

Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council
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DRAFT Minutes of the annual meeting of HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL held at BEECHWOOD HALL on Thursday 16th May 2019 - 7.20pm

Present: Cllr.D'Arienzo, chair
Cllr.R.Baughan, vice chair
Cllr. M.Dodd
Cllr.K.McBrown
Cllr.N.Kinch
Cllr.Ian Ginn

Apologies: Cllr.J.Harmer

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. 3 members of the public.

		Action
5191	Cllr.Baughan proposed Cllr.D'Arienzo for chair, seconded by Cllr.Dodd. There were no other nominations and Cllr D'Arienzo took the chair. Cllr.Dodd proposed Cllr.Baughan for vice-chair, seconded by Cllr.McBrown and agreed by all. All councillors signed the acceptance of office declaration. Apologies for absence – Cllr.J.Harmer	
5192	Questions from the public Resident Jim Redwood had come to tell the PC about the work of the Monday Group, which started after the war and was first named in 1961.A group of volunteers carry out rights of way work every Monday. Jim is fund raising for the group and has approached HPC for a grant. Hassocks, Streat and Westmeston are regular funders of the group. The Monday group maintain the permissive path along the B2116 and also gave a mornings work to the churchyard at Hamsey. Cllr.Dodd asked for more details of the work they can do and Cllr.Baughan asked who would carry out the work if the group did not exist. Jim said landowners are responsible for upkeep of access etc. on their land but in practice it can take some time for repairs and standards can vary. There are four Monday groups working throughout the district, covering a wide area. A resident raised her concerns regarding recent resurfacing work in Offham. She had contacted ESCC regarding the vibrations which were so severe items fell from shelves and she is concerned damage may have been caused. She has not received any satisfactory response. Communication from ESCC about the works was very poor. She wants to know if surveys were carried out prior to the work. Grit wasn't cleared up and has gone everywhere. Cllr.Baughan confirmed that the PC has already followed this up with ESCC and will advise of any response received.	Cllr.Baughan
5193	Declaration of interest by Councillors on any agenda items and update of interests. No declarations of interest. Councillors gave their updated register of interests forms to the clerk for submission to LDC.	
5194	Minutes of the council meeting held 7 th March 2019 were agreed & signed as a true record	
5195	Update on any matters arising from last meeting (not elsewhere on the agenda) Min.no: 3195 – Update on resident parking spaces at Chatfields. <i>The parish council has spoken to the site manager and are still waiting for any response. The spaces are available but locked and cars still have to park on the A275 causing visibility problems for vehicles exiting the new road.</i> Min.no: 31919 – Update on condition of Meridian sign <i>HPC has asked the Monday Group to give this a make-over.</i>	
5196 5196.1	Financial matters <i>Council approved the following payments (including VAT):</i> Cheque No.300338 £630.00 Clerk. Salary/exp.March.2019 Cheque No.300339 £93.60 LDC Dog bin empty *Cheque No.300340 £30.00 Sussex Signs. Sign for Malthouse park	

