

Draft subject to amendment or correction

CHAILEY PARISH COUNCIL

Liaison meeting with ESCC Highways. March 22nd 2021 BY ZOOM

Present: Parish Cllrs Mark Evans; Ken Jordan;; Elizabeth Berry

Officers: Ian Johnson; Chris Tree; Rob Stevens; Sophie Walker

Apologies: Parish Cllr Nick Belcher

1. *Junction Mill Lane/A275 Current circumstances inc. ownership of lay-by to enable disconnected telephone-box to be placed there.*

Mark Evans recounted the current situation: the Council had decided not to proceed with the project; there was insufficient local support except from Chailey School; the Council had not been successful in its bids for funding and did not itself have the funds to pay for the project. James Vaks had been informed and had responded to explain the difficulties of proceeding with any scheme not controlled by lights. He had agreed to notify the Road Safety Team of our request to introduce a 30mph limit along this area. In discussion Ian Johnson explained that a 30mph limit did not obligatorily have to be lit; however, any such request would need to include recent Speed Surveys [February 2019 now received from Chris Tree] and would need appropriate traffic engineering, features which could require lighting; traffic-calming was notoriously difficult on A roads. However, he did not rule out the use of Amber flashing warning lights at student crossing times, though these might involve expenditure on electrical connections etc. It was left that the Council would write a proposal to Ian Johnson.

Action: Parish Council

Elizabeth Berry explained the Council's wish to move a redundant telephone-box to the lay-by opposite Mill Lane to provide a library facility. The Council was advised to consult Robin Hayward in regard to the need for a Higher Structure Licence or other formalities; it was also suggested the Council might need to evidence traffic speeds and density past this area. **Action: Parish Council**

2. *Mill Lane – proposed parking review* Chris Tree had already been approached by Jessica Stubbings in regard to her correspondence with the Head of Chailey School. It was agreed that Mark Evans should provide Chris Tree with the full background to this request. Mark Evans also explained the School's concern, already voiced to our District Councillor, about a Parking Review [details now received from Ian Johnson] **Action: Mark Evans**
3. *Update on Warrs Hill* The Parish Council asked specifically about the modalities of using the §106 funds held by East Sussex. At last week's Parish Council meeting, it was accepted that the footpath will never be constructed and that it was now urgent to commit the funds being held by ESCC. It was explained that the Parish Council also has an interest in the §106. The New Heritage is administered by a Management Committee and the Chair had attended the Council's meeting to suggest the following projects:
A priority was to extend parking at the development to enable the Chapel (a restored meeting-space) to be offered more widely as a venue;
Improvement of the exit to Warrs Hill – visibility splay;
Pavement to be constructed from exit down to existing lay-by, which would become the pick-up/set-down stop for School buses;
Pedestrian refuge and crossing at the Junction Warrs Hill/A275.
Elizabeth Berry added that the Committee also proposed to build some garages to let, so as to create an income stream for the Committee which is charged with administering the New Heritage. She also added that the Committee is anxious not to burden the social housing on the site with an additional communal charge.
Subsequent to this discussion, the Parish Council had agreed to set up a small Working Party (to include the chair of the Management Committee) to discuss and advise the Council.

Chris Tree acknowledged that access to the funding was a good question; he noted that there had previously been discussion to the effect that allocation of the funds should be in the spirit of the Agreement; he recalled strong views on parking and access; he also asked whether the verges had been adopted. Lewes DC and East Sussex were responsible for such legal matters; and he undertook to consult Ed Sheath for a steer on spending the money and would reply to the Clerk. **Action: Chris Tree**

4. *Ownership of verges and associated Parish responsibilities* Mark Evans explained the Council was concerned as to its responsibilities for verges along the way and specifically trees on land owned by the Council. He cited Markstakes Lane where the Council owned the verges for a considerable length of the Lane. He agreed to send a plan to Sophie Walker. Elizabeth Berry took the opportunity