

## Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs N.Kinch, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council

Beechwood Hall & Rural Park, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge BN7 3QG, East Sussex

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### Minutes of the virtual meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Google Meet on Thursday 9th July 2020 - 7.15pm

**Present:** Cllr T.d'Arienzo, chair  
Cllr R.Baughan, vice chair  
Cllr J.Harmer  
Cllr R.Kelly  
Cllr K.McBrown  
Cllr I.Ginn  
Cllr I.Linington – District Councillor from LDC

**Apologies:**

**In attendance:** Mrs N. Kinch - Clerk/RFO to the Council. 3 members of Public

		Action
07.20.1	<b>Apologies for absence –</b> none	
07.20.2	<b>A resident had approached the Council regarding the vacancy.</b> Chair asked Carolyn Henry to introduce herself and give a little back-ground Information. Chair proposed that Carolyn fill the vacancy, followed by Cllr Kelly That seconded the motion. All in agreement. The Acceptance of Office form and Register of Interest form were both signed. Cllr Henry then joined as a member of The Council.	
07.20.3	<b>Questions from the public</b> Chair decided to deal with these via Correspondence agenda item 10	
07.20.4	<b>Declaration of interest from any Councillor regarding any item on the agenda</b> None	
07.20.5	<b>Minutes from the virtual meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were signed as a true record</b>	
07.20.6	<b>Update on any matters arising from the last meeting</b> None	

07.20.7.1	<p><b>Financial matters</b></p> <p><b>a) Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Cheque No. 300410 KPS Malthouse Park Grass Cuts £15.60</li> <li>*Cheque No. 300411 Cllr d'Arienzo Dog bin bags £118.90</li> <li>*Cheque No. 300412 Zurich Municipal Insurance £1,917.45</li> <li>*Cheque No. 300413 Clerks Salary/Expenses for May 2020</li> <li>*Cheque No. 300414 LDC Emptying of Dog Bin at B/H £93.60</li> <li>*Cheque No. 300415 S.R. Brentnall Internal Audit £175.00</li> <li>*Cheque No. 300416 KPS Contractors Ltd Malthouse Park Grass Cuts x 2 £31.20</li> <li>*Cheque No. 300417 Clerk Salary/ Expenses</li> <li>*Cheque No. 300418 New Generation Energy – Part payment towards 1<sup>st</sup> invoice for the Wind turbine repairs £100</li> </ul>	
07.20.7.2	<b>Council noted the current financial situation</b>	
07.20.7.3 07.20.7.4 07.20.7.5 07.20.7.6 07.20.7.7 07.20.7.8 07.20.7.9	<p><b>Council considered the findings of the internal audit review 2019/20</b></p> <p><b>Council approved the Annual Governance Statement</b></p> <p><b>Council considered and approved the accounting statements</b></p> <p><b>Council ensured the Accounting Statements were signed and dated by the chair</b></p> <p><b>Council considered a grant request for £550 to the mowing of Hamsey Churchyard</b> This was proposed by Cllr Ginn and seconded by Cllr Baughan. All in agreement.</p> <p><b>Council considered a grant request for £200 to the Afternoon Club</b> This was agreed by all. Chair gave a brief explanation to Cllr Henry of the grant requests.</p> <p>Council considered to renew membership to CPRE for the year for £36. All in agreement.</p>	Clerk to arrange payment for grant requests and payment for CPRE
07.20.8  07.20.8.1	<p><b>Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee</b></p> <p><b>SDNP/20/01245/NMA</b>   Eaves detail amended to conceal guttering with cladding to run vertically instead of horizontally.   Old Line Cottage Ivor's Lane Hamsey BN8 5TY – decision approved</p> <p><b>LW/20/0304/CD</b>   Discharge of Condition 4 of application LW/14/0712, resubmission of previous DoC LW/19/0732/CD with proposed change to materials used.   Unit 1 Knights Court South Road South Common South Chailey East Sussex BN8 4QF - <i>Approved</i></p> <p><b>LW/20/0305/CD</b>   Discharge of condition 5 (materials) in relation to Approval LW/17/0030 - (variation of materials previously approved under LW/19/0731/CD)   Knights Court South Road South Common South Chailey East Sussex- <i>Approved</i></p> <p><b>LW/20/0314</b>   Variation of Condition 31 of application LW/17/0030 to change the wording to allow for the occupancy of no more than 5 dwellings before road structure works have been completed.   Knights Court South Road South Common South Chailey East Sussex</p> <p><b>LW/20/0315</b>   Variation of Condition 20 of application LW/14/0712 to change the wording to allow for no more than 50% or 24 units being occupied before the development is complete   Former Hamsey Brickworks South Road South Common South Chailey East Sussex</p> <p><b>LW/19/0874</b> Hewen Street Farm South Road South Common - Conversion of agricultural buildings to 5 smaller dwellings – HPC have no comment – Approved</p>	Planning committee to await updates from Icen regarding LW/20/0314 and LW/20/0315