	<p>*Cheque No.300341 £197.58 ESALC subscription Cheque No.300342 £291.60 ESCC payment for extra verge cuts *Cheque No.300343 £645.32 Clerk. Salary/exp.April.2019 *Cheque No.300344 £165 S.R.Brentnall. Internal Audit fee *Cheque No.300345 £1838.20 Zurich. Council Insurance</p>	
5196.2	<p>Council noted the current financial situation and noted that there was £14,509.15 ring fenced in CIL funding, for use for recreation or infrastructure only.</p>	
5196.3	Council considered the findings of the internal audit review	
5196.4	Council approved the Annual Governance Statement	
5196.5	Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements	
5196.6	Council ensured the Accounting Statements were signed and dated by the chair	
5196.7	Council considered a grant request – Monday Group – rights of way workers. Cllr.Baughan proposed a grant of £300, seconded by the chair and agreed by all.	
5196.8	Council considered a grant request – Monday Afternoon seniors club The chair proposed a grant of £200, seconded by Cllr.McBrown and agreed by all	
5197	<p>Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee</p>	
5197.1	<p>LW/19/0199 Knights Court South Road South Common : Erection of Foul Water Rising Main Facility associated with Planning Application References LW/17/0030 and LW/18/0850. <i>The parish council chose not to comment on this application</i> SDNP/19/01845/HOUS Old Line Cottage, Ivor's Lane, Hamsey - single storey rear extension,internal alterations and external works - no objection</p>	
5197.2	<p>Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP LW/18/0791/ LW/18/0792 Shelleys Folly, Deadmantree Hill, Barcombe - Retain and regularise unauthorised works already undertaken and undertake additional correctional works at Shelley's Folly Cottages, as listed in the associated schedule of works – <i>granted</i> SDNP/19/00747/HOUS Toll Cottage The Street Offham - Roof extension with a 3 pane bifold door set and three sky lights - <i>granted</i> SDNP/19/00618/FUL Offham Farm The Street Offham - Change of use and conversion of redundant pig barn to accommodate a new farm shop. Use of existing farm shop for ancillary purposes including a staff rest area and storage of agricultural equipment- <i>granted</i> SDNP/19/00619/FUL Offham Farm - Formation of new access - <i>withdrawn</i> SDNP/19/00540/HOUS Woodcock Cottage, Offham - Internal alterations and demolition of existing extension roof and walls and construction of new single storey extension - <i>granted</i> LW/18/1018 Springles Barn, Annexe , Town Littleworth Road - Internal refurbishment and extension of existing residential annexe as holiday let accommodation and construction of new timber garage building elsewhere on site – <i>granted</i> LW/18/06337/FUL Hamsey Level Crossing, The Drove, Offham, Installation of two red light violation cameras at level crossing, with ancillary signage – <i>granted</i> SDNP/18/06575/FUL Lower Tulleys Wells Farm, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge - Construction of an earth banked farmyard manure store – <i>granted</i> LW/19/0053 Highwell, The Drove, Offham - Proposed non material amendment alteration to elevations in relation to planning refs LW/17/0758 AND LW/17/0759 – <i>granted</i> LW/19/0052Highwell, The Drove Offham - Minor amendments to previously consented scheme to provide single story rear extension with no loss of historic fabric.– <i>granted</i> SDNP/19/00173/HOUS The Old Wheelwrights Shop, Offham -Installation of windows and doors to external elevation of the existing garage block. Removal of up and over doors.– <i>granted</i> LW/18/06337/FUL Hamsey Level Crossing , The Drove, Offham, Installation of two red light violation cameras at the level crossing, with ancillary signage – <i>granted</i></p>	
5197.3	Cllr.Baughan updated the council on LW/18/06337/FUL . Cameras will be operational from July.	
5197.4	Chair updated the council on SDNP/18/06575/FUL . Cllr.Linnington had supported the objectors and the PC had also objected to the first application. However, on the recommendation of the environment agency and in order to prevent pollution of the	

5197.5	local water course, they did not object to this application which was granted by SDNP. Council considered whether any members wish to be appointed to the National Park Authority. All agreed this would be interesting and possibly worthwhile, however, meeting were daytime and in Midhurst twice each month making it impossible for any Hamsey councillor.	
5198	Recreation ground and Beechwood Hall A report had been given at the preceding APM. Cllr.McBrown,D'Arienzo, Dodd and Rod Hearn had met with representatives from Plumpton juniors football club who wish to train at the park. Many local youngsters are members of the club and talks are ongoing. Trustees are pleased to have appointed a new treasurer to replace Andrew from June but there are still too few trustees and no one to fill the important role of secretary.	
5198.1	Council considered 3 quotes to provide outdoor gym equipment at the park and selected The Great Outdoor Gym company as being best value, easy to maintain, British equipment.	
5199	Council noted all correspondence received since the last meeting	
51910	To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk Nothing to report. Cllrs.McBrown and Kinch requested details of training courses	Clerk
51911	Cllr.Baughan will hand over the highways role to Cllr.Kinch but council felt they could not consider all other councillor roles as Cllr.Harmer was absent. This will be decided prior to the July meeting.	All
51912	Update on the parish emergency plan Carried forward to July	
51913	Highway, Parking and Traffic issues (Report from Cllr.Baughan attached). Cllr.Baughan will follow up with ESCC regarding the resurfacing work in Offham.	
51914	Rail and bus issues. A report from Cllr.Baughan had been circulated (attached).	
51915	Council considered Police/Neighbourhood watch issues Council are still waiting on a response from LDC to the survey on safety issues carried out re:Downsview car park. A mobile cctv camera has been purchased.	
51916	To consider any environmental issues. (Report from Cllr.Baughan attached.) Network Rail cannot install signs to tell motorists to switch engines off but Hamsey School children are designing an alternative proposal for NR to consider.	
51917	Any report on improvements to the Malthouse play park Cllr.Ginn and Cllr.Kinch have given the playground a thorough clean. Quotes have been received for repairs to the surface. Only 3 replies were received from the 30 surveys handed out to local residents, so the PC will do limited safety repairs until residents decide on any improvements they might want to see.	
51918	Council considered GDPR requirements	
51919	Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda Cllr.Baughan thanked the chair for her work with the council over the past year.	
51920	Meeting dates for 2019 – July 11 th , September 12 th , November 7 th .All at Beechwood Hall 7.15pm	

