

Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council
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Minutes of the annual meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at BEECHWOOD HALL on Thursday 10th May 2018 - 7.35pm

Present: Cllr.D'Arienzo, chair
Cllr.K.McBrown
Cllr.R.Baughan
Cllr.J.Harmer

Apologies: Cllr.Ian Ginn
Cllr. M.Dodd
Cllr.A.Suttie

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. 2 members of the public
Cllr.Isabelle Linnington LDC

		Action
117	Apologies for absence – As above Election of chair/vice chair – Cllr.Baughan proposed Cllr.D'Arienzo as chair, seconded by Cllr.McBrown and agreed. The chair proposed Cllr.Baughan as vice-chair seconded by Cllr.McBrown and agreed.	
118	Questions from the public - None	
119	Declaration of interest by Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests. None	
120	Minutes of the meeting held 8 th March 2018 were agreed & signed as a true record	
121	Update on any matters arising from last meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda) Min. no.104.2- An agreement has now been received from developers at Hamsey Brickworks which grants access to the ancient woodland and offers land for community use should business units fail to be developed.	
122	Financial matters	
122.1	<i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300278 £640.30 Clerk salary expenses for March 2018 Cheque No.300279 Spoilt Cheque No.300280 £42.00 Sussex Signs – 'Dogs on Leads' Cheque No.300281 £93.60 LDC Dog Bin empty Cheque No.300282 £15.00 Ouse & Adur Rivers trust subscription Cheque No.300283 £21.41 HMRC Cheque No.300284 Spoilt Cheque No.300285 £524.40 Filcris Ltd. Recycled plastic path edging Cheque No.300286 £612.19 Clerk salary expenses for March 2018 Cheque No.300287 £150.00 S.R.Brentnall. Internal Audit Cheque No.300288 £500.00 Offham Church. Mowing Old Hamsey Churchyard Cheque No.300289 £27.46 KPS Mowing Malthouse park Cheque No.300290 £415.80 Wildflower turf – Beechwood park Cheque No.300291 £176.15 ESALC subscription for 2018 Cheque No.300292 £72.00 SSALC training course – Cllr.Ginn	
122.2	Council noted the current financial situation.	
122.3	Council considered the findings of the internal audit review	
122.4	Council approved the Annual Governance Statement	
122.5	Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements	
122.6	Council ensured the Accounting Statements were signed and dated by the chair	
122.7	Council noted that £39,676.97 received from LDC is ring fenced CIL money towards provision of an all weather multi use area (muga) and parking at Beechwood Park.	
122.8	Council noted that £36,897.00 has been awarded to HPC from LDC central CIL funding (ring fenced towards the provision of a muga and an overflow car park)	

