

Hamsey Parish Council

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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 7th November 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
Cllr.N.Kinch

Apologies: LDCCllr.Isabelle Linnington

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

		Action
11191	Apologies for absence – as above	
11192	Questions from the public None	
11193	Declaration of interest by Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests.	
11194	Minutes of the council meeting held 12.9.19 were agreed & signed as a true record	
11195 11195.1	Update on any matters arising from last meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda) <i>Min.no: 7195.1 – The chair continues to contact Gold properties re. Their parking obligations. LDC Cllr.Linnington is also following this up as is Andrew Hill of LDC planning. Road safety is an issue as cars on the A275, which should be able to use the residents spaces provided, are blocking the sight lines when exiting the new development and are blocking the pavement forcing schoolchildren into the road. Cllr.Baughan will push for a resolution with the Road Safety Team at East Sussex County Council. Cllr.Dodd suggested a letter should be circulated to residents at Chatfields to explain that the PC is trying to resolve the problem as a verbal complaint has been received from a resident regarding the blocked pavement. Chair and Cllr.Dodd to action this.</i>	Cllr.Baughan
11195.2	<i>Min.no: 91914 – Cllr.Baughan said the Station Partnership had secured a grant to cover the cost of walk leaflets so would not need funds from the PC but will be asking for a grant of £200 in 2020 for initiatives to promote the new service.</i>	Chair/ Cllr.Dodd
11196 11196.1	Financial matters <i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300372 £20.00 Lewes District Association subscription *Cheque No.300373 £118.35 LDC Election costs *Cheque No.300374 £28.80 KPS mowing Malthouse park *Cheque No.300375 £93.60 LDC empty dog waste bin *Cheque No.300376 Clerk. Salary/expenses for September *Cheque No.300372 £20.00 Lewes District Association subscription Cheque No.300377 £200.00 Grant (s.137) Station partnership *Cheque No.300378 £11.90 Cllr.Ginn- expenses *Cheque No.300379 £804.00 Cosmo construction – install gym equipment *Cheque No.300380 £1464.98 John Church. 5 year electric assessment *Cheque No.300381 £28.80 KPS mowing Malthouse park *Cheque No.300382 Clerk. Salary/expenses for October Cheque No.300383 £15.00 o.a.r.t. subscription	
11196.2 11196.3	Council noted the current financial situation Council considered the precept required for 2020/21. Clerk had circulated the proposed budget. Council discussed the possible extra costs for a new clerk who may need extra support or training. Clerk will look at a small	Clerk