	<p><b>LW/20/0221</b> Conversion of agricultural buildings to residential dwellings (application in relation of LW/19/0874 Hewen Street Farm South Road South Common South Chailey East Sussex BN8 4QD – <i>Approved</i></p> <p><b>LW/20/0373</b>   Temporary variation of Condition 22 (Construction and Demolition Hours) relating to approval (LW/14/0712)   Former Hamsey Brickworks South Road South Common South Chailey East Sussex- <i>Hamsey Parish Council have objected</i></p> <p>Clerk mentioned the additional planning application received on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020-</p> <p><b>LW/20/0374</b>   Variation of condition 15 of planning application LW/17/0030 to change the hours of construction from 0800 hours to 1800 hours Monday through Friday, 0830 hours to 1300 hours Saturday and not work to take place Sundays, bank holidays or statutory holidays to 0800 hours to 2000 hours Monday through Friday, 0830 hours to 1700 hours Saturday and not work to take place Sundays, bank holidays or statutory holidays until 30 September 2020   Knights Court South Road South Common South Chailey East Sussex</p> <p>The Council have objected to both LW/20/0373 and LW/20/0374 after investigating the planning application details and receiving concerns in correspondence from residents.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan and Chair had attended a meeting with Icen on 26.06.20 where they asked to be provided with more details regarding the applications LW/20/0314 and LW/20/0315. Assurances for control measures in protecting the residents of Bevernbridge from the additional traffic created by early occupancy of the buildings have been sought and await answers.</p>	
07.20.9	<p><b>Beechwood Hall Management Committee</b>  <b>Chair reports the AGM had taken place virtually this evening at 6.30pm.</b>  <b>Wind Turbine</b> – Clerk reports McLaren loss adjuster have paid the 1<sup>st</sup> invoice from New Generation Energy Ltd for repairs of the wind turbine, minus the excess of the insurance claim. The council have paid the remaining balance of £100 and await payment to clear then the works can be scheduled in to commence.  <b>Electrics</b> – Cllr McBrown reports that John Church has been appointed to carry out the High Earth Impedance work repairs needed at Beechwood Hall on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020. He will also perform a PAT test at the same time.  <b>Future Projects</b> – Plan for all weather access path to go around the perimeter of Beechwood Hall in the same materials as the existing path to create better accessibility for all. A bottle filler and bike racks are on the agenda to apply for grants for. The bike racks have been applied for already through a grant. Cllr Linington mentions the grant is most likely from the County Council rather than District Council.  <b>Working Group</b>- Detailed in the AGM, Council hopes to recruit residents to help as a working group on tasks at Beechwood Hall. Such tasks can include weeding, clearing shrub land for the path access, co-ordinating events/clubs, office base tasks – looking at risk assessments and project management. Roles and responsibilities will be discussed at the next meeting in September.  <b>Grants</b> – Are needed to fund the future projects  Cllr McBrown and Keavy have advertised the vacancy for hall cleaner. To date three interviews have taken place, however the interviews shall continue for a further two weeks. Additional signage for the vacancy shall be put up at Beechwood Hall and on the website. Cllr McBrown has concerns over the applicants’ availability for hall checks after events and has declared a conflict of interest in one applicant as she is known to her. The decision for the hall cleaner shall be made by all trustees though to avoid any issues arising with the Charity Trust Commission.  Suggestions to look into whether the role could be adapted and taken on by two separate cleaners have been made. One cleaner for during the week and one for the weekend duties.</p>	<p>If any resident is interested in joining a working party for Beechwood Hall please email the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>Hall cleaner vacancy- for more details please call or email the Hall Bookings manager. Cllr McBrown and Keavy to continue advertising and interviews.</p>