123	Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee No current applications	
123.1	Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP SDNP/18/00689/HOUS Pippins, Offham - Erection of a front extension- <i>refused</i>	
123.2	LW/18/0098 Former Hamsey Brickworks, South Road - Variation of condition 27 relating to planning approval LW/14/0712 whereby the wording of the condition be changed to: "No more than 50% or 24 residential units hereby approved shall be occupied until one of the B1 commercial units approved as part of this permission have been constructed in accordance with the approved details and made available for occupation - <i>granted</i>	
123.3	LW/17/1055 North End Barn, North End Lane Section 73A Retrospective application for the erection of a single storey 3 bay store – <i>granted</i>	
123.4	TW/17/0121/TPO T1- Chatfields Yard, Cooksbridge. Field Maple with small Ash adjacent: Remove stem overhanging site at base. Lift crown to six metres from level of house foundations. Cut ivy stems on both trees. T2 - Ash. Appears to be dead. Fell, remove and burn. T3 - Goat willow (not part of TPO) does not appear on any plans and is too close to house. Fell. T4 - Field Maple and Prunus. Old hedgerow trees in poor condition. Fell and re-plant with two Semi Mature Field Maple.	
124	Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall	
124.1	Update on new play equipment for the park – this is being installed and should be ready for use by the beginning of June. There will be an opening afternoon on June 12 th with tea/cake and a football match – everyone welcome.	
124.2	Update on installing CCTV – this will be installed at the end of May. The chair asked about disruption to the images caused by spiders building webs on the cameras. This will be raised with the installers.	
124.3	Update on installing extra car parking - funding is now available to provide an overflow car park for use when larger events occur at the hall. It is not thought this would be more than 28 occasions each year so planning permission is not needed. There will be a gate on the area. Council had a discussion about whether the area could be trialled for use as somewhere for dogs to exercise off the lead when not in use as a car park.	
124.4	Update on installing an all weather multi-use games court - funding is in place once the last of the Cil monies is in. Hopefully installed late August/September.	
125	Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting	
125.1	Council discussed correspondence received from a resident requesting repairs to a garden fence adjoining the Malthouse Way park. The council deeds for the park do not show any fences as being the responsibility of the parish council. Clerk has contacted LDC and the parks dept. were not aware of any responsibility for the fences apart from the road side. The housing dept. said they had no records as the house had been sold off. Council had been informed that very large conifers in the garden adjoining had produced large branches which were pushing the fence over. These will need to be removed. Council will arrange a meeting with the owner or their representative to try and find a solution.	Clerk
125.2	An anonymous note had been left in the post box at Beechwood Hall asking the parish council to clear a drain at the station. This would be a job for ESCC highways but council understood it had already been done.	
125.3	Council had been contacted by a resident concerned at the poor state of the riverside path from Hamsey to Lewes. This was felt to be mainly a problem caused by the wet winter.	
126	To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk Cllr.Ginn had attended a Charity trustee awareness event Chair attended GDPR training and a report had been circulated	
127	To consider councillor roles for 2018 This to be carried forward to July	

128	Council considered the implications of the decision by ESCC to reduce cutting of verges in Cooksbridge from 4 cuts per season to just 2 and to consider quotes received for the parish council to cover this contract themselves. Quotes had been received from a number of local providers and council agreed to offer the contract for 2018 to Lakers Garden services who will cut the verges in Cooksbridge as well as the Malthouse park.	
129	Highway, Parking and Traffic issues - Report from Cllr.Baughan attached The poor state of the pavement toward Lewes should be raised with the County Councillor Jim Sheppard Cllr.McBrown asked if ESCC highways would attend the community meeting – this was thought to be unlikely. The chair had been approached about a quiet lanes initiative. This is a proposal from Maria Caulfield following an accident involving a horse and rider in Spatham Lane. QL is an old scheme discontinued some years ago. ESCC have said they don't have any budget to fund such a scheme.	Cllr.Baughan
130	Rail and bus issues. - Report from Cllr.Baughan attached	
131	To consider a proposal for a parish event to be held in November Chair outlined the event proposed for 24 th November 2018. The cost is estimated around £1200. It will be a free event for residents with a band, food and a lighting feature in the park. The school will provide a bar. Council discussed the proposal and agreed funding up to £600 on a 50/50 basis with hall trustees.	
132	Council considered any environmental issues- Report from Cllr.Baughan attached. Council has responded to the ESCC waste site consultation. There was a good turn out for the April litter pick. There will be anti-idling signs at the Cooksbridge crossing to reduce pollution.	
133	Council considered GDPR requirements Cllr Linnington said LDC have a lot of details which she is happy to share. Chair has updated the community website.	
134	Update on the parish emergency plan Cllr.Suttie was not at the meeting – hold over to July	Cllr.Suttie
135 135.1 135.2	Council considered Police/Neighbourhood watch issues The pcso will be invited to attend the community meeting. There were problems with young men off an early train damaging bikes and a fence at the station, then damaging books in the phone books box, but overall anti-social behaviour in Cooksbridge has reduced. There was a dreadful incident in Offham when an elderly resident was woken by three men forcing an entry and pretending to be from the water board whilst committing a distraction burglary. Residents are warned to be alert as they struck later in the day in Seaford.	
136	Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda Cllr.McBrown is organising the open afternoon at the park on June 12 th and a carboot sale on August bank holiday monday. The Christmas party 2018 will be on Dec.17th Cllr.Baughan ask the chair to note that councillors wanted to thank her for all the work she has put in on behalf of the residents of the parish over the last year.	
137	Meeting dates for 2018 - 19 th July, 13 th Sept., 8 th November. All at Beechwood Hall	

Meeting closed at 9.06pm.

