

**Hamsey Parish Council** [www.hamsey.net](http://www.hamsey.net)

*Mrs N. Kinch, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council*

Beechwood Hall & Rural Park, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge, BN73QG

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**Minutes of the virtual meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held on  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - 6.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr T d'Arienzo, chair  
Cllr R Baughan, vice chair  
Cllr I Ginn Cllr R Kelly  
Cllr J Harmer Cllr K McBrown

**Apologies:**

**In attendance:** Mrs N. Kinch - Clerk/RFO to the Council.  
LDC Cllr I Linington 1 member of the public

05.20.1	<b>Apologies for absence - None</b>	Action
05.20.2	<p><b>Questions from the public</b> – Two residents had emailed the Parish Clerk with concerns they wished to have addressed at the Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>First was an issue regarding the condition of a footpath adjacent to the A275 north of Offham Farm where a 'slick white sludge' was reportedly making the footpath dangerous and slippery. The resident has reported the case to East Sussex Highways who replied that they have passed it on to the Licensing and Enforcement Team to liaise with the landowner. Lewes District Council have been notified by East Sussex Highways so they can arrange a pavement sweep to take place.</p> <p>Cllr Harmer has replied to the concern stating that excess rain fall and the fields becoming saturated over the winter months had been causing the run-off over the footpath however this has now rectified itself with the land drying out.</p> <p>The excess water was not only coming from his land but also around the village from other neighbouring properties too, which do not seem to have been reported.</p> <p>The footpath has now completely dried up and is not slippery or posing a danger. Cllr Harmer states that debris from a pothole along the A275 (now having been rectified by East Sussex Highways) had caused the path to become covered. A street sweep of this area has now been carried out. Cllr Harmer states that no authorities have been in touch with him regarding the issue.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan suggested the pavement issue caused by the excess rain fall over the winter months may also have been exacerbated by blocked drains along the A275 between the garage and Offham Farm.</p> <p>The second concern was from a resident highlighting the recent developments at Mill Laine Farm regarding the addition of two shepherd's huts and whether planning permission had been sought along with the complaint of whether the re-chalking of the farm track is a new creation or was an existing track. The concerns were over the vast lorry loads of chalk being imported onto the site and the impact this would have on the environment.</p> <p>Whilst LDC and SDNP Enforcement officers investigate, Council was asked to consider whether the actions of the councillor carrying out the development was against the 'code of conduct' and whether the</p>	<p>Cllr Harmer has noted that this has never occurred before but if under exceptional circumstances due to heavy rain this problem arises again further investigations shall be sought into preventing this occurring again.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan to get an update from East Sussex Highways regarding the blocked drains Case No. 00460212.</p>

	<p>Parish Council should have been forewarned in line its own principles in openness.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan and Cllr Ginn have reiterated the need to be open with the Parish Council and to make council aware of any planned works in the future.</p> <p>Chair has received numerous phone calls and three emailed concerns.</p> <p>Cllr Harmer has answered the concerns and complaints stating the track is an existing track that needed re-chalking due to being impassable. Cllr Harmer states there is no dispute as to the origins as the track is on old maps and has always been there. Cllr Harmer stated that many farms manage their tracks in such a way. It is part of the farm work enabling them the accessibility they require over the land and is of high importance. Cllr Harmer stressed that these tracks easily become overgrown within a short space of time so re- chalking is a good option. Cllr Harmer states the addition of two shepherd's huts is not on agricultural land, they are mobile so do not require planning permission. Cllr Harmer did not set out to cause any upset with the developments.</p> <p>Chair has summarised this matter, urging Cllr Harmer to forewarn the Parish Council of future development plans and pressed the need for openness so as not to risk bringing the council into disrepute. Cllr Baughan clarified the request that all Councillors are proactive in communications to the Parish Council of any planned changes to the built or natural environment with the potential to cause alarm.</p> <p>Cllr Linington has reported that the enforcement officer from Lewes District Council will be carrying out a site visit but due to Covid – 19 restrictions has been unable to perform this yet. Cllr Linington has urged any complainants to not contact the planning officer furthermore regarding this matter as dealing with complaints is impeding the officer from investigating properly. The matter will be reviewed once a site visit has been carried out.</p>	<p>Cllr Harmer has committed to inform the parish council beforehand of any planned changes to the built or natural environment with the potential to cause alarm and will consider best format of updates.</p>
05.20.3	<p><b>To consider co- opting to fill vacancy on the council</b> One register of interest from a Parish resident. Co-opting for vacancy will be at the next meeting July 9<sup>th</sup> 2020.</p>	
05.20.4	<p><b>Declaration of interest by Councillors on any agenda items and interest updates-</b> None</p>	
05.20.5	<p><b>Minutes</b> of the council meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	