	<p>Suggestions if keyholders could take on responsibility to check the hall after events – Council feels like this would be adding to the burden of the key holders' responsibilities.</p>	
07.20.10	<p><b>Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting</b></p> <p>Council has received a vast amount of correspondence since the last meeting, with a handful of ongoing issues presented at the meeting in order to find a resolution.</p> <p>Chair refers to items 1,3,4,6, 8 and 9 as relevant to Cllr Harmer and asks for a summary on the concerns noted on the Environmental damage and the retrospective planning of property on his land.</p> <p>Chair states that planning applications or violations are for the planning authority to decide and enforce. The parish council remit is to -comment on planning applications received. Chair asked Cllr Harmer to share as a community interest his response to the questions asked.</p> <p>Cllr Harmer states in reference to the planning permission that the update he can provide is that this is an ongoing situation being dealt with by the Planning department at Lewes District Council.</p> <p>With reference to the weed killer being used Cllr Harmer states that he has received many complaints from local residents over the years, of pathways across his land becoming impassable. He uses weed killer to ensure the brambles and weeds stay at bay for longer rather than cutting back and a quick regrowth. Cllr Harmer confirmed that the weed killer is legal.</p> <p>Clerk explained the correspondence from residents in the parish with regards to the request for a pathway from Bevernbridge to Resting Oak hill. Clerk explained that the residents have had felt the isolation deeply over the current situation, with the lack of a bus service and the ongoing building works, residents would like the opportunity to access other areas of the Parish safely which in the current predicament they cannot.</p> <p>Chair reiterates that the Council had spoken with the developers for the Old Hamsey Brickworks development and stated that a connecting path would be beneficial to all. The situation with Covid has re enforced the need and high priority that a connecting path is required. Chair states that during pandemic, although we have seen the bus service can be suspended, the train at Cooksbridge has continued to run, so should this situation ever arise again the residents of Bevernbridge need to be able to connect to the rest of their parish and in particular Cooksbridge to have access to the train service. Council fully support the request for a connecting path, south from Bevernbridge to Resting Oak Hill and will pursue the relevant authorities to get this in place.</p> <p>Further correspondence received was addressed by Chair. This referred again to the Environmental damage in relation to the Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies and projects, many of which are aspirations for an environmentally friendly parish. Hamsey Parish Council supports relations with landowners to encourage environmentally friendly behaviours, but ultimately cannot police these. Chair expressed concern over the increasingly offensive correspondence from an individual. Council will seek to implement a Vexatious Complaints Policy.</p> <p>The Clerk mentioned a lovely email of thanks received from a resident regarding the reinstatement of the bus services. Chair and Cllr Baughan thanked the Clerk for liaising with ESCC and Compass Bus Travel to get updates on the bus situation. Clerk thanked Chair for her help in the matter too.</p>	

07.20.11	<p><b>Reports from meetings attended</b></p> <p>Clerk attended the virtual AGM of SLCC Sussex Branch 28.05.20 – reports that the meeting was very informative, specialising in Covid-19 risk assessments and challenges that Clerk’s face at this time.</p> <p>Clerk attended the virtual meeting Lewes District Association of Local Council’s AGM on 08.06.20 – technical issues cut the meeting short. Planning applications not being received in time were flagged up by a few members of the meeting. Chair reports that we don’t have that issue and the Council’s comments to Lewes District Council on planning applications are being uploaded the same day.</p> <p>Chair and Cllr Baughan were invited to a meeting with Icení at the old Hamsey Brickworks, Bevernbridge. The meeting was to share plans of building custom units around the lake. The meeting appeared to be a tester before consulting the local residents about these plans. Council shared concerns with Icení over the residents of Bevernbridge and the difficulties they have faced over recent months with regards to isolation, noise, construction works, air pollution and their objections to the extension in construction hours.</p>	Chair
	<p>The pavement Southbound to Resting Oak was again reiterated as a priority for residents to stay connected to the rest of the Parish. Cllr Baughan added concerns raised over the additional traffic with the change in planning applications. The implications to this will be creating significant roadworks and the council has urged Icení to put measures in place to mitigate the extra disturbances.</p> <p>Icení stated they will be looking to put in additional planning applications for the lakeside units mid -August but they will have a consultation period with local residents prior to this.</p> <p>Cllr Ginn raises questions over the water works and Antler not going ahead with their scheduled works until October when they could be carrying out their work now</p>	Council to seek an update on these works.
07.20.12	<p><b>To consider the risk assessment</b></p> <p>All have received the updated risk assessment and have agreed to accept this.</p>	
07.20.13	<p><b>Agriculture/ Farming</b></p> <p>Cllr Harmer reports that nationally farmers are concerned over any international trade deals with America on the standard of imported foods. A petition has been signed by farmers to regulate the standards of the imported food to ensure it meets the legal requirement of UK food standards. Over one million signatures have been received and the Government has agreed to set up a Trade Commission Group to investigate the matter.</p> <p>Local farmers are hoping for more rainfall and the harvest should be ready to commence any day now.</p> <p>Chair and Cllr Baughan noted how interesting it is to hear about the farming and wished it had been added to the agenda years ago.</p>	
07.20.14	<p><b>Trees/ Rights of way</b></p> <p><b>Rights of Way-</b> Cllr Harmer had been in contact with Chloe Rowling regarding the Path 7 near the platform extension at Cooksbridge rail station, the agreement would be to remove the broken fence where the path was over grown and move the Stile to a more suitable place. However, Network Rail seem to have fixed the fence whilst carrying out</p>	

