**Minutes of the Highways Transport and Lighting Committee meeting held at The Pavilion, Sparrows Green Recreation Ground, South View Road, Wadhurst on Thursday 26th January 2023.**

**Present:** Cllr P Moore (Chair), Cllr C Moore, Cllr Gadd, Cllr Smith, Cllr Crawford, Cllr Shairp and Cllr Griffin

**Also present:** Claudine Feltham, Clerk.

There were no members of the public present.

1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence.

*Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Anderson.*

*It was noted that Cllr Bullock was not in attendance.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to contact Cllr Bullock for welfare check.*

1. To receive declarations of personal, prejudicial and disclosable pecuniary interests on items on the agenda and updates to members’ register of interests.

*None.*

1. To consider, and approve if appropriate, which agenda items are sufficiently confidential as to warrant exclusion of members of the press and public under the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960.

*None*

1. Public Forum – time limit 15 minutes.

*Cllr Crawford queried re the collection of contractors equipment on the grass triangle at Fairglen Road following the works by Southern Gas Networks. It also seems that over time there has been more of the green taken up for parking.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to ask East Sussex Highways about retrieving equipment and making the verge good and back to its former condition and to ensure the green space is not overtaken by parking.*

***Action:*** *Cllr Crawford and Cllr Gadd to draw a diagram to demonstrate where the parking should be and where the grass should be so that we can show this to ESH.*

1. To approve the minutes of the Highways, Transport and Lighting Committee held on 17th November 2022.

***Resolved:*** *As proposed by Cllr Gadd, seconded by Cllr Smith and reached unanimous approval, the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.*

1. To determine matters arising from the previous minutes for updating and noting.

*Cllr P Moore spoke about the proposed 20 MPH scheme in Wadhurst. Broadly we are in favour of the scheme. The main concern is about the amount of signage to be installed within a conservation area, it seems disproportionate and not suited for the area. The area for the 20mph scheme would start just prior to Uplands, and ends right on The Walk, but it really needs to include the area by the primary school*

*Cllr Griffin commented that the schemes in Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge seem far more suitable. The plans for Wadhurst are really not suitable.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to contact Tunbridge Wells Town Council and ask who designed their 20mph scheme.*

*Cllr P Moore suggested that we re do speed tests using the BlackCat equipment, and ask for the area to be extended.*

*Cllr P Moore suggested there are issues on the following areas and these need to be bought up with ESH:*

* *Area included*
* *signage,*
* *Not to take out traditional village sign in Cousley Wood*
* *The number of repeater signs, additional posts, additional signage, roundels in middle of High Street.*

***Action:*** *Clerk to go back to ESH with these concerns, albeit we support the scheme overall.*

*Cllr Gadd commented that with regards to the Coulsey Wood sign: if the sign did have to be removed for any future projects, then it should go to Wadhurst History Society.*

*Cllr P Moore spoke about the WDALC meeting where there was a presentation by East Sussex Highways (ESH). The county council is not expected to fix everything on the network. However, ESH also make it very difficult for the parish council to do some of the work. We really need to have a meeting with the ESCC lead on this to explain the issues and see how we can move this forward.* ***Action:*** *Cllr P Moore to write letter about these issues for the East Sussex Highways lead on transport – to be sent by the Clerk*

*We could consider going to a third party contractor consult on this.*

*Cllr C Moore suggested contacting a Consultant who works with ESH – who is very helpful and really good to talk to.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to approach consultant and ask if this is something he could assist with and what the associated costs would be.*

*Cllr C Moore requested an update on the proposed defibrillator for the centre of the village.*

*The Clerk advised members that due to Carillon Cottage being a listed building she had run into difficulties in obtaining the planning permission for such. She had then contacted the White Hart and the Commemoration Hall to see if either would be willing to have it installed on their outside wall (and WDC Planning had said this would be ok as long as not a listed building).*