JT 21/05/18

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

Min 129: Highways

Issues Resolved Since Last PC Meeting

Case 93114 – Repairs to damage caused to the verges of Hamsey Lane and The Drove as a result of road traffic diversions associated with closures of Cooksbridge CCTV level crossing – Reported on 14-03-17. East Sussex Highways have now undertaken significant works to the ditches and verges along Hamsey Lane and The Drove and accordingly this case can be considered as closed.

Pending Issues

Case 167567 - Bridge railings at North End – Reported on 22-10-17. An update was received from East Sussex Highways on 25-04-18 advising that they are arranging for the repairs to be carried out although there isn't currently a date scheduled as it requires a specialist contractor. We will continue to push for these repairs to be carried out as soon as possible.

Case 207892 – Damage to footpath south of Cooksbridge alongside the A275 – The recent damage caused to the footpath by a contractor's vehicle was reported on 20-02-18. An update received from East Sussex Highways on 25-04-18 advised that the local Highway Steward had recently inspected and, although they have noted areas where the pavement is untidy, these are not at the level that to which they are causing a safety issue. A response has been sent from Hamsey Parish Council on 26-04-17 informing that we cannot accept this stance and requesting that East Sussex Highways proceeds with the repairs given the safety implications alongside a busy A road. East Sussex Highways have again responded on 03-05-17 stating that these repairs are being considered for possible larger works in the future but that as no areas of the pavement currently meet their criteria for repair, they are unable to arrange for the works to take place at this time. We will continue to push for these repairs to be carried out as soon as possible.

New Issues

Case 7933 - Road traffic accident on A275 – A serious road traffic accident occurred in Cooksbridge on 18-04-18 whereby a 'Blockbuster' van drove into a parked car on the A275 near to the Malthouse, propelling the parked car through two garden walls and then into the living room window of a neighbouring property. The damage to the affected property was so serious that the residents had to be temporarily re-housed. Fortunately, no-one was injured during this accident although the consequences could have been far worse. A communication was sent from Hamsey Parish Council to East Sussex Highways on this issue requesting their urgent review of this location to determine what additional safety measures are appropriate to address the currently unacceptable risks to road users, pedestrians and local residents.

East Sussex Highways have since responded advising that bollards would not be appropriate in this location and advising that if we wish to pursue the application of double yellow lines along this section of road then this should be addressed through their Parking Team. However, with respect to compliance with the existing speed limit, East Sussex Highways noted that the existing 30mph road markings at the start of the restriction are in need of renewing and that the small 30mph reminder signs are in need of cleaning, especially at the southern end of Cooksbridge – this work is now in hand. In addition they have agreed to the provision of some temporary yellow and black posters with safety measures such as 'Remember 30' and 'Kill your speed' and these will be installed in Cooksbridge the next time their operatives are in the area.

Case 236289 - Chatfield Close highways work on A275 at north end of Cooksbridge – A communication was sent on 30-04-18 to East Sussex Highways, on behalf of Hamsey Parish Council, with respect to the highway works associated with Chatfield Close in Cooksbridge that commenced on that date, with a planned duration of 5 weeks, but without any apparent formal prior notification to the PC or affected local residents. Furthermore, the plan of the highway works on the LDC planning portal for the Chatfield Close development was out of date. East Sussex Highways responded with a copy of the up to date plan for the developer led highway works at Chatfield Close, Cooksbridge and advising that the developer (Gold Property Developments Ltd) had been requested to notify all affected frontages including the school and that a courtesy letter was to be delivered by hand and the school were to be told

in person. They also apologised for the fact that the roadworks had not been added to the East Sussex Highways roadworks webpage and that this error was being addressed. With the aim of ensuring that the PC and local residents are appropriately informed in future of any issues that may affect them, a meeting is being arranged on site with representatives from the Construction Partner for Gold Property Developments Ltd, Bedaro Ltd, as soon as possible.

- **Case 7934 - Damaged pedestrian island on A275 near entrance to Beechwood Lane** – Reported to East Sussex Highways on 20-04-18. An update was received from East Sussex Highways on 25-04-18 advising that this issue is currently with the Street Lighting Team for resolution.
- **Case 234586 - Road name falling off sign of Chandlers Mead** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 25-04-18 – update currently awaited.
- **Case 234587 - Little Mead road sign broken and fallen down** - Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 25-04-18 – update currently awaited.