	<p>the platform extension works. Fears are that the path will become overgrown again in the next few years.</p> <p>The culvert by the fishpond in Cooksbridge has been rebuilt. ESCC have done a good job and giving better access to the landowner on to the property.</p> <p>Path under the railway by Lower Tulley's Wells farm floods on a frequent basis but with the works at the farm due to take place hopefully some remedial works to ensure the flooding does not occur can take place.</p> <p><b>Trees –</b></p> <p>A considerable number of trees within the Parish have been affected by Ash Die Back and likely to die.</p> <p>Cllr Harmer has received a letter from ESCC regarding some large Beech trees along the B2116 towards Plumpton. The letter states these trees are suffering from Ash Die Back and will need to be removed very soon. This may cause some level of disruption to the road users. Approximately 10 trees have been affected.</p> <p>Cllr Kelly has asked if Cllr Harmer may notify the council when these works are due to take place so the council can let the residents on social media and on the website know.</p> <p>Cllr Harmer agreed to bear this in mind.</p>	
07.20.15	<p><b>Highway and Traffic issues (Report attached).</b></p> <p>Main points to note from Cllr Baughan: The footpath has been repaired between The Malthouse and Offham garage by East Sussex Highways at the end of June.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan has been back in contact with East Sussex Highways with reference to the linear defect outside of Downsview Cottages. The update provided is that the investigations are now in the design stage and are awaiting approval.</p> <p>Update on the blocked drains on the B2116 is that there has been a back log due to the pandemic but the works will be scheduled in due course.</p>	
07.20.16	<p><b>Parking Issues</b></p> <p><b>Chatfield Close and Wellington Cottages-</b> Council has expressed frustrations to Gold and Lewes District Council Planning Department that this issue has not been resolved. Chair summarised the current situation with Gold developers having prepared the documents to Four Winds and Wellington Cottages for the promised spaces, to be signed over via Land registry but now with the clause added that they collectively pay £1700 p/a for use of the access road to reach their spaces. Council understands there is a massive disparity for the prices and what they are charging different households. Unfortunately, Council do not have a lot of power to enforce Gold to stand by their promises of releasing the spaces to the residents but shall do all they can to liaise on behalf of the residents. Gold will not compromise on the condition in the release of these spaces that campervans are not permitted to park in the spaces. This condition means that the campervan outside wellington Cottages continues to park in front of their home, which blocks the visibility splay of Chatfield Close.</p> <p>Cllr Linington looked in to the covenant and Lewes District Council cannot help further with the matter. Land registry seems to be the option to pursue. Chair has requested information from the initial development applicant and owner at Covers but he has not provided information yet.</p> <p>Chair summarised the original covenant that the original applicants had put in place to keep the spaces separate from the development. This raises questions if the covenant is in place or not. All residents of the existing cottages feel they are being extorted by Gold over the maintenance charges of the short access road.</p> <p>Cllr Henry explained the discrepancy over the situation with the Chatfield Close Management Committee and the Chatfield Close management company. Cllr Henry outlined the high charges the Chatfield Close management company have in place for the residents of the development to pay each year for maintenance of the road.</p> <p>Cllr Linington suggested the residents paying for a solicitor to have the legal help to enforce the release of the spaces. Cllr Henry also explained the issues that some residents have experienced with issues to chimneys and Cllr Linington notified council of planning applications to remove the chimneys on houses 11 &amp; 12.</p>	<p>Council to remain liaising on behalf of all residents in getting this matter resolved.</p> <p>Cllr Linington to check planning application on visibility splay when building the development to see if any breach has</p>