05.20.6	<p><b>Update on any matters arising from the last meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda)</b>  <b>Min. no.7195.1</b> Any update on resident parking at Chatfields Close- Cllr Kelly has had discussions with a resident from Chatfield Close whom is involved in the Chatfield's resident committee. They report no replies back from Gold Development regarding the parking spaces that should be allocated to Wellington Cottages and Fourwinds. A report that the last house on the Chatfield estate has now been occupied.</p> <p>Two carpark spaces have been allocated to the tenants of an existing cottage along A275 which was bought by the developers as part of the new housing plans. Meanwhile spaces for all other properties along this front remain locked with a security bollard. Chair has had discussions with Dan Whicher from Lewes District Council Development Control to get clarity on when Gold development will release the parking spaces. Still no response from Gold Development despite given end of March deadline for reply to Dan Witcher.</p> <p>Cllr Kelly states the Chatfield Close residents are being proactive in trying to secure the spaces for the assigned properties on the A275 in order to alleviate the safety risks and lack of visibility due to parked vehicles on exiting the close. A letter of concern from a regular visitor of Chatfields close has been received regarding the safety aspects leaving the close and pedestrians crossing the road from the junction.</p> <p>Chair has been trying to ascertain whether the covenant regarding the spaces will remain or be lifted now the last property has been sold. Uncertainties surround whether the spaces will be allocated on licence and who will maintain them in future.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan and Chair reiterated the importance of securing the carpark spaces at the rear of the A275 cottages in order to address the immediate safety concern caused by the new development which did not include sufficient planning conditions or s106 agreements to ensure that the commitment of existing residents parking provision was fulfilled in a reasonable timeframe.</p>	<p>Cllr Kelly to continue liaising with Chatfield Close residents and seek guidance from NALC or SALC. Chair and Cllr Kelly to investigate carpark covenant.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan and Chair to continue discussions addressing safety aspects and release of spaces with East Sussex Highways and Dan Witcher Development Control.</p> <p>Cllr Linington to investigate further the planning application and whether the commitment to provide spaces to existing cottages can be enforced despite lack of planning condition or s.106.</p>
05.20.7	<p><b>. Financial matters</b></p> <p>a) <b>To approve payment of invoices as detailed</b> (including v.a.t)</p> <p>*Cheque No.300400 £58.65 <u>Chairs expenses. Covid 19 leaflet printing – LDC covered</u></p> <p>*Cheque No.300401 £54.98 Argos on-line. Office printer, paper, ink</p> <p>*Cheque No.300402 Assistant clerk salary March</p> <p>*Cheque No.300403 Clerk salary/expenses March</p> <p>*Cheque No.300404 Clerk retirement pension funds</p> <p>*Cheque No.300405 £93.60 LDC Dog Bin empty</p> <p>*Cheque No.300406 £194.63 ESALC and NALC subscriptions 2020/2021</p> <p>*Cheque No.300407 £342.00 ESCC Four Additional Urban Grass Cuts</p> <p>*Cheque No.300408 £136.00 Membership for Clerk to SLCC</p> <p>*Cheque No.300409 Clerks salary/ expenses</p>	