11196.4 11196.5 11196.5	percentage increase to cover this possibility. To be agreed January. Council considered and agreed to the ESCC offer for 6 verge cuts per year - £285 Council agreed to make a request to hall trustees for a grant of £1800 towards maintenance costs Council noted the receipt of £3134.86 (28.10.19) CIL funds	
11197 11197.1 11197.2	Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee SDNP/19/04373 Woodcock Cottage The Street Offham: Internal alterations and demolition of existing extension roof and walls and construction of new single storey extension – <i>no objection</i> SDNP/19/04082/LIS17 Bank Cottages The Street Offham: Remove internal kitchen chimney breast, right-handed flue and all associated pipework – <i>no objection</i> TW/19/0065/TPO Chatfields Yard, Cooksbridge Proposal: T1 Hybrid Black poplar, reduce in height by approx. 10m. Reduce back house side of lateral crown by approx 6-8m to lesson weight. Blend in with remainder of crown as the side is unlikely to influence the gardens. - <i>Council discussed this application. Cllr.Baughan provided a landscaping plan. The tree is subject to a TPO. In view of its importance in the landscape and the loss of trees and hedges when the site was cleared by developers, the council objects to this application.</i> Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP SDNP/19/03437/DCOND Offham Farm, Offham - Discharge of Conditions 4, 5 and 6 of P P: SDNP/19/00618/FUL(Change of use and conversion of redundant pig barn to accommodate a new farm shop. Use of existing farm shop for ancillary purposes including a staff rest area and storage of agricultural equipment)- <i>approved</i> LW/19/0524 Knights Court, South Road - Variation of condition 31 (Planning permission reference LW/17/0030) for Antler Homes– <i>granted</i> SDNP/19/04373 Woodcock Cottage The Street Offham: Internal alterations and demolition of existing extension roof and walls and construction of new single storey extension – <i>granted</i>	
11198	Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall The trustees have held a public meeting at which the vote was unanimous in favour of Hamsey parish council becoming the sole trustees for the hall and park. Council will need to arrange a meeting as soon as possible to decide on a managing committee, which can be made up from councillors and interested residents..	Chair
11199	Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting Clerk was asked to circulate the SDNP presentation and partnership plan	clerk
111910	To receive any reports from, or meetings attended by Councillors None	
111911	Trees/rights of way – Cllr.Harmer There is an old railway fence encroaching on the footpath from the station. Network rail have cleared their section. HPC will suggest moving the stile or a gate to keep livestock off the railway piece and removing some of the old concrete posts to give better access to the rest of the path. ESCC rights of way have inspected the footpath beside Nursery Cottage and agreed that the newly installed fence follows the correct line. The hedge will be kept trimmed back.	
111912	Council considered a gradual change to the Parish Council business address For 14 years the council address has been the home address of the clerk. This may not be acceptable to a new clerk and could be liable to future changes. Council agreed that the council address should change to Beechwood Hall, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge BN7 3QG over the next few months.	Clerk
111913	Highway, Parking and Traffic issues (Report attached). Cllr.Kinch had circulated her report	
111914	Rail and bus issues. A report from Cllr.Baughan had been circulated (attached). All residents are invited to an event at 10.30 am on December 21 st , to coincide with the first Saturday trains to stop at Cooksbridge station for over 35 years. Council noted that the station car park was for rail users only and non rail users have	

	no right to park, however the carpark is owned by Network rail/GTR and so enforcement is not within the remit of the parish council.	
111915	Council considered Police/Neighbourhood watch issues Council noted the proposals that there should be a named PCSO for every area	
111916	To consider any environmental issues. (Report from Cllr.Baughan attached.) The turnout of 11 residents for the last litter pick was most encouraging.	
111917	Any report on improvements to the Malthouse play park Contractors have repaired the damaged surface. Council thanked Cllr.Ginn for cleaning the area prior to this work and also thanked the Malthouse Way residents group for their donation of £500 towards the cost.	
111918	Council considered GDPR requirements and website accessibility. The clerk is waiting on the web provider for a quote to bring the website into line with the new accessibility requirements.	Clerk
111919	Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda Councillors will attend the remembrance service on 10 th November. Cllr.Kinch will lay the wreath this year. Cllr.McBrown asked everyone to remember that there will be a Christmas sale at the hall on November 16 th . All are welcome.	
111920	Meeting dates for 2020 – January 9 th , March 12 th , May 14 th , July 9 th , September 19 th , November 12 th All at Beechwood Hall 7.15pm	

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

JT 11/11/19

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

3 reports attached

111913 **Highways Report** November 2019

There has been rather a lot of correspondence especially over the last few weeks between East Sussex Highways and myself.

An urgent and very concerning matter that I wish to highlight is the upcoming Cooksbridge level crossing closures. Hamsey Parish Council have continued to press Network rail for a change in their planned closures of the level crossing but to no avail. We understand and fully support Network Rail in these essential works but unfortunately we fear the disruption to the whole community and the closure of the A275, 10 metres either side of the level crossing will have a detrimental impact on not only the local residents, local businesses as well as any public transport users and general road users who travel this route daily.

Cllr. Robert Baughan has been in extensive discussions with Network Rail to get their help in facilitating this closure as smoothly as possible. With his help I am also in discussions with Highways to ensure they help as much as possible in providing suitable diversionary routes and signage. We are hoping they will provide staff to man a one way system for the prevention of traffic using the local routes such as, Hamsey Lane and TheDrove or Beechwood Lane and Wickham Lane.