	<p>Cllr Baughan added that from a safety aspect the lack of visibility is fundamentally an ongoing hazard which is a priority that needs addressing. Member of the public had suggested as a short term offer the possibility of the residents at Wellington Cottages and Four Winds to use the Chatfield Close residents' visitors parking and permits.</p> <p>Correspondence from a resident has been received voicing concerns over parking at Cooksbridge rail station. Chair has asked GTR for the removal of the parking charges during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Cllr Kelly is keen to resurrect the Parking Pals scheme for school parents to park on resident's drives not in use during school drop off and pick up times.</p>	<p>occurred. Chair to forward any downloaded documents.</p> <p>Await to hear an update from GTR.</p> <p>Cllr Kelly to find out what interest from school parents for these spaces there will be, then ask residents to sign up offering up their drive ways.</p>
07.20.17. 1	<p><b>To consider Rail and Bus Issues (report attached)</b> Great news from Cllr Baughan, Cllr Ginn and Kevin Froude of the Station Partnership, Cooksbridge is now benefitting from a 7 day per week hourly service on the trains. Cllr Baughan stresses the need to keep the services as an ongoing venture. With regards to the Lewes- Uckfield Rail link, Council have concerns that this shall have a devastating effect on Hamsey Parish if it goes ahead. Cllr Baughan mentions that local MP Maria Caulfield has supported this for a share in the £500 million fund, however the first round of funding has been allocated and this development did not come in the top 10 projects. 50 projects have been submitted and there are two more rounds of funding to go. Cllr Baughan notes that the share of money would not be enough to make the project viable. Chair thanks Cllr Baughan for all of the extensive information he has collated on this.</p>	<p>Council to stay updated of the project.</p> <p>Cllr Kelly to hear back from the company for replacement parts.</p>
07.20.17. 2	<p>Cllr Baughan remarked on the bus service recommencing and the challenge of getting the bus service to link to with the train service. Something to look to for the future.</p>	
07.20.17. 3	<p><b>Bus Shelter</b> Cllr Kelly has looked in to the damage to the noticeboard in Cooksbridge caused by vandalism. She has been in contact with a company that have advised we can get replacement Perspex rather than a completely new board.</p>	
07.20.18	<p><b>Police/ Neighbourhood Watch Issues</b> Chair reports a break in to a shed in Cooksbridge. Lawn mower and garden tools were stolen. Break ins in the area were reported that same night. Please be vigilant.</p>	
07.20.19	<p><b>Environment (report attached)</b> Chair and Cllr Baughan spoke about ESCC's consultation on a Cycling and walking Infrastructure plan. A local Cycling Forum have been in touch to share ideas on potential routes across the Parish. Council have shared our own ideas and made sure these are in keeping with the aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><b>Litter Pick</b> Cllr Baughan has worked hard on plans to adapt the litter pick. To be held this on the weekend of 11/12<sup>th</sup> July. A Covid-19 risk assessment has been drawn up for this activity and the schedule has changed to adhere to safety measures and ensures social</p>	

