at Beechwood Hall. The provision of this bin allows us to satisfy the growing demand from hall hirers and guests who want to recycle the waste they clear when they clean the hall at the end of their event. As an 'eco hall' we really want to make this possible for them.

#### Cooksbridge cited in Parliamentary Debate on Decarbonisation of Road Transport –

In a House of Commons debate on 17th July, on the decarbonisation of road transport, the recent announcement by the Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) that Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) had agreed to increase the number of stopping trains at Cooksbridge station was cited as an example of how decarbonisation of roads can be achieved through improvements to rail services.

Hansard, the official report of proceedings of the House of Commons, records that Maria Caulfield (Lewes) (Con) stated that "One of the best ways to decarbonise roads is to improve rail services, so will the Minister join me in congratulating Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group, which has managed to secure an hourly rail service mid-week and, for the first time in years, on a Saturday, which will move more passengers in Lewes off the roads and on to the railways?"

In response, transport minister MP Michael Ellis said "I very much congratulate my hon. Friend and her group for their work in this area. It will only serve to assist her constituents, residents of the local area and any visitors."

#### Litter Heroes –

We continue to be grateful that more and more local residents are joining this scheme and adopting their local areas to complement the quarterly parish litter picks. Many areas of the parish have already been adopted by 'Litter Heroes' and if you, or any one you know, wish to join them and take part in this initiative to 'adopt' your own part of our parish please do let us know.

#### Air Pollution at Cooksbridge Level Crossing –

Working with Hamsey Community Primary School, the designs for anti-pollution signs at Cooksbridge level crossing are progressing well and the intention is that these will be installed during the autumn by Network Rail as part of the final phase of the upgrade works. These signs will make reference to Cooksbridge, and the potential effects of the emissions from idling road vehicles on the lungs of the young children walking past each day on their way to attending Hamsey Community Primary School, thereby appealing to motorists to modify their behaviours.

Interestingly, the University of Kent has just published a report entitled 'Can car engine idling be reduced using persuasive messages?' with the results of some research undertaken into the idling at two level crossings in Canterbury. The conclusions of the report support our approach with respect to the messaging on our proposed signs for Cooksbridge.

Vision - Tamsyn and Robert 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.

**Councillors Robert Baughan and Tamsyn d'Arienzo**