Hamsey Parish Council have stressed that this is the worst possible outcome for our community and are dedicated to pressing for appropriate safety measures to be put in place whilst these works are being carried out. We will endeavour to get updates and information posted on the website as soon as we hear back from Network Rail and East Sussex Highways.

The temporary road closures will be on the A275 Cooksbridge Road, for a distance of 10 metres either side of the level crossing. From 01.00 hours on the 24th November 2019 to 04.30 hours on the 25th November 2019. Also from 00.00 hours on the 28th November 2019 to 08.00 hours on the 29th November 2019. The works are anticipated to take one day and two nights to complete.

Diversions via:-

A275 The Street- A275 Offham Road-A275 Nevill Road-A275 BrightonRoad-A27(T) Lewes Bypass-A26 Southerham Road- A26 Culfail Tunnel - A26 Mailing Street- A26 Mailing Hill - A26 Mailing Down -A26 Uckfield Road-A26 Rose Hill - A26 Lewes Road- A22 Uckfield Bypass- A22 Maresfield Bypass-A22 BattsBridge Road - A272GoldbridgeRoad- A272 Western Road - A272 Station Road- A275 in both directions.

Case no. 00389549 – Damaged uneven footpath between the level crossing and Downsview Cottages.

The Highways Steward has been out to inspect the footpath. Several areas of unevenness and cracking have been identified. This footpath has been recommended for large scale footwork repair in the future.

Case no. 00389218 – Puddling outside Bouverie Cottage, A275 Cooksbridge. Causing damage to resident's property from road spray and debris.

East Sussex Highways reports that the Highways Steward has been out to inspect the road outside of Bouverie Cottage, after heavy rain and noted that there are no immediate safety issues in place. However, the Steward has previously recommended larger scale works in order to rectify the puddling at this location. He has again reiterated these previous recommendations.

Case no. 00402407 – Block in need of repair from Pedestrian island, A275 opposite Beechwood Lane- This has been reported to the Street Lighting Team at East Sussex Highways for urgent repair.

Awaiting updates

Case no. 207892 -Damage to footpath between Cooksbridge and Offham garage.

Case no. 00351312- Defect to Southbound carriageway of A275 adjacent to traffic island north of Beechwood Lane. An on going deterioration of this road. East Sussex Highways have fixed another pot hole which has occurred at this point at the end of October. We are still awaiting a date for when works will commence to rectify the defect.

A local resident has queried some skidrisk signs from along The Drove and near Ivors Lane in Hamsey. They appear to have been there for approx 3 months but no resurfacing works have been carried out to explain their existence. These are being checked with East Sussex Highways as to whether they are a permanent fixture or not. Hopefully an update will come in soon.

If you have any issues requiring the attention of East Sussex Highways, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Councillor Natalie Kinch

Rail Report – November 2019

111914 **Cooksbridge Train Service Enhancements** – Cooksbridge station 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. We are continuing to work 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.

Planning for a community 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 is now well underway and we are grateful for the support of Hamsey Parish Council towards this. Invitations have now been sent to all members of our community with the latest edition of Hamsey News and we hope very much that all parish councillors will be able to join us for these celebrations.

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 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.

Station Accessibility – The only 'step free' access to platform 1 at Cooksbridge station is via the platform end ramp, which has an inclination that exceeds the current maximum permitted

and GTR have now agreed to the installation of a handrail(s) following completion of the Network Rail level crossing upgrade works in December.

The campaign for the installation of suitable raised humps on each platform continues and we are seeking the support of Railfuture to assist us in progressing this initiative.

Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade – 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 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 adjacent to Cooksbridge level crossing will be de-commissioned and the level crossing operated from the new electronic system installed within the relocatable equipment building (REB) installed last autumn.