	distancing can take place. Equipment will be delivered to volunteers, with a risk assessment with detailed instructions.	
07.20.20	<p><b>Discussion on general improvements to the parish</b>  Cllr Kelly raised some ideas regarding improvements: Village sign posts with emblems, flower baskets, potential for a mobile coffee van to serve at the station at morning rush hour, the moving of the Parish noticeboard in Cooksbridge to a more prominent area, Christmas lights.  All ideas were discussed. Chair has been in contact with Howard Eaton regarding Christmas lighting and he has kindly agreed to install some lights around a tree by the telephone box in Cooksbridge.  Cllr Kelly has been in contact with a local fishmonger from Newhaven, talks that he and perhaps other smaller businesses may be delivering on a regular basis to the area are exciting.</p>	Cllr Kelly to research and get costs of the projects for discussion at a future meeting.
07.20.21	<p><b>Council approved addendum added to standing orders regarding the use of virtual meetings and the changes to the guidance on the annual Parish Meeting and Council AGM. All agreed with the updated version.</b>  Clerk explained the change in the financial regulations due to the new legislation The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.</p>	
07.20.22	<p><b>Covid-19 Update</b>  Chair discussed the great resilience of all in the community. A change in feeling has been witnessed with many isolated vulnerable residents now able to resume some sort of normality as the lock down measures have been slowly easing.  Cllr McBrown has been manning the phone for the Covid-19 Hamsey Responders Team, she reports a decrease in the need for the services and has asked what the step for the services are now. Practical tasks include prescription pick-ups and occasional shopping for residents.  Concerns have been identified by Cllr Baughan and Chair that many people may lose their jobs or experience financial hardship as the furlough scheme comes to an end, the hope that there is no second wave of the virus and identified the threat that the funding gap between the District Councils and the Parish Councils may be further cut, causing an impact on our community.  Chair has identified that food banks may be an option to consider in future.</p>	
07.20.23	<p><b>GDPR and Website Accessibility</b>  Cllr Kelly and Chair have been in contact with Roger Withnell from Upper Bridge Enterprises LLP. They provide the website licence, domain and email for the Council. Roger has checked the Council website to make sure we comply with the new regulations coming in to force on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.  Roger reports that the website does comply.  Cllr Kelly has agreed to have website training with Roger. Any other Councillor is welcome to have this training too.</p>	
07.20.24	<p><b>Items for noting on a future agenda</b>  Roles and Responsibilities  Broadband issues discussed  Community Enhancement Award</p>	
07.20.25	<p><b>Agreed future dates for meetings</b>  September 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020</p>	



	<p>This marks Cllr Baughan's second time on Hamsey Parish Council. Chair summarises Cllr Baughan's qualities of being so dedicated, organised, conscientious and caring towards fellow colleagues. Always paying so much attention to detail and ensuring everything is carried out to the best of his ability. Cllr Baughan's patience is admirable and on behalf of everyone, he will be greatly missed. Thankfully Cllr Baughan has kindly offered to continue with the litter picks. We all look forward to continuing to hear from him of his great ventures within the Parish including his work alongside Cllr Ginn and Kevin Froude on The Cooksbridge Station Partnership. The whole Council wishes Cllr Baughan the very best and good luck in his new chapters.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan mentioned that he has no regrets of his deferred resignation from earlier on in the year. He has enjoyed his time immensely on the Council and feels like it has been such a privilege to work on community initiatives. A wonderful experience has been had and he feels like this has been an incredibly positive experience. He thanked everyone for the support over the years.</p> <p>Council thanks Cllr Baughan for all of his remarkable hard work, diligence and commitment to every aspect of the Parish Council. Council presented Cllr Baughan with a gift and card of thanks.</p> <p>Cllr Harmer announced that this is to be his last meeting as he is resigning as Councillor for Hamsey Parish Council. He thanked everyone for his time on the Council and wishes everyone the best of luck for the future.</p> <p>Cllr Baughan thanks Justin for being a great colleague and wishes that he would have had the opportunity to discuss further the agricultural side of Cllr Harmer's business. Cllr Baughan added that he has enjoyed working along-side him all these years.</p> <p>Chair remarks that this is the end of an era, as Cllr Harmer has been on Hamsey Parish Council for nearly 30 years, being first elected to the Council on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1991. Cllr Harmer has been the longest serving and most historically connected member of the Council in recent years. He represented an important connection to the Agricultural world and farming community which is an integral part of our rural Parish. He has been a very easy colleague to work along-side. The Council will miss having Cllr Harmer but will endeavour to continue the relationship with our farming community. The council wishes Justin the very best in his new ventures.</p> <p>Chair ended the meeting.</p>	
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Meeting ended: 9.45pm

Mrs N. Kinch

Signed.....(Chairperson ) Dated.....



## Hamsey Parish Council

### Rail Report – July 2020

**Summer 2020 Timetable** – The phased introduction of the summer 2020 timetable with effect from 17<sup>th</sup> May included the restoration by Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) of an hourly Sunday service at Cooksbridge after an interval of 55 years. This completed the restoration of a full hourly 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 is still operating an emergency timetable as part of measures implemented by the UK Government. 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 (DfT) the following day, the rail industry introduced the enhanced timetable mentioned above from 17<sup>th</sup> May. A subsequent further minor timetable enhancement was implemented by GTR on 6<sup>th</sup> July, although on this occasion not affecting Cooksbridge.