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>b) To note the Council's current financial situation</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Unity Trust statement    <b>£ 23,415,46 as of 31<sup>st</sup> march</b>      *less cheques not yet drawn</p> <p>Income payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £9,253.00 precept from Lewes District Council</li> <li>• £3,768.88 HMRC VTR for Vat repayment</li> </ul> <p><b>Co-Op Reserve Account:</b></p> <p>c) To consider the findings of the internal audit review  d) To approve the Annual Governance Statement  e) To consider the Accounting Statements and to approve the Accounting Statements  f) To ensure the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the Chair.</p>	
05.20.8	<p><b>a) Planning Matters</b> – to receive any report from the planning committee  Lewes District Council and SDNPA have recommenced planning consultations as of week commencing May 11<sup>th</sup> due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p><b>b) Planning Matters</b> to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>LW/19/0874</b>Hewen Street Farm South Road South Common - Conversion of agricultural buildings to 5 smaller dwellings –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>LW/19/0749</b> – Land North of Shelleys Folly, Deadmantree Hill, Barcombe - Creation of mushroom farm to include refurbishment and extension of onsite agriculture buildings, erection of poly-tunnel and siting of temporary accommodation – Approved with conditions</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>SDNP/20/00465/HOUS</b> The Old Wheelwrights Shop. The Street Offham - Replacement of existing timber windows and external doors with black aluminium framed windows and doors, including enlargement of two of the windows - Approved</p>	
05.20.9	<p>Any Report from Beechwood Hall &amp; Park –  Parish Clerk gave an update regarding the Wind Turbine/ Insurance claim for repairs – New Generation Energy have assessed the repairs and written an extensive report of the findings. The repairs have been quoted as £7,818 net and including vat £9,381.60.  Zurich Insurance had handed the claim to McLarens loss adjuster whom have agreed to pay the net amount of the repairs. The Parish Council will pay the remaining vat balance then claim costs back.  New Generation Energy has been contacted to arrange the repairs.</p> <p><b>UK Power Network</b> – Hamsey Parish Council have received a pay out to cover the costs of electrical repairs at Beechwood Hall of £995. A second quote is needed. Cllr McBrown and Cllr Harmer have recommendations of an electrician.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk to arrange for a second quote for electrical repairs</p> <p>Chair to arrange a Beechwood Hall</p>

	<p><b>Projects-</b> to discuss the drinking water fountain and all-weather path for around the grounds at Beechwood Hall to reclaim scrubland and enable access for all users.</p> <p><b>Working Group-</b> How to recruit local residents for help in future projects and events was discussed. Suggestions from Cllr Baughan, Cllr Kelly &amp; Cllr McBrown were flyers, information on community website and Beechwood hall website. Possibility of recruiting people at a community event after social distancing measures are eased and attending any resident committee meetings.</p> <p><b>Grant –</b> Cllr McBrown &amp; Treasurer Rachel Clifford have successfully applied for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure fund to recoup loss of income at Beechwood Hall throughout the closure due to Covid-19. A grant has been generously provided by Lewes District Council. As well as relieving financial pressure on hall funds, the grant enabled Beechwood Hall to release deposits held of a regular hirer to help with recouping some of their own losses from the hall being shut.</p>	Management Committee Meeting once Social distancing measures are relaxed.
05.20.10	<b>To note correspondence received since the last meeting and any action required –</b> Cllr Hamer requested information regarding correspondence to a property in Offham	Dealt within Questions
05.20.11	<b>To receive any reports from Councillors / or on meetings attended by Councillors –</b> Chair has had regular online meetings with LDC regarding the Community Hub & the 3VA Volunteering Charity regarding good information sharing and identifying the need for support for vulnerable residents especially those receiving food parcels. Some residents having been identified as vulnerable decided to opt out of food parcels through the NHS portal – there is uncertainty whether this shall have any impact on them regarding the option to have priority online shopping bookings.	
05.20.12	<p><b>Trees/ Rights of way – Cllr Harmer – Report Attached</b> A vehicle had become stuck on the byway between Offham and Landport. The gate at Offham had been left open but the issue is now resolved and the gate has since been locked.</p> <p>Work to move the stile on footpath Hamsey 9 on Lower Tulleys Wells farm is still to be completed.</p> <p>No update yet on the footpath issues on Lower Tulleys Wells Farm</p>	Cllr Harmer to contact SDNPA for an update
05.20.13	<p><b>To Discuss the Insurance Renewal with Zurich</b> All in agreement to take out a five-year LTA with Zurich for insurance cover on Parish Council assets and Beechwood Hall &amp; Rural Park. A discounted annual premium of £1,917.45 to be accepted. Cllr. Kelly asked about adding in assets and the cost of premiums. Mrs J Toomey previous Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council replied stating that the insurance company usual only make low cost charges towards small items and have always been very reasonable in their costs.</p>	Clerk to contact Zurich to arrange cover
05.20.14	<p><b>Highways and Traffic Issues (Report attached)</b> Cllr Baughan has said Hamsey Parish Council made the decision due to impacts of Covid-19 on authorities such as East Sussex Highways leaving them with limited staff, to only report safety critical repairs but to keep a log of all non-urgent repairs to submit at a later date. <b>Two repairs to note –</b> the large pothole on the A275 just outside of Offham Farm was repaired then subsequently resurfaced.</p>	Cllr Baughan to report the non-urgent items to East Sussex Highways now the most stringent Covid-19