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.

JT 17/05/19

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

min 51913 -Highways Report – May 2019

Since the last report, the most significant development has been the resurfacing by East Sussex Highways of the A275 roadway through Offham, addressing what has been a long standing issue. Four new items were reported, with one of these already resolved. During this period Hamsey Parish Council has continued to seek clear commitments for the resolution of safety related items and to identify opportunities to further enhance our effective working relationship. Finally, Liam Reilly has now taken over from Corinne Black as East Sussex Highways Customer Service Manager for Hamsey parish highways issues.

A brief summary of the status of current highways issues involving East Sussex Highways is provided below:

Issues Resolved Since Last Report

- **Resurfacing of A275 through Offham** – During the meeting with East Sussex Highways on 13-02-19 the Highway Steward confirmed that he was aware of the need for re-surfacing of the A275 through Offham given the number of potholes that occur on this section of road and was putting this forward for inclusion on the list of pending works.

On 05-04-19, Hamsey Parish Council were informed that this work was now planned to be undertaken from 23-04-19 and due to last for 6 nights. At the request of affected local residents, Hamsey Parish Council sought and shared more details from East Sussex Highways of the planned arrangements for these works, including access for local residents and measures to ensure that appropriate communications / diversionary signage were put in place for general traffic utilising the A275. The resurfacing work has now been completed.

- **Case 00335302 - Potholes on Hamsey Lane and The Drove** - Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 16-03-19, these potholes were repaired by 02-04-19.

Pending Issues

- **Case 207892 – Damage to footpath between Cooksbridge and Offham** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution 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 and on 25-04-18 they advised that the local Highway Steward had inspected the site and, although they have noted areas where the pavement is 'untidy', these were not at the level at which they were causing a safety issue.

Representatives from Hamsey Parish Council met on 27-06-18 with Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council and the local Highway Steward when we jointly inspected the damaged footpath and explained our position that repairs must be undertaken given the safety implications alongside the busy A275 road. Cllr. Sheppard agreed to escalate this issue within East Sussex County Council for resolution. We wrote again on 25-08-18, alerting East Sussex Highways to the fact that significant vegetation is now growing through the broken surface of this footpath, thereby further increasing the risk to users.

Following a further exchange of correspondence and additional lobbying by local residents, East Sussex Highways wrote to Hamsey Parish Council on 11-09-18 advising that one of their engineers has inspected the path and has asked that the path is considered for larger scale works in the next financial year. They also advised that the local Highway Steward will continue to monitor the pavement and, should there be any safety issues, arrange for the appropriate repairs to take place.

Following a further communication to Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council on 08-10-18, pointing out the deteriorating state of the footpath and the urgent need for this safety related issue to be addressed, we have now written to our local MP Maria Caulfield to seek her assistance. Maria Caulfield raised the matter with Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy and Transport at East Sussex County Council, who in turn investigated with East Sussex Highways. We received an update from Maria Caulfield on 21-11-18 advising that the local Highway Steward carried out an inspection on 05-11-18 and had arranged for siding works to take place between these junctions to improve the accessibility of this footway.

The outstanding repairs to this footpath were raised at the meeting held with East Sussex Highways on 13-02-19 when they confirmed that these repairs have now been added to the current list of planned works. Due to further deterioration to the surface of this footpath, Hamsey Parish Council wrote again to East Sussex Highways on 26-04-19 requesting a firm date for repairs to be undertaken. As a result some minor patch repairs were carried out, with

East Sussex Highways confirming that the main repair works are still awaiting scheduling, but are still due to be completed during the current financial year.