These overall measures, together with an increase in the length of some peak hour trains, will progressively provide a train service that allows more key workers to be able to get to work, and others to undertake essential journeys, 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 (DfT) for final approval prior to implementation, however these timescales have been impacted by Covid-19.

On 26<sup>th</sup> June, GTR wrote to advise that during the lockdown they have been working hard with the DfT to sign off the proposed Passenger Benefit Fund schemes and arrange suppliers so that they can begin work as quickly as possible in order to deliver all the schemes by the target date of September 2021.

**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.

The train operating company GTR has informed us that the new platform extension will enter into service as soon as the selective door operation (SDO) equipment is installed to enable all doors to open on an ~~8-car~~8-car train. They advise us that this kit is on backorder and is likely to be fitted in July / August.

**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.

In the meantime, Hamsey Parish Council has written to GTR requesting a temporary freeze on charging as a welcome gesture of community support for key worker passengers and for local residents at a time when we are all pulling together. GTR have also been reminded that a full and effective consultation is still required with ESCC, LDC and HPC before rail services are fully restored in order to understand potential wider impacts of these charges on parking in Cooksbridge and to implement appropriate mitigations. A response is currently awaited.

**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.

The Government published an update on 23<sup>rd</sup> May with the shortlist of ten successful bidders for the first round of the Ideas Fund, that have been successful in their application for funding to enable them to progress their proposals towards developing a business case. The Sussex and Kent phases of BML2 were not on this list.

There are two further funding rounds (June 2020 and November 2020) and the Government update stated that applicants that have not been successful in this first round will be offered further support by the Department for Transport to help them develop their application for consideration in a later round or to access funding another way.

Of course, with the proposed alignment running through Hamsey, any successful bid to reinstate the Uckfield to Lewes railway line could have significant implications and the Parish Council will continue to monitor developments closely.

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 – July 2020

Since the last report, the Covid-19 health emergency has continued to have a significant impact on East Sussex Highways (ESH), in common with many organisations across the United Kingdom. In particular, the long-awaited permanent repairs to the footpath between Offham Garage and Cooksbridge started on 09-03-20 as planned and then had to be put on hold until completion finally on 19-06-20. Hamsey Parish Council wrote to ESH to express our appreciation for the repair and resurfacing of this footpath during such challenging conditions and the safe restoration of what is a vital link between the communities within our parish.

During the period of the Covid-19 health emergency, from late March 2020 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 staged relaxation of lockdown restrictions from mid-May 2020, this list of non-urgent items was sent to ESH and all are now resolved (details of all items noted are recorded in the report below). New issues are now being reported to East Sussex Highways as they arise.

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

#### **Issues Resolved Since Last Report**

- **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 ESH. Following a sustained campaign by local residents and Hamsey Parish Council 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 and then completed in June 2020.
- **Case 00460212 - A275 blocked drains between Offham Farm shop and garage** - First reported on 21-03-20. These drains have now been unblocked by 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. ESH repaired the damaged railings on 29-05-20.

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. ESH have advised that this request is currently being assessed.

**Non-urgent items** – Logged during the Covid-19 health emergency and reported to ESH on 15-05-20 following publication of the Government’s Covid-19 recovery strategy and the associated phased relaxation of lockdown restrictions:

- **Pothole on Ivors Lane** – Noted on 30-03-20 and reported to ESH on 15-05-20. This pothole has now been repaired.
- **Pothole on North End** – Noted on 18-04-20 and reported to ESH on 15-05-20. This pothole has now been repaired.
- **Overgrown 30mph speed signs Hamsey Lane** – Noted on 18-04-20 and reported to ESH on 15-05-20. The vegetation around these signs has now been cleared.
- **Overgrown weight restriction sign at Wickham Lane** – Noted on 24-04-20 and reported to ESH on 15-05-20. The vegetation around this sign has now been cleared.
- **Case 00473747 - Overgrown weight limit sign at junction of Allington Lane and Beechwood Lane** - First reported on 25-05-20. A weight limit sign at the entrance to Allington Lane had become overgrown. The vegetation around this sign has now been cleared.