*Both WIHF and the White Hart agreed for this.*

*As Jemma Pantry kindly agreed to carry out the weekly/monthly checks the proposal was to have this installed at the Commemoration Hall.*

*The Clerk had ordered the defibrillator and cabinet from Community HeartBeat Trust (CHT), and had made provisional enquiries with CDS Electrical as she had used this contractor for defibrillator installations in other villages.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to email CHT for anticipated delivery date.*

1. Items for discussion, decision, updates and allocation of resources, if necessary.

Following items should have been going for discussion with ESH at the SLR meeting

7.1 Newbury Lane – ongoing drainage issue

*Clerk gave a very brief overview of this long-term unresolved issue. Believe the residents are still awaiting the latest engineers report.*

***Action:*** *keep on SLR agenda*

* 1. Lower High Street - request for re surfacing the pavements on both sides of the road.

*This was due to be discussed at the SLR meeting, which ESH then cancelled.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to email ESH for an update.*

* 1. Surface of pavements outside Commemoration Hall, The Greyhound, Uplands

This should be a brick pavement – not part tarmac, and not entirely finished. ***Action:*** *Clerk to email ESH, and keep on SLR agenda.*

* 1. Road signs at end of Primmers and Pell Hill – they look like motorway signs. The one at Pell Hill is also in the wrong place.

*Members commented that the signs are too big and not in the correct positions.* ***Action:*** *request that the ESH Steward attends to assess.*

* 1. Drains in lower High Street

*Cllr Griffin advised that there are still two drains that are completely blocked up, despite the fact the ESH Customer Service Manager saying they have been cleared – they are NOT. The one outside of Oasties Child Care, and one on the opposite side of the road of this.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to report again.*

*The ‘kerb drains’ are also blocked Lower High Street, on RHS coming down from Uplands – just past Old Police House.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to report to ESH.*

* 1. The Walk – large ironworks outside Pond House – which has sunk considerably.

*Resolved: the work on the one outside Pond House has now been completed.*

*On Lower High Street close to junction with Brinkers Lane there are also sunken ironworks. Also, the same issue on the High Street outside of a business called Coast.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to report both to ESH.*

* 1. Three new lamp posts in Lower High Street

*The order for the new lamppost was placed quite some time ago.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to request an update from Customer Service Manager and Eric Ware*.

* 1. New lanterns in High Street.

*The request for the replacement lanterns was placed a long time ago. Action: Clerk to request an update from Customer Service Manager and Eric Ware.*

*Cllr Gadd reported a further issue: the street light right by the war memorial fence (has police camera on it), the soil surrounding the base has disappeared, exposing the concrete which is only about 7 inches square, and concerned how secure this is.* ***Action:*** *request Lengthsman to check it and take any photos as necessary, and report back to Clerk for ESH.*

*Cllr Griffin reported that the street light on The Walk, located outside of a property called Pond House, it is leaning over, and this has deteriorated recently.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to report to ESH and ask Eric Ware to assess this one.*

* 1. Street lights that are not working.

*Greyhound car park; the car park lighting is now working but unsure how, as was told there was no power supply. One of the lights at the Greyhound carpark (on the corner by the houses) is flashing. Action: Clerk to report to Tina Ford at WDC facilities.*

*On Station Road, heading from the village towards the station on right hand side. It is flashing ‘like a disco’.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to report to ESH and Eric Ware.*

*Request for parishioners to also report issues with street lights direct to East Sussex.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to add post to Facebook and website with the information.*

* 1. High Street improvements – ramp outside Hatters

*There are very high kerbs on the High Street, near Church Street close to businesses called Coast and Hatters. It is very difficult to step down and would be impossible for wheelchair users, some form of ramp is required at this location. Cllr P Moore believes this was part of the previous High Street improvement plan and should have been done already.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to contact ESH and ask where they are with this one. If it is not already being dealt with then ask for the Steward to attend and asses for action.*

* 1. Rebuild of pavement outside Uplands

*Cllr Griffin is taking this point up at the meeting with MP Nus Ghani and Uplands Academy at their meeting 27.1.23.*

* 1. Matching bollards in St James Square

*No update – keep on SLR agenda*

* 1. Further discussion re request for extension of bollards at the side of One Stop (Washwell Lane) so that it prevents delivery vehicles parking on the path and blocking this for children and wheelchair users.