The most significant impact of these works on our community will be a full 24 hour closure of Cooksbridge level crossing on Thursday 28th November to allow Network Rail's contractor to carry out the heavy changeover required within equipment housings at Cooksbridge station / level crossing area which need to be progressed at the earliest opportunity. This will allow the re-controlled level crossing to be set to work in shift 2 of the commissioning and principles testing to start to prove its safe operation. This strategy is based on reducing the risk of any rail closure overrunning by allowing any issues during testing to be rectified at the earliest opportunity, as well as ensuring that safe operation of the level crossing is achieved as part of the testing process.

Hamsey Parish Council had requested Network Rail to look at alternatives to this full 24 hour closure of Cooksbridge level crossing on 28th November but for the reasons stated above it has not been practicable to determine an alternative methodology to avoid this closure. We are now working closely with the Network Rail project team responsible for this upgrade to ensure that they implement appropriate mitigation measures, and provide associated information, with respect to all issues arising including bus services arrangements, signed road traffic diversions and the effective control of traffic to protect the fragile and unique environment of our local lanes. As before, Hamsey Parish Council will be ensuring that Network Rail issues bespoke letters to local residents before the 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.

In the lead up to these works Hamsey Parish Council will be providing updates with respect to all information received from Network Rail on the community website and Facebook.

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

111916 Environment Report – November 2019

Clean Air Day – Air pollution is real and harms the health of millions but there are lots of simple things we can do to improve air quality and look after our own and other people's health. Coordinated by Global Action Plan, the Clean Air Day www.cleanairday.org.uk event is a chance to find out more about air pollution, share information with friends and colleagues, and help make the air cleaner and healthier for everyone.

We are now considering how our community in Hamsey parish can participate in Clean Air Day on 18th June 2020 and look forward to sharing our plans with you.

Parish Litter Picks – On a wet and windy autumnal morning, we were delighted to see so many residents join us on October 13th for another clean-up of the parish. A big thank you to Natalie, Anna, Pete, Jim E, Ian, Margot, Jim R, Miki and Terry for turning out to help in those conditions! Between us all we managed to cover Cooksbridge village, the A275 (including the

laybys south of Offham and the Cherry Seller layby north of the junction with Wickham Lane), Hamsey Lane, North End, Whitfeld Lane and Deadmantree Hill. Overall the quantity of litter collected on this occasion was less than normal which is cause for some optimism although the usual 'hot-spot' of the layby at the bottom of Deadmantree Hill was in an appalling state, with a significant amount of discarded drink cans and a large quantity of car tyres.

Based on the success so far, we intend to continue with the Sunday dates going forward and the dates for litter picks throughout 2020 are now planned as follows: 5th January, 5th April, 12th July and 4th October. As usual, we will continue to do all we can to publicise all litter picks in the Hamsey News, on the community website (with alerts for registered users) and by posters displayed on the parish noticeboards.

Accordingly, our next litter pick is now scheduled for Sunday 5th January 2020 when we hope very much to see as many of you as possible taking part in this regular opportunity to keep our parish clean!

Fly-Tipping – There has been a further instance of fly-tipping since the last report, with the dumping of a mattress at the entrance to the South-East Water facility near the top of The Drove. This incident, that occurred at the end of September, was reported to LDC who arranged for attendance and removal.

We continue to monitor the trend with fly-tipping following the changes (additional charges and restricted opening hours) that ESCC have now made to their Waste & Recycling sites in an effort to reduce costs.

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.

Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade – Network Rail will be carrying out the final stage of these 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.

The most significant impact of these works on our community will be a full 24 hour closure of Cooksbridge level crossing on Thursday 28th November and we are now working closely with the Network Rail project team responsible for this upgrade to ensure that they implement appropriate mitigation measures, and provide associated information, with respect to all issues arising including signed road traffic diversions and the effective control of traffic to protect the fragile and unique environment of our local lanes.

Any damage caused to pathways, verges, fencing, etc in the vicinity of 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.

Working with Hamsey Community Primary School, we have now finalised the designs for bespoke anti- pollution signs at Cooksbridge level crossing which are ready to progress with Network Rail for installation as part of the final phase of the upgrade works.

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