	<p>Resurfacing repairs were also carried out on The Drove where a large pot hole was also repaired.</p> <p>Work on the footpath between the Malthouse and Offham had been stopped due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and low staff members. East Sussex Highways have been in touch and the work is due to recommence in early June 2020.</p>	lockdown measures are being relaxed.
05.20.15	<p><b>Parking Issues</b></p> <p>Cooksbridge Station Car park – Hamsey Parish Council to pursue the matter of the parking charges.</p> <p>Council will ask Maria Caulfield for support to request effective consultation with HPC, LDC and ESCC. Cllr Linington will liaise with LDC Cllr</p> <p>Rob Banks to ensure a unified approach with Plumpton and parity with the charges at that station.</p> <p>. Station Partnership have been persevering with GTR to try and get the option of a season ticket introduced.</p>	<p>Cllr Baughan to liaise with MP Maria Caulfield to get a consultation arranged.</p> <p>Cllr Linington to liaise with Rob Banks</p>
05.20.16	<p><b>To consider any rail and bus issues (report attached)</b></p> <p><b>Rail</b> – Hamsey Parish Council thank Cllr Baughan, Cllr Ginn and Kevin Froude for their dedication to improving the Rail connections for the community. This is once again portrayed by the great news that the Sunday service stopping at Cooksbridge will be reinstated as of Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020. This will be the first train to stop in Cooksbridge on a Sunday for 55 years.</p> <p>The platform extension works have been completed ready in <b>time</b> for Sundays train stopping, also allowing 8 car trains to stop clear of the level crossing. An improvement to traffic waiting times and less of an impact on the environment from pollution from stationary cars is a very welcome attribute.</p> <p>Recent works at the level crossing in Cooksbridge were successfully carried out and, albeit a little delayed, the advisory diversion signs to minimise the use of the lanes by traffic were implemented by East Sussex Highways and Network Rail on the entrances to The Drove, Wickham Lane and Beechwood Lane.</p>	
05.20.17	<p><b>Police/Neighbourhood watch Issues</b></p> <p>Reports of an attempted break in at a barn in Cooksbridge two weeks ago.</p> <p>Residents are asked to be extra vigilant.</p>	
05.20.18	<p><b>Environment – (report attached)</b></p> <p>The April litter pick has unfortunately had to be deferred due to the current situation but Hamsey Parish Council are pleased to report that many residents have been picking up any litter whilst on their permitted walks.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan touched upon Hamsey Parish Council's comments on the developments of Old Malling Farm and how as a community we wish to preserve our environment as much as possible. Although council have objected to the proposed plans, they have noted that cycling and pedestrian travel as a primary mode of transport should be encouraged in broader design statements and requested that a cycleway/ walkway running north to Hamsey should also be included</p>	