General

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

Please don't hesitate to let me know if any of the above requires further clarification and I will do my best to help.

Min 130.Rail and Bus Issues

GTR May 2018 Timetable – The new GTR timetable is due to be implemented across the network on 20th May including the addition of two new early morning weekday trains from Cooksbridge at 06.06 (to London Bridge) and 06.22 (to London Victoria), an earlier train from Cooksbridge to Lewes at 06.48, two evening services from London Bridge instead of the current one, as well as other enhancements incorporated in the re-cast timetable. Following recent issues with short formations for some trains from Cooksbridge (in particular the 06.54 service to London Bridge), we have obtained information from GTR on the planned formations of the early morning trains in the new timetable and this has now been shared with members of the Cooksbridge rail users group. The Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) campaign for a full off-peak weekday train service from Cooksbridge, as well as at weekends, will of course continue and a meeting is being planned at the earliest opportunity with Phil Hutchinson, GTR's Head of Strategic Planning, and Maria Caulfield MP to progress this initiative.

- **Railfuture** – Members of CARAG gave a presentation on 5th April to Railfuture (the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for passengers and freight), at their London and South-East regional branch meeting in Lewes, on our ongoing campaign for improvements to the train services from Cooksbridge, from when it was launched back in 2009 up to the present day, and it seemed to be well received by all present. As a result, Railfuture have now committed to put the case for Cooksbridge at the forefront of their campaign for train service enhancements for the next Department for Transport franchise renewal, which will take place between 2019 and 2021. In the meantime, we will continue to work closely with Railfuture with a view to harnessing their influence to help us achieve the enhancements we are seeking to the new May 2018 timetable. The commitment from Railfuture to support our cause is a very positive development and another significant step in the right direction for Cooksbridge rail users.

Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) – A new TVM was installed by GTR at Cooksbridge station on 28th March, to replace the somewhat unreliable machine that had been there for some years. The new machine has an enhanced user interface and, so far, reliability has been good although this is something that we will of course continue to monitor.

- Lewes District Council (LDC) Support** – Members of CARAG met with LDC Councillor Isabelle Linington on 24th April to explain our ongoing campaign for enhanced rail services at Cooksbridge. We found it to be a very positive meeting and we look forward to working with Isabelle to harness LDC support for our campaign, particularly with respect to enhancements to the May 2018 timetable and influencing the Department for Transport for the next franchise specification. We also discussed opportunities to link the enhancements we are seeking to the environmental agenda at LDC as well as lobbying for the potential linking of future housing development to franchise specification at central government level. We have added Isabelle to the Cooksbridge rail users group and we look forward very much to the support and involvement of LDC in our campaign going forward.
- East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Support** – We have written to ESCC Councillor Jim Sheppard, requesting the opportunity for CARAG to present our case to ESCC as the enhancements we are seeking to services at Cooksbridge need to form a key part of the council's future strategy for sustainable public transport in our area. To facilitate this, we have requested the opportunity to present our campaign in detail and to discuss how ESCC may support us going forward to achieve our objectives. Confirmation of this meeting is still awaited but we are hopeful that it can be arranged in the near future.
- Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade** – Following the meeting with Network Rail and representatives of Hamsey Parish Council on 22nd February, to outline the planned enhancement works at Cooksbridge level crossing, we have been advised that the start of the main works will now be in June 2018, rather than April as originally envisaged. The majority of the civil engineering works will be completed by October 2018 utilising a combination of half road closures and night time full road closures, details of which will be provided by Network Rail in due course. The commissioning of the new level crossing equipment, with control transferred from Lewes to Three Bridges Regional Operating Centre, is still scheduled for 11th March 2019. In advance of this a series of enabling works will be undertaken in connection with the installation of a new equipment building, walking route, new fencing, new pedestals for the barrier machines, alterations to lighting and a new CCTV column and cameras. To ensure engineering and safety compliance in preparation for commissioning, testing of the new level crossing equipment is planned to take place between November 2018 and March 2019. Please don't hesitate to let me know if any of the above requires further clarification.

