

SLR - Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting - 2nd May 2018 11.30 The Bell Inn Ticehurst

Present: Cllrs. Luckhurst ©, Young and Cook, F Nowne, ESCC Highways Steward Dom and Ian Johnson (Safety Officer).

Apologies: Cllr. Lloyd.

Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting in October were approved as correct.

Resurfacing of the High Street: It was reported that the work is scheduled to be carried out in Spring 2019. Cllrs. asked if this could be brought forward but the Highways Steward answered that he had no control over the scheduling, but commented that the road from Wadhurst to the A21 was the worst road in his area. He suggested that the council should contact Liam Riley to ask why the project was so delayed. The High Street is inspected monthly.

Imprinted Tarmac: Cllr. Young reported that together with Diane Russell (Conservation Officer for RDC), they had looked at imprinted tarmac as a possible surface for the centre of the village – Ian Johnson commented that although it is very hardwearing they have had to remove some in places due to complaints about noise.

Corner Farm: Cllrs. expressed concern that the in and exit access point at Corner Farm will cause chaos at the A21 traffic lights and encourage more traffic down Rosemary Lane. ESCC Highways had not raised objections to the proposal at planning stage and it was felt that if the local speculation is correct, some alternative traffic control might be introduced at a later date for the proposed 30 dwellings, hall and shop. IJ suggested contacting Alex Jagg with the local concerns.

Road Markings in Wallcrouch: Highways Steward said that he would inspect and raise an order for refreshing if needed.

Pavements in Flimwell: Highways Steward reported that he will raise an order for hedges to be cut back and siding works to scrape the earth and vegetation off the pavement surface but that this would probably not happen until after the bird nesting season was over.

Road Signage Cleaning: An order has been raised for sign cleaning, in particular the large sign near the cricket ground in Flimwell.

Footpath from Tinkers Lane to Steelands Rise: It was reported that an informal footpath would not be permitted it would have to be a properly defined path. ESCC would not contribute to funding a path to the rear of the properties. IJ reported that he would find the history of discussions and outcomes and report back to the clerk. Cllrs. were advised that they could request (and pay for), a feasibility study on whether a footpath could be created but it would be better to wait for the outcome of IJ's look into the history on this subject.

Village Centre: Cllrs. were advised to continue talks with A Linfoot, ESCC and RDC about the plans for the village centre on restricting parking times and ownership of the Square.

Entrance/Parking area in front of the church yard: As above.

Poor Contractor Workmanship - pothole repairs: Cllrs. were advised that if repairs fail, contractors are requested to return to the job, so regular reporting to ESCC was important. However, the issue of wet pockets within the potholes is not relevant as the new mix for road repairs (as opposed to the hot bitumen) reacts with the water to set hard. Pot holes need to be 40 mm deep and 300 mm wide for an order to be raised. It was pointed out that the pothole near Cutting Corners was very deep next to a utility cover and a cone had been placed over it.

Grass Cutting: Liam Riley had forwarded each parish a list/map of cuts for the year - FN to chase.

Drain Clearing and Grills: Photographs had been provided by Cllr. Lloyd exhibiting the severe flooding at Bugseys Farm Wallcrouch and suggesting that the drains under the road may have failed. An order to have the drains jetting has been raised. It was pointed out that this is also the case on the road to the south of Ticehurst House, creating dangerous puddling with little visibility.

Pond in Vineyard Lane: Highways Steward advised that he had visited the site when the run off water had frozen over Vineyard Lane making it impassable. The owners of the pond – The Priory – have been sent an enforcement letter requesting that they divert the water into a drain. It was requested that the owners of Pond Cottage in Lymden Lane, were also written to as the pond run off has deliberately been extracted out to the road and causes hazardous icy conditions in cold weather.

Lymden Lane Finger Post: Clerk was advised to contact Peter Sutton who was going to inspect the post - with a view to match funding the replacement of the post. peter.sutton@eastsussexhighways.com

Any Other Business: Cllr. Luckhurst reported that the verges in Lymden Lane had been detrimentally disturbed due to increased traffic during the Cottenden Road closure. She requested that when roads were shut, local lanes, unsuitable for heavy traffic should also be closed. Clerk reported that the contractors working on the Cottenden Road, had created huge ruts in the wide grassed area to the south of Stonegate Pond - Highways Steward to inspect and raise orders for repair if necessary.

Date of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd October 2018 11.45 a.m.