	as part of the planning for this development, thereby addressing our own Neighbourhood plan.	
05.20.19	<p><b>Update on emergency planning in view of the Coronavirus outbreak</b></p> <p>Furthermore, to the previous emergency planning training Hamsey Parish Council have been able to successfully identify vulnerable residents with the help of volunteer residents running the Hamsey Covid -19 Responders. With the help of volunteers in place from all over the Parish a network has been set up to accommodate anyone in need of assistance be it from shopping, prescription collection, dog walking to a reassuring chat. Cllr McBrown has been the central contact for the scheme whereby anyone can phone for help on the Beechwood Hall Manager phone number. Leaflets have been widely distributed on two occasions to all households urging people in need to get in touch.</p> <p>Hamsey Parish Council would like to thank all volunteers for their efforts in supporting our community and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all residents. The community response has been exceptional showing great resilience and strength through a difficult time.</p> <p>Cllr McBrown asked for the contact details of individual volunteer WhatsApp groups to be able to contact them directly if needed. Cllr Kelly to act as Cooksbridge central contact.</p>	
05.20.20	<p><b>Summary of recent Covid-19 emergency legislation around meetings and publication of accounts</b></p> <p>Cllr Baughan summarised the recent legislation of the Coronavirus Act 2020 which enables local and parish councils to conduct their meetings virtually before the 7th May 2021 and removes the requirement for the annual meeting this year.</p> <p>The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – defers the publication date of final audit accounts from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.</p>	
05.20.21	<p><b>To consider GDPR requirements and website accessibility</b></p> <p>Hamsey Parish Council and volunteer sector have ensured that the correct GDPR procedures are enforced whilst dealing with residents' personal data i.e. picking up prescriptions and holding details of addresses for deliveries of shopping.</p>	
05.20.22	<p><b>To consider a new standing order regarding the use of virtual meetings</b></p> <p>Hamsey Parish Council have added a notice on the use of virtual meetings and the protocols to the community website. This can be found at <a href="http://www.hamsey.net">www.hamsey.net</a>.</p> <p>An addendum shall be added to the council's Standing Orders for the temporary use of virtual meetings.</p>	Clerk to research
05.20.23	<p><b>Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda</b></p> <p>Replacement Bus Shelter Noticeboard due to vandalism</p>	Cllr Kelly to enquire
05.20.24	<p><b>Meeting dates agreed for 2020</b> – July 9<sup>th</sup>, September 10<sup>th</sup> and November 12<sup>th</sup> 7.15pm – subject to Government Covid – 19 guidance.</p>	

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



## Hamsey Parish Council

### Environment Report – May 2020

**Covid-19** – One of the effects of the ongoing lockdown to address the Covid-19 pandemic are lower overall levels of pollution and a resurgence of our natural environment.

Air quality levels are much improved with the reduction of vehicles on our roads and analysis of the first few days of lockdown suggests that NO<sub>2</sub> emissions across the United Kingdom have been cut by as much as 50%, dropping even further in the weeks since. Many of us have been taking the opportunity to explore more of our local countryside on foot or by cycle which, given the importance of home-working for the foreseeable future, may become a more permanent feature of life going forward.

Accordingly, we will be monitoring closely the longer term impacts of Covid-19 to ensure that our environmental policy and plans for the future are appropriate for any significant changes to the way that we all live our lives.

**Parish Litter Picks** – In order to comply with the government guidelines with respect to Covid-19, it was not appropriate to proceed with the litter pick planned for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Subject to applicable government guidance at the time, we hope very much that the next litter pick will still proceed as planned on Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>, when we will look forward very much to seeing as many of you as possible taking part in this regular opportunity to keep our parish clean! As usual, we will publicise on the community website (with alerts for registered users) and by posters displayed on the parish noticeboards.

In the meantime, some residents are kindly continuing to pick litter whilst on their walks. If anyone would like the loan of litter picking equipment, please contact us via the Parish Clerk and we will gladly arrange for it to be provided.

**Old Malling Farm** – Hamsey Parish Council responded to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) consultation on the Design Brief for the proposed Old Malling Farm development to the north of Lewes.

Hamsey Parish Council objected to this greenfield development site along the river Ouse which would erode the landscape buffer between our parish and Lewes and change forever the character of this green space within a stone's throw of Offham Marshes SSSI.



Furthermore, noting that cycling and pedestrian travel as primary modes of transport are encouraged in broader design statements, Hamsey Parish Council requested that a cycleway/walkway running north to Hamsey should also be included as part of the planning for this development, thereby also addressing a key objective of our own Neighbourhood Plan.

**Fly-Tipping** – The temporary closure of council run waste and re-cycling centres due to Covid-19 has been linked to an increase in fly-tipping across the United Kingdom. Here in our area, a serious incident of fly-tipping occurred on Allington Lane with evidence of other more minor fly-tipping / discarding of rubbish at other locations across the parish. The two mattress discarded in the stream on Beechwood Lane, as previously reported before the March 2020 meeting, have now been removed by our colleagues at LDC Waste and Recycling.