*No update – keep on SLR agenda*

* 1. Repair of footpath opposite the primary school (where there is a bench)

*The issue is that the footpath has subsided. The Clerk made enquiries with ESH, who replied to say this is not their land and that she should contact WDC.*

*WDC came back to the Clerk and advised that this land is adopted by ESH. Clerk went back to ESH with this information but has not heard back.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to chase ESH again.*

* 1. Best Beech/Faircrouch Lane barriers

*Update: (via Roger Archer-Reeves, ESH) – they will be installing wooden posts in the Spring.*

* 1. ESH policies in regards to HWAONB guidance (bollards, fingerposts and signage)

*Action: this needs to be part of the correspondence to ESCC Lead for Transport from Cllr P Moore*

* 1. Jonas Drive drain issues

*Cllr Gadd gave some background information to this issue; historically; there used to be ponds at this location, and when they overflowed that was what the drains were for. However, there has been a development of property at this location (many years ago), and the ponds no longer exist. It is on private land, so not in the remit of the parish council or county council. However, the issues with the road surface are ESH responsibility. It is flooding and becomes icy which is dangerous to the elderly residents living there, and causing damage to the road.* ***Action:*** *Cllr Gadd to look into this further.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to provide update to ESH as the road floods and becomes icy.*

* 1. Entrance to Blacksmiths Lane

*Request for white road markings to prevent parking at this location as this is causing a danger. Cllr Gadd advised members of the history of this issue. The latest from ESH is that they will not do this work as there is no point as Sussex Police do not enforce parking. We have gone back to ESH saying but this is not just a parking issue, it is a dangerous obstruction issue – that Sussex Police would deal with. This is the only access to this area of Bewl, and so should not be obstructed in case emergency services need to get to Bewl.*

***Action:*** *Cllr Gadd to make further enquiries on this and including with PCSO Ratcliffe.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to send further email to ESH and advise again that this is an issue of dangerous obstruction and not just a parking issue.*

* 1. Potholes

*Cllr P Moore expressed that we must continue to encourage parishioners to report issues to ESH and via Fix My Street app.*

***Action:*** *Clerk to request that the potholes poster goes into Focus magazine.*

*It would also be helpful if we had a poster saying ‘who does what’ with contact information.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to design a poster when time permits.*

7.20 To consider the comments from Sacred Heart School with regards to the feasibility study report.

*Cllr P Moore advised members that the report from ESH gave some options for improvements at the school. However, the school has an issue in that it does not have a pathway outside. Members queried how many children actually walk there.*

*An option suggested was for the school to employ a lollypop person.*

*The school have queried why there was no speed data included within ESH report. Additional information obtained from ESH has gone back to the school for them to consider.*

8. Items for noting only

8.1 Highways Lighting and Transport spend to date

*Noted*

8.2 Fingerposts – following the assessment of the fingerposts within the parish to note that the works required will be dealt with by the Lengthsman in due course.

*Noted (The Clerk had ordered the letters for the fingerposts as requested by the Lengthsman and had chased up the order)*

8.3 General update form the Lengthsman

*Members agreed that the work being carried out by the Lengthsman was great, and had received very positive feedback from parishioners.* ***Action:*** *Clerk to ask ESH if they still provide match funding for Lengthsman services.*

8.4 To note the works on the bus shelter outside of the train station to date, and that the replacement bin has been ordered from Broxap.

*Noted*

8.5 To note that the SLR due for 25.1.23 was cancelled by ESH and they will be reviewing when the start them again after 6th February, due to current workloads.

10. Urgent issues at the discretion of the Chair for noting or inclusion on future agenda.

**Meeting closed at 2121 hours**