



## WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

Document Reference 2007

### **Minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Asset and Highways Committee held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7:30pm in West Hoathly Village Hall**

Draft Minutes subject to amendment

#### **Members**

Paul Brown (Vice Chairman)	Jenny Edwards *
Neil Greatorex	Claire Hilton
Martin Robinson	Douglas Denham St Pinnock (Chairman)

\* denotes absence

#### **Also present:**

Helen Schofield (Clerk)

**There were no members of the public present**

#### **354) To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Jenny Edwards, Nick des Forges and Rita des Forges

#### **355) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors in respect of any matter on the Agenda**

There were none.

#### **356) To approve minutes of the Meeting of the Asset & Highways Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 ([Document Reference 2001](#))**

The minutes were approved and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

#### **357) To receive the [clerk's report](#) and note any points of interest**

The clerk's report was received and noted

#### **358) To review [expenditure against budget](#) for the year to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The expenditure against budget was reviewed and noted.

#### **Assets**

#### **359) To receive report on North Lane Recreation Ground**

A resident had expressed concern that the Recreation Ground was being badly cut up where the Football Club were training around the main pitch area. The Club would be asked to ensure these areas are rolled along with the main pitch area.

Following the recent Parish Council meeting the Bonfire Society have been asked to clear the bonfire area of metal and other debris following the bonfire and to keep the Parish Council informed of when the ruts would be rolled.

A resident reported that during the bad storms water gathered on the footpath between the pavilion and the toilets. It was noted that as part of any replacement pavilion it is likely that the current line of the footpath would need to be diverted. This may be an opportunity to look at this. It was agreed to monitor the situation as the rain this year has been exceptional.

**360) To receive report on Finche Field**

**a) To consider request from resident to start a Community Orchard**

The committee agreed that this was a good idea and would consider an area of native apple, pear and plum trees. It was noted that nut trees should not be included. The resident proposing the scheme would be asked to prepare an implementation plan and bring this to the next meeting to include ideas of the number of trees and size of plot that would be required along with how the planting of the trees would be carried out.

The committee agreed that the cost of purchasing a tree should include the cost of protecting each tree from deer.

It was agreed that any orchard would be in the ownership of the Parish Council who would have an ongoing obligation for its future maintenance. It was noted that from 2021-22 the Parish Council would need to budget for tree pruning and grass cutting between the trees.

**b) To consider future of the field mowing of Finche Field**

It was agreed that the field should be flail mowed once a year rather than have the grass baled and taken away.

**c) To receive feedback from the annual meeting of allotment holders**

The notes from the meeting had been circulated. The committee agreed to source No Parking/Access Required signs for the posts that mark the entrance down to the bottom allotment site.

**361) To confirm the schedule of tree work for 2020-21 and agree to request the tree surgeon to carry out the work at their earliest opportunity**

It was agreed that the tree surgeon would be asked to carry out the work on the ash trees identified last year that still needed attention at a cost of £1,445.

The root from the tree on the Chapel Row bank that fell down in the winter storms should also be removed. The tree surgeon would be asked to review the lime in Finche Field, the trees alongside the footpath in Finche field and the top allotment site and other ash trees to determine what other work could be done within the year's budget.

**362) To consider the playarea at Sharpthorne New Playground and how to work with MSDC to improve the facilities provided**

It was agreed to work on a survey to ask residents what piece of play equipment they may wish to see in the Sharpthorne New Playground so that the committee could begin discussions with MSDC.

## Highways

### **363) To note issues on parish footpaths and bridleways**

No issues had been reported on local footpaths.

It had been agreed that if it could be safely accessed, residents could take the timber left after tree work at the junction of bridleway WH43 with the footpath down from Top Road. A notice to this effect still needs to be posted on the Hub.

### **364) To consider progress on the gateways at Highbrook and agree how to proceed**

There is currently £1,500 allocated to the provision of Gateways in Highbrook. The committee agreed that the Parish Council could only contribute this amount but, if local residents wished to contribute to provide extra gateways, this would be supported. All the gateways would be owned and insured by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would purchase advisory speed signs to add to the sharp bend warning signs recently replaced by Highways.

### **365) To consider feedback on feasibility of cycleway to East Grinstead and agree next steps**

Responses had been received from 3 of the 4 known landowners. It was suggested that the letter outlining the proposal should be sent to the Chairman of the Trustees of the East Grinstead Sports Club.

### **366) To receive feedback on the Cluster meeting to share experience of using the portable Speed Indicator Devices**

The meeting mainly focused on experiences with the Cluster SID. Most parishes were happy with the performance as it slowed the traffic down, provided a message to the driver and the data analysis software was easy to use. The batteries however didn't last very long in particular with high volumes of traffic. The casing for this SID was more fragile especially as it was being moved around the various parishes.

It was agreed though that the purpose was to make people drive more slowly and that when they are in place this appears to be happening.

### **367) To agree locations for the portable SID when next in the parish from 30<sup>th</sup> March**

It was agreed that a location at Tyes Cross would be used. It may need to be on the opposite side of the road (for traffic travelling from Sharpthorne) but it should still be useful as there is a clear line of sight along Sharpthorne Road.

### **368) To consider possible projects for allocated Local Community Infrastructure S106 money**

It was agreed to look at the feasibility and possible costs of having a static SID using mains electricity from the School Crossing Warning sign on Top Road by Bulldogs Bank.

Other options to consider including Safer Routes to School input would be possible improvements on the footpath from bridleway WH43 up to Top Road and also surface improvements on the tarmac path through Finche Field.

**369) To note items of interest or for consideration at the next meeting**

Date of next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.25

Chairman-----