**Community Projects** – If you are interested in collaborating with other groups and residents on environmental initiatives locally, and you are not a member of Facebook but you have access to email, please ensure you visit [hamsey.net](http://hamsey.net) to sign yourself up for news alerts so we can share meeting plans with you. If you are able to help in practical ways, like scrub clearance or idea planning and residents surveys, we encourage you to join the new Beechwood Hall & Park Working group when it is up and running. Please contact [clerk@hamsey.net](mailto:clerk@hamsey.net) to register your interest.

**Future Initiatives** – We have many exciting ideas for future initiatives and always welcome contributions and suggestions for consideration.

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



## Hamsey Parish Council

### Rail Report – May 2020

**Summer 2020 Timetable** – The phased introduction of the summer 2020 timetable with effect from 17<sup>th</sup> May will include the restoration by Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) of an hourly Sunday service at Cooksbridge after an interval of 55 years. This will complete the restoration of a full 7 days per week train service at Cooksbridge which has long been an aspiration of our parish and a key objective of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Due to the impacts of Covid-19, GTR have been operating an emergency timetable. Following the publication of the UK Government's Covid-19 recovery strategy on 11<sup>th</sup> May, and an announcement by the Department for Transport the following day, the rail industry will now be introducing this new enhanced timetable from 17<sup>th</sup> May, to provide a train service that allows more key workers to be able to get to work, as part of a gradual introduction of the full Summer 2020 timetable.

**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.

The GTR passenger benefit fund project managers were in the process of surveying each station, to check the proposed schemes for feasibility, safety and whether the schemes are within the station allocated budget, and the survey for Cooksbridge was carried out in February. They had planned to have surveyed all GTR managed stations by the end of March 2020 prior to submission to the Department for Transport for final approval prior to implementation, however these timescales will almost certainly have been impacted by Covid-19.

**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 accordingly GTR have been requested to provide a handrail(s) at this location.

Following the removal by Network Rail of a redundant equipment cabinet and post in January 2020, and the associated landscaping of the area at the entrance to platform 1, GTR were preparing to progress with the installation of the handrail. CSP will follow this up with GTR at the appropriate time taking into consideration their current Covid-19 priorities.

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.

**Platform Extension** – In order to accommodate the eight car trains that will form the standard 'off-peak' and weekend train service from the summer 2020 timetable, Network Rail have extended platform 1 at Cooksbridge by 38 metres.

The construction of this platform extension is great news for our community, allowing rail users to access the full length of most Up trains and also minimising the amount of time that the level crossing at Cooksbridge is closed and the resultant airborne pollution created by any idling road vehicles.

**Introduction of Parking Charges** – GTR introduced weekday parking charges of £6.60 per day for users of Cooksbridge station with effect from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Unfortunately, the timing of the introduction of these charges by GTR was 'insensitive' and there appears to have been no effective prior consultation with relevant local authorities.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, the true medium / long term impact of the parking charges on our community is yet to be fully understood. Also, parking is free at weekends / public holidays so most new train services (Saturdays / Sundays) are unaffected whilst greater bus service integration and encouraging 'greener' transport alternatives (walking, cycling, etc) are also potential mitigating measures.

After lobbying by CSP, the introduction of weekly and monthly season tickets for regular users was proposed by GTR but this has been delayed due to the impact of Covid-19. As train services start to ramp-up again, as the UK emerges from 'lock-down', CSP will be following this up again with GTR to ensure implementation of these measures.

As agreed at the last meeting, Hamsey Parish Council is seeking the assistance of our local MP, Maria Caulfield, to work with Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council on potential measures that may be necessary to address any long-term consequences for overall parking in Cooksbridge.

**Works at Cooksbridge level crossing** – During a full closure of Cooksbridge level crossing from 09<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May, Network Rail carried out some necessary track relaying works on the Down line and also completed the resurfacing of the north side of the level crossing (deferred from 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> January), thereby making it safer and quieter for neighbouring residents with passing traffic creating less noise in future.

The special measures agreed before the previous level crossing closure on 18<sup>th</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> January, with advisory signs stating "not suitable for diversion" on the entrances to Wickham Lane and The Drove, and "not suitable for HGV's" on the entrance to Beechwood Lane, were implemented again on this occasion (albeit with a small delay) to minimise the use of our local lanes as unofficial diversions.