- **Case 250259 - Damaged / decaying wooden posts at junction of A275 and Beechwood Lane** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 31-05-18. We took the opportunity to discuss this issue with Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council and the local Highway Steward during their visit to Cooksbridge on 27-06-18. It was explained to us that, due to financial constraints, individual missing or decaying posts could be replaced by East Sussex Highways with a plastic alternative and this is something that Hamsey Parish Council could consider as an option.

We are now exploring potential options to arrange to procure and install replacement wooden posts to match those existing.

- **Case 260218 – Damaged fencing on A275 between the Chalkpit Inn (Curry Cottage) and Landport Fork** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 02-07-18. At the meeting of 13-02-19, it was explained that East Sussex Highways are currently in the process of determining the ownership of this fence, through a land-search. We reminded East Sussex Highways that this issue was first reported on 02-07-18 and that on 18-07-18 we were advised that a permanent repair to the fence is being arranged but that they do not currently have a date for the works.

Whilst we offered to assist with providing information on ownership of this fence, if available, East Sussex Highways were requested again to provide a date for the repair of this fence given the serious safety implications for anyone falling down the steep bank on the eastern side. East Sussex Highways will provide a date to Hamsey Parish Council for the planned works to repair this fence as soon as known.

- **Case 00351312 - Defect to southbound carriageway of A275 adjacent to traffic island to north of Beechwood Lane** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 02-07-18. There is a defect (a depression in the road surface) adjacent to the road traffic island near the entrance to Beechwood Lane and immediately in front of the entrance to the Downsvie Cottages carpark and the opportunity was taken to raise this issue with Cllr. Sheppard of East Sussex County Council and the local Highway Steward during their visit to Cooksbridge on 27-06-18. At the meeting with East Sussex Highways of 13-02-19, it was agreed that this defect in the road surface is deteriorating and a resultant pothole in this location has recently been patched. The local Highway Steward confirmed that he is aware of the need to arrange for the repair of this defect as soon as possible and will put it forward for inclusion on the list of pending works.

Due to further deterioration of the road surface at this location, Hamsey Parish Council wrote again to East Sussex Highways on 09-05-19 requesting a firm date for repair of this defect. A response is currently awaited.

- **Case 1075067 - Provision of a 'No Through Road' sign for Malthouse Way, Cooksbridge** – An issue has been highlighted with the significant number of motorists who divert into Malthouse Way, Cooksbridge from the A275. This is particularly the case for northbound traffic when approaching Cooksbridge level crossing with the barriers down, in the expectation that Malthouse Way may be an alternative diversionary route. As Malthouse Way is a cul-de-sac, these motorists then have to perform a three point turn at the end of Malthouse Way before retracing their route back to the A275. This unnecessary traffic is a potential safety hazard to young children who often play in this area as well as a cause of airborne and audible pollution to residents.

This issue was discussed at the meeting with East Sussex Highways on 13-02-19 and has since been raised by them with the appropriate department within Lewes District Council for resolution.

- During the meeting with East Sussex Highways on 13-02-19, the following issues were also raised:

- **Measures to prevent collisions with stationary vehicles parked on A275 in Cooksbridge** - Following a serious road accident in April 2018, outside the Old Malthouse in Cooksbridge, where a parked vehicle was propelled through the front of Bouverie Cottage, Hamsey Parish Council had written to East Sussex Highways with respect to potential safety measures that could be implemented to prevent a recurrence. The email was redirected to the Traffic Safety team who would be in touch once they had looked into the crash. We are still hoping to hear back about measures that could be taken, perhaps including reduced speeds, to try to improve safety for these roadside residents and their homes. East Sussex Highways agreed to review this issue and respond accordingly.

- **Assessment of safety measures for vehicles pulling out of Downsview carpark onto A275** - Due to issues of reduced visibility, and the location of the nearby traffic island, we explained that it can be very difficult to pull out safely from the car park of Downsview Cottages onto the A275. East Sussex Highways agreed to look into potential measures to address this issue. There has since been a road traffic accident at this location, involving a car and a motorcycle, and Hamsey Parish Council has raised this issue again with East Sussex Highways.