Min 132 Environment Report

ESCC Household Waste Recycling Site Service consultation – East Sussex County Council (ESCC) launched a consultation on proposed changes to the provision of Household Waste Recycling Site services throughout the county with residents and organisations being asked to consider the proposals through a 12-week public consultation on the Household Waste Recycling Site service which ends on 15th May 2018.

With a requirement to reduce the annual waste and recycling budget by £720,000, the proposed changes include:

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

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

The proposal to alter opening hours to 'better suit demand' is likely to mean an overall reduction in opening hours if looking for cost savings. Accordingly, we have stated that we are keen to understand how future 'demand' will be determined when all the other changes are taken into account, including services provided by LDC.

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

After the consultation, the responses will be collated and then presented to East Sussex County Council's Cabinet later this year to help the Cabinet members make a final decision on what happens to the service.

Litter Heroes – We are continuing to do all we can to encourage more residents to adopt their local areas as a key initiative to complement the quarterly parish litter picks. Many areas of the parish have already been adopted by 'Litter Heroes' and if you, or any residents 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.

Parish Litter Picks – On Sunday 8th April we held our first Sunday litter pick for a long time and there was a great response with thanks to Miki, Terry, Mary, Margot, Kevin, Jim E, Jim R, and Ian for joining us that morning. Between us all we managed to collect possibly our biggest haul yet. The extent of the littering this time around was both shocking and a little crushing as we had a morning in the drizzling rain with cars speeding past to contemplate what makes people assault our beautiful countryside in this way. It was however satisfying to see the improvement.

All litter picks will continue to be publicised in the Hamsey News, the community website and by posters, with litter picks now scheduled to take place throughout the rest of 2018 on the Sundays of 1st July and 14th October meeting at 10.00 at Beechwood Hall.

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

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

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

To complement this, and potentially in partnership with LDC, we are now considering other options including Dog DNA registration as a further measure to address this issue, with associated costs potentially partially offset by any resulting fines

Pollution at Cooksbridge level Crossing – As part of this ongoing initiative to reduce the pollution from road vehicles waiting at Cooksbridge level crossing, we have been working with the Environmental Health team at LDC who have kindly provided a number of anti-pollution signs for placing at locations that don't require licensing. These have been placed at various locations at, or on the approaches to the level crossing, and are serving as a visible and effective reminder to motorists to switch off their engines when stationary. In addition, we are also progressing the provision of highways signs where licences are required.

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

New recycling service in Lewes District – The new LDC recycling service has been launched in Hamsey parish with delivery of the new 240 litre bins to all suitable properties for glass, cans, paper, plastics and cardboard. Once collected, the recycling is taken to a Material Recycling Facility where it will be automatically sorted for onward sale. The intention is that none of the recycling will go to landfill. LDC have appointed Viridor as their contractor to manage this process.

Neighbourhood First – A new neighbourhood improvement team has been launched to allow LDC to forge even closer links with the towns and villages it supports. The dedicated outfit, called Neighbourhood First, will be inspecting streets, open spaces and recreation grounds to ensure the environment is well-maintained. They will also be looking out for dog-fouling, street litter, abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping.

Leader of LDC, Councillor Andy Smith, launched the service at Saxon House in Newhaven and said: "We have a great team of motivated and enthusiastic people who want to help us make a difference in our communities. They will react swiftly to reports from the public, move in and take action. "You will see them out and about in their distinctive uniforms and branded vans," Cllr Smith added. "They will be a force for good and should reassure residents that we are all working together to create a safer and supportive community."

Representatives from the Neighbourhood First team will be coming along to Beechwood Hall for the Community Meeting on 24th May at 7.30pm to explain more about how it will all work.

Vision - Tamsyn and Robert are continuing to talk with neighbouring parishes to share information and to join forces on environmental initiatives. We have many really exciting

initiatives now in progress and more ideas in the pipeline and we would always welcome contributions and suggestions for consideration.
We continue to share a vision of Hamsey parish as a community working together to ensure a clean and sustainable environment for present and future generations.
Councillors Robert Baughan and Tamsyn D'Arienzo