**Lewes to Uckfield Rail Link** – Our local MP Maria Caulfield recently made a bid for a share of the Department for Transport's £500 million Restoring Your Railway Fund towards reinstatement of the Uckfield to Lewes railway line, through submitting an initial application for the inclusion of the Sussex and Kent phases of BML2 [Brighton Main Line 2] in the government's fund.

The government has asked MPs, local councils and community groups across England and Wales to propose how they could use funding to reinstate axed local services and restore stations. A decision on allocation of the fund is expected later this year.

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**



## Hamsey Parish Council

### Highways Report – May 2020

Since the last report in March 2020, the Covid-19 health emergency has had a significant impact on East Sussex Highways (ESH), in common with many organisations across the United Kingdom. In particular, the permanent repairs to the footpath between Offham Garage and Cooksbridge, that started on 09-03-20 as planned, were put on hold and are now due to recommence in June 2020.

During this period of the Covid-19 health emergency, Hamsey Parish Council adopted a policy of reporting only urgent safety-related issues to ESH for resolution, whilst at the same time maintaining a log of non-urgent issues to pass to ESH when lockdown conditions started to ease. Accordingly, with the publication of the Government's Covid-19 recovery strategy and the associated relaxation of some lockdown restrictions, this list of non-urgent items is now being sent to ESH with details of all items noted recorded in the report below.

A brief summary of the status of current highways issues involving ESH is provided below:

#### Issues Resolved Since Last Report

- **Case 00439609 - Pothole on A275 near Offham Garage & Store, Hamsey.** – First reported on 09-02-20. A large pothole had formed in the southbound carriageway of the A275 near Offham Garage & Store that posed a risk of causing damage to passing vehicles. ESH repaired the pothole and re-surfaced the affected area in late April.
- **Case 00465157 - Resurfacing of The Drove, Hamsey** - First reported on 10-04-20. Concerns with respect to the edging of the re-surfaced section were raised with ESH. As a consequence, ESH arranged to fill the affected areas with mot type 1 stone.

#### Pending Issues

- **Case 207892 – Repairs to A275 footpath from Offham Garage to Cooksbridge.** First reported on 20-02-18, the damage caused to the footpath by a contractor's vehicle has been raised on many occasions with East Sussex Highways. Following a sustained campaign by local residents and HPC that has involved lobbying ESCC Cllr Jim Sheppard, Rupert Clubb,

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport at ESCC and the intervention of our MP Maria Caulfield, work started on these repairs on 09-03-20. Due to the impacts of Covid-19, these works were suspended in late March with work now planned into resume in June 2020.

- **Case 00351312 – Defective A275 road surface / carriageway at entrance to Downsview Cottages carpark.** First reported 27-06-18, ESH advised at the recent SLR meeting that planning for a full structural repair of the road carriageway is progressing with works due to be undertaken during the current financial year. Scheduling depends on the outcome of investigations as this will determine the scale of works required. At HPC’s request, due to current safety concerns relating to motorists taking evasive action and steering around the defective road surface, ESH has now carried out a temporary resurfacing of the affected area pending the permanent repair.
- **Case 00437758 – Two blocked drains on A275.** At the recent SLR meeting it was noted that the blocked drain at the junction of Beechwood Lane and the A275 is still to be addressed. ESH will investigate and report back.
- **Subsidence to the edge of Hamsey Lane – First reported 08-01-20.** HPC has previously reported this issue but at the recent SLR meeting ESH requested that the associated photos were re-sent as they were not received. It is thought the subsidence is at the location of the bridge damaged during the closure of Cooksbridge level crossing on 28-11-19. ESH will investigate and report back.
- **Case 00445416 – Drains at North End.** First reported 20-02-20. ESH have advised that they will investigate the drainage issue and report back.
- **Case 00449521 – Flooding on B2116 near junction with A275.** First reported on 28-02-20. flooding is occurring on the B2116 at approximately 50 metres from the junction with the A275. This flooding is a regular occurrence, causing a traffic hazard, and is believed to be caused by the culvert that runs under the road at this point being blocked or collapsed. On 29-04-20 ESH wrote to advise that the local Highway Steward has inspected the area concerned and he has passed it to their drainage team to investigate and arrange for the appropriate action to be carried out to resolve this issue.
- During the SLR meeting of HPC with ESH and ESCC on 21-02-20, the following pending issues were also raised:
  - **Assessment of safety measures for vehicles pulling out of Chatfield Close onto A275 –** HPC advised that they require immediate action from ESCC to address an ongoing major safety concern relating to vehicles parked on the A275 obscuring visibility for motorists existing Chatfield Close. HPC require ESCC support in putting appropriate pressure on the developer Gold Property Developments Ltd to fulfil their obligations to allow access