New Issues

- **Case 335303 - Damaged bridge railings on The Drove** - Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 16-03-19. During the closure of Cooksbridge level crossing for the Network Rail upgrade works, throughout the weekends of 2nd/3rd March and 9th/10th March, despite the official diversionary route being signposted via the A26 and A272 a significant amount of traffic traversed Hamsey Lane and The Drove as an unofficial diversionary route. As a result of the significant amount of traffic using these lanes, with vehicles attempting to pass on what are effectively a single carriageway, the bridge railings on The Drove were damaged.
- **Case 335302 - Potholes on Hamsey Lane and The Drove** - Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 16-03-19. During the closure of Cooksbridge level crossing for the Network Rail upgrade works, throughout the weekends of 2nd/3rd March and 9th/10th March, despite the official diversionary route being signposted via the A26 and A272 a significant amount of traffic traversed Hamsey Lane and The Drove as an unofficial diversionary route. As a result of the significant amount of traffic using these lanes, a number of potholes were created requiring repair by East Sussex Highways. Now resolved (see above).
- **Case 338496 - Roadside damage from Lewes to South Chailey** – Reported to East Sussex Highways for resolution on 25-03-19. A tractor passed through Cooksbridge in a northbound direction along the A275 during the early hours of 24-03-19 causing damage to street furniture including road signs, bollards and telegraph poles. Some initial temporary repairs to road signs have been undertaken by East Sussex Highways but a number of items are still to be addressed.
- **Diversions associated with the closure of Cooksbridge level crossing** - There was a planned closure of the level crossing at Cooksbridge throughout the weekends of 2nd/3rd March and 9th/10th March associated with the Network Rail works to upgrade the level crossing. Accordingly, East Sussex Highways arranged for formal signed traffic diversions via the A26 and A272.
 However, despite the implementation of the above measures, we were concerned and frustrated to note the significant and unsustainable level of traffic using The Drove, Hamsey Lane, Beechwood Lane and Wickham Lane during these weekend closures of Cooksbridge level crossing, again causing significant inconvenience to local residents and further damage to the environment, principally the verges of the lanes affected. Furthermore, bridge railings on The Drove were damaged and a significant number of new potholes appeared due to the intensity of traffic during these diversions (see Case 335302 and Case 335303 above).
 Although to our knowledge there are no further daytime closures of Cooksbridge level crossing currently planned, Hamsey Parish Council has requested that East Sussex Highways consider as a matter of urgency what additional measures can be put in place to prevent a recurrence of this unacceptable situation in the event of any future closures of Cooksbridge level crossing.

General

Hamsey Parish Council continues to maintain a positive relationship with East Sussex Highways and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership during 2019 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

min no:51914 Rail Report – May 2019

GTR May 2019 Timetable – The new timetable enters into service on 19th May 2019. There will be no changes to the train service from Cooksbridge for this particular timetable change, with most changes involving introduction of additional Brighton to Cambridge services through the Thameslink core in central London.

Lewes Bonfire Train Services – Further to the response provided by the Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group (CARAG) to the recent Lewes Bonfire Multi-Agency Group survey, seeking views on the communications which came out of the multi-agency group in relation to planning for trains services on 5th November 2018, we now understand that consideration is being given to curtailing the train service from Cooksbridge one hour later this year (with the last train from London arriving at 18.17).

The position of Hamsey Parish Council and CARAG remains that a full normal timetabled train service should be provided from Cooksbridge throughout the whole of 5th November every year and that we shall be continuing to actively lobby on behalf of users of Cooksbridge station to achieve this outcome.

Full 7 Days per Week Train Service – Regular dialogue with GTR is continuing with respect to the enhancements we are seeking to the train service from Cooksbridge within the current franchise. Central to our campaign is the ongoing aspiration for a full off-peak weekday train service from Cooksbridge, as well as at weekends, to provide our community with the train service it deserves. To support this, CARAG has highlighted to GTR the increasing demand for rail services arising from current and planned new housing developments within the station catchment area, and meetings to progress our proposals are ongoing with Phil Hutchinson, GTR's Head of Strategic Planning. Further to this, we are continuing to work with Railfuture (the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for passengers and freight) to influence the train service specification for Cooksbridge for the next franchise which is due to be awarded in 2021. We have also requested the assistance of Maria Caulfield MP in providing contacts within the Department for Transport to facilitate this process.

