



## WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Document Reference 2022

### **Minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Asset and Highways Committee held on Monday 20 July 2020 at 7:30pm**

#### **Members**

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

\* denotes absence

#### **Also present:**

Helen Schofield (Clerk)  
Leanne Andrews (Asst Clerk)

Due to the restrictions put in place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic this meeting was held using video conferencing technology.

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

A resident had emailed concerns regarding rights of ways WH1 and WH43. These will be considered at the relevant agenda item.

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

Apologies were received from Rita des Forges and Nick des Forges.

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

Paul Brown declared an interest as a District Councillor and as local correspondent for the Open Spaces Society.

#### **69)To approve minutes of the Meetings of the Asset & Highways Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (Document Reference 2007) and on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Document Reference 2016)**

The minutes were **approved** and the Chairman will sign them as a true record at a later date.

#### **70)To receive the clerk's report and note any points of interest**

The clerk's report was received and noted.

It was agreed to discuss the proposed speed to be used on the sharp bend signs in Highbrook with the WSCC Highways Area Manager. The signs will then be purchased.

It was noted that some of the hedges on Finche Field would benefit from cutting back. This will be considered when setting the budget for 2020-21.

**71) To review expenditure against budget to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

The expenditure to date was noted. Most Asset and Highways expenditure comes in the second half of the financial year.

**Assets**

**72) To receive report on North Lane Recreation Ground**

Thanks were extended to Neil Greatorex who had cleaned down all the playground equipment prior to the re-opening of the Playground. This was now open with notices to remind users to adhere to Government Covid-19 Guidelines.

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

**a) To receive report on Allotments**

The clerk reported on 3 allotment plots that look as if they were not being cultivated. These will be followed up and improvement letters sent where necessary.

**b) To review Allotment rent for the year 2021-22**

The allotment rent was reviewed and it was **agreed** to keep it at £18 per half plot for 2021-22.

**c) To consider parking in Finche Field**

It was **agreed** to remind allotment holders that cars should be parked in the car park not on the grass next to the allotment sites. It was recognised that tenants may need to drive to the bottom allotment site to drop off heavy equipment etc. but cars should then be moved and parked in the car park.

If there is an issue with the car park being full the committee would review this in the Autumn.

**74) To consider plans for establishing a Community Orchard.**

It was agreed that there should be an on-site meeting between members of the committee, the resident and Derek Shurvell from Courtlands to discuss the plan in more detail.

Paul Brown, Jenny Edwards, Neil Greatorex and Douglas Denham St Pinnock agreed to be part of this group.

**75) To consider the preparation of a Management Plan for the land adjacent to The Bluebells**

There is a management plan for Finche Field. It was agreed that a similar plan would be helpful for this land.

Douglas Denham St Pinnock, Claire Hilton and Martin Robinson agreed to look at this. Nick and Rita des Forges would be asked to also get involved.

**76) To receive update on Tree work**

**a) To receive feedback from tree surgeon regarding outstanding tree work**

It was agreed to ask the tree surgeon to remove the dead cherry trees in North Lane Rec and to reduce the height of the lime in Finche Field along with the already agreed work on the ash trees. The cost for all the work would be £2,545.

**b) To consider request from resident for permission to cut back ash tree in Rec that backs onto their garden.**

It was agreed to give permission to the resident to have the ash tree that backs their garden cut back.

**77) To consider resident's request for a memorial bench**

The initial request was for a memorial bench in Sharpthorne New Playground kick-about area. It was **agreed** that the clerk would ask MSDC about their policy regarding memorial benches and give this information to the resident. If MSDC policy did not allow for a bench in their recreation grounds, then the committee were happy to propose having one in Finche Field if the resident would like to do this instead.

**78) To consider the need to replace the hand wash/drier units in the public toilets**

It was **agreed** to get further quotes and the replacement of the driers would be considered as part of the budgeting process for 2020-21.

## **Highways**

**79) To note issues on parish footpaths and bridleways**

The issues raised by the resident regarding Rights of Way WH43 and WH1 would be reported to the WSCC Right of Way Officer.

**80) To receive annual audit of the road fingerposts**

It was noted that there were cracks in 2 of the fingerposts on Selsfield Road: at the Vowels Lane junction and the North Lane junction. These will continue to be monitored.

**81) To consider the proposed name for the houses adjacent to Marjac for approval by the Parish Council**

The committee wished to know if MSDC had considered naming the houses as part of Top Road (as Marjac is currently). If this is not an option, the committee would recommend the Parish Council agree the name as Longview Lane.

**82) To consider the next steps to promote an off-road cycling route from Sharpthorne to East Grinstead.**

Paul Brown had prepared a presentation to show the committee the proposed route. Due to difficulties in sharing this it was agreed to defer the item until the next Asset and Highways committee meeting in September.

**83) To receive an update on the Tyes Cross residents' initiative to seek further safety measures at the junction from the Highways Authorities**

This had been initiated following a bad accident at the start of the Covid-19 lockdown. A petition with over 80 signatories had been sent to WSCC and ESCC. With County Councillor support the residents were looking for a 1-way system around the triangle at Chilling Street and a speed restriction TRO. East Sussex County Council Councillors at their meeting at the beginning of July were being asked to seek co-operation between WSCC and ESCC Highways officers to find a solution. The residents are now pulling together anecdotal evidence of accidents (and near misses) that have taken place at this junction.

**84) To consider what project to pursue for the use of S106 developer contributions from the Bluebells Development**

After considering the options put forward it was **agreed** to pursue a project for improving the surface of footpath WH1 from the intersection with bridleway WH43 to Top Road and also the initial part of the footpath through Finche Field (alongside the top allotment site).

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

A resident has asked if the Parish Council would consider a sign at the top of Philpots Lane reminding dog walkers that there is a dog waste bin in Hook Lane Cricket Ground. The committee will consider this at the next meeting.

A resident had written to WSCC Highways about hedges growing out on to footways and for them to ask house owners to cut them back. It was agreed that an item on cutting back hedges would be included on the Parish Council page in the next edition of The Chronicle.

Date of next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

[Meeting Briefing Papers](#)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:59

Chairman-----