to the designated parking spaces within Chatfield Close for residents of Four Winds and Wellington Cottages. Ian Johnson, Traffic and Safety Manager at ESCC, agreed to take up this matter with Dan Witcher, Principal Officer (Implementation Team) at ESCC, to determine what action can be taken. Two of the available parking spaces have now been released for use and Mr Witcher is continuing to progress the issue with Gold Property Developments Ltd.

- **Daytime closures of Cooksbridge level crossing** - The need for a long-term solution to the issue of diversionary routes for daytime closures of Cooksbridge level crossing was discussed. As part of their role, the ESH Networks Team will attempt to ensure that daytime closures of the level crossing are avoided, but when this is not possible a more effective multi-agency approach is required to avoid the safety hazards and environmental damage caused by motorists not adhering to the published and signed diversionary routes.

It was agreed that HPC will contact Trevor Merchant, Networks Manager at ESH, to request a meeting together with the local Network Rail Level Crossing manager to review all aspects of this issue and determine a viable long-term solution. This meeting has been deferred due to the current Covid-19 health emergency but will be organised when appropriate to do so.

## **New Issues**

- **Case 00460211 - A275 debris on footpath between Offham farm shop and garage** - First reported on 21-03-20. On 20-04-20 ESH reported that the local Highway Steward has visited the area and they have requested that Lewes District Council send a sweeper to clear the debris on the footpath A275 between Offham farm shop and garage.
- **Case 00460212 - A275 blocked drains between Offham Farm shop and garage** - First reported on 21-03-20. An update is currently awaited from ESH.
- **Case 00469058 - Damaged bridge railings on The Drove** - First reported on 01-05-20. Damage was caused to the bridge railings on The Drove at the corner between Baulcombes Barn and the entrance to Hamsey Manor. The damage appears to have been caused by a vehicle leaving the road on the bend and having gone through the hedge of Hamsey Manor demolishing the bridge railings in the process.

Given that this is not the first incident of this nature at this location, HPC requested that ESH investigate the provision of appropriate warning signs on the approach to this bend to warn motorists and prevent any further incidents of this nature.

**Non-urgent items** - Now being prepared for reporting to ESH following publication of the Government's Covid-19 recovery strategy and the associated relaxation of some lockdown restrictions:

- **Pothole on Ivors Lane** – Noted on 30-03-20.
- **Pothole on North End** – Noted on 18-04-20.
- **Overgrown 30mph speed signs Hamsey Lane** – Noted on 18-04-20.
- **Pothole on A275 by Hamsey School** – Noted on 23-04-20.
- **Overgrown weight restriction sign at Wickham Lane** – Noted on 24-04-20.
- **Pothole on Hamsey Lane** – Noted on 28-04-20.

## **General**

Hamsey Parish Council maintains a positive relationship with East Sussex Highways and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership to ensure that highways issues affecting Hamsey parish are appropriately addressed.

For any issues requiring the attention of East Sussex Highways, please don't hesitate to let me know. I will add the details to our log and ensure that they are raised with the appropriate department.

**Councillor Robert Baughan**

## **Tree and Footways report**

A report was received concerning mud on the pavement near Offham Filling Station, due to excessive rain fall and wet weather pot holes had formed in the main road carriageway and debris from them had been thrown onto the pavement, there was also excess water running from adjacent properties and field, the ground at that time was totally saturated.

There have been subsequent pothole repairs.

No further action has been recorded.

Since our last meeting the works on the A275 to remove diseased Ash trees has been carried out

Justin Harmer.