### **Pending Issues**

- **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 the request of HPC, 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. On 19-06-20, ESH wrote to advise that the site on the A275 has been measured to determine the scope of works required and a design is currently awaiting approval.

- **Case 00437758 – Two blocked drains on A275.** At the recent Strengthening Local Relationships (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.** Hamsey Parish Council 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.
- During the Strengthening Local Relationships meeting of Hamsey Parish Council 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. Hamsey Parish Council 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. The release of these parking spaces is now in progress and Hamsey Parish Council is continuing to seek Mr Witcher’s support to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion 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 Hamsey Parish Council 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.

In the ~~meantime~~meantime, for the closure of Cooksbridge level crossing from 09-05-20 to 11-05-20, advisory signs stating “not suitable for diversion” were placed by Network Rail on the entrances to Wickham Lane and The Drove, and “not suitable for HGV’s” on the entrance to Beechwood Lane, to minimise the use of our local lanes as unofficial diversions.

### **New Issues**

- **Case 00473747 - Overgrown weight limit sign at junction of Allington Lane and Beechwood Lane** - First reported on 25-05-20. A weight limit sign at the entrance to Allington Lane had become overgrown. The vegetation around this sign has now been cleared (see Issues Resolved above).
- **Case 00473752 - Chandlers Mead - Grass from verges encroaching on footpath** - First reported on 25-05-20. Grass from the verges is encroaching on the footpath.
- **Case 00481116 - Overgrown weight limit sign at junction of A275 and B2116** - First reported on 24-06-20. A weight limit sign on the A275 on the southbound approach to the junction with the B2116 has become overgrown.

### **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 bring them to the attention of Hamsey Parish Council at the following email address: [clerk@hamsey.net](mailto:clerk@hamsey.net). We will add the details to our log and ensure that they are raised with the appropriate department.

**Councillor Robert Baughan**



## **Hamsey Parish Council**

### **Environment Report – July 2020**

**East Sussex Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)** – East Sussex County Council are currently consulting on their Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and are looking for low-cost solutions to facilitate cycling and walking along the lines of the following ideas:

- Footpaths widening
- Gaps in footpaths along routes

- Possible road routes that could accommodate segregated cycleways
- Roads that could have speed reduction measures
- Places that would benefit from more cycle parking spaces
- Quiet cycling routes that could be signposted for cyclists
- Modal Filters: temporary barriers to close certain roads except for cyclists and access
- Changes to the flow of traffic from two way to one way perhaps if there is some perceived benefit to cyclists or walkers

We have been contributing to a district wide review of ideas that potentially meet the above criteria and ensuring that the aspirations of our own Neighbourhood Plan, for a safe cycleway linking our parish to Lewes, are taken into consideration.

**Parish Litter Pick – July 2020** – Taking into account current government Covid-19 social distancing requirements, and relevant guidance published by Keep Britain Tidy, we will be making some changes to the previously advised arrangements for the parish litter pick planned for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Potential participants are now being asked to register their interest with the Parish Clerk with high visibility vests, litter pickers, gloves and plastic sacks provided to their home address beforehand. A copy of the Hamsey Parish Council litter picking risk assessment, adapted for Covid-19, will also be provided to all volunteers.

On this occasion we will not be meeting at Beechwood Hall at the start of the litter pick, with volunteers instead undertaking their litter picks on allocated areas at any time over the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July. At the end of their litter pick, volunteers are being asked to leave all full plastic sacks / items of rubbish collected in the corner of the Beechwood Hall car park, alongside the recycling bin, where it will be collected by Lewes District Council on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Whilst we are of course sad to lose the opportunity to meet up beforehand on this occasion, we are pleased to have found a way to give our parish a long overdue ‘spring clean’, whilst keeping all participants as safe as possible until we can return to more ‘normal’ times.

**Household Waste Recycling Sites** – East Sussex County Council’s ten Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS) closed in late March amid the Covid-19 outbreak, to ensure the safety of staff and residents.

Following new guidance issued by central government, the county’s waste sites reopened to the public on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. However, with social distancing still necessary, residents are being warned that the service will be restricted and encouraged to only travel to a site if absolutely necessary.

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 and we are continuing to monitor closely the incidences of fly-tipping across our parish.

**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** – There are many exciting ideas for future initiatives and suggestions for consideration are always welcome.

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