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

As a rural unstaffed station, accessibility issues are a major concern to rail customers at Cooksbridge where they are not able to call upon the assistance provided at larger manned stations. Accordingly, we are acting on behalf of all users of Cooksbridge station to ensure that access to the train service is available to all members of our community, without exclusion, and we are therefore looking to GTR to facilitate this.

Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade – As you will be aware, after nine days of intensive work including two weekend closures of the A275, the new equipment at Cooksbridge level crossing successfully entered into service on the morning of 11th March 2019 as planned. The new level crossing installation provides a much improved and safer environment for all users and hopefully will be seen as a significant enhancement to the centre of Cooksbridge.

Due to the postponement by Network Rail of the main re-signalling works for the Lewes area (of which the Cooksbridge level crossing upgrade is part) there will still be another small stage to undertake to transfer control of the level crossing equipment from Lewes to Three Bridges, via the new electronic system in the relocatable equipment building (REB). The impact of these works on us at Cooksbridge should be minimal and I will endeavour to obtain the scope / date for these works as soon as it is known and advise our community accordingly.

In the meantime, the tidy-up at Cooksbridge is now well underway following commissioning of the level crossing equipment, with the Atkins site compound now removed and work proceeding on addressing snagging issues. Hamsey Parish Council is working closely with Network Rail to ensure that all damage caused to pathways, verges, fencing, etc by the works is repaired and restored to at least as good a condition as that existing before the works were undertaken.

If any of the above requires further clarification please don't hesitate to let me know and I will do all I can to assist. **Councillor Robert Baughan**

Min.no:51916 Environment Report – May 2019

Recycling Bin for Events at Beechwood Hall – The Beechwood Hall Trustees, are in the process of ordering a recycling bin, with associated cover, to be used for events at Beechwood Hall, working with the LDC Waste and Recycling team to determine the most appropriate type of 1100 litre bin, taking into account the materials to be recycled.

Parish Litter Picks – We are really pleased to report a great turnout for our recent litter pick on 7th April and huge thanks go to Mutsumi, Nao, Ian, Miki, Terry, Kevin, Jim R, Jim E, Margot and Pete who joined us on the day. With so many ‘pickers’ we were able to cover all areas of the parish including the usual ‘hot-spots’ of the A275 and Deadmantree Hill lay-bys. As a result, a huge pile of black bags and assorted junk was left in the corner of the Beechwood Hall car-park for our friends from LDC Waste and Recycling to collect – a testament to a very productive morning.

Based on this success, we will be continuing with the Sunday dates for the rest of 2019, with further litter picks planned on 7th July and 13th October respectively. We will continue to do all we can to publicise all litter picks in the Hamsey News, on the community website (with alerts for registered users) and by posters and we hope very much to see as many of you as possible taking part in this regular opportunity to keep our parish clean!

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

Cooksbridge Level Crossing Upgrade – The commissioning of the renewed level crossing installation was completed by Network Rail Monday 11th March.

On behalf of Hamsey Parish Council, we met beforehand with Network Rail on 13th February to review and agree the arrangements for the final phase of the works, including the need to manage site waste appropriately, minimise noise and vibration, avoiding ground contamination, ensuring that staff did not drop litter and limiting the amount of road vehicle movements / emissions associated with these works.

Where damage was caused to the environment, for example grass verges, Network Rail are now in the process of making this good upon completion of the works and are currently working through a snagging list which they aim to complete by the end of May.

Air Pollution – Working in conjunction with the Eco Council at Hamsey Community Primary School, we are now in the process of finalising designs for the anti-pollution signs that Network Rail have agreed to install at Cooksbridge level crossing as part of the upgrade works, as well as along the A275 in the zone where road vehicles are regularly queuing whenever the level crossing barriers are down. The intention is that these signs will make reference to Cooksbridge and the potential effects of the emissions from idling road vehicles on the lungs of the young children walking past each day on their way to attending the School.

The Clean Air Pack from Friends of the Earth has been used by the children at Hamsey Community Primary School to measure car fumes near to the road at the school gate and, as a contrast, away from the fumes. Although readings for noxious vehicle gases fell well below government standards, the readings at the front of the school were found to be significantly higher than those at the back. Further readings are now being planned near to the roadside to see if the readings are worse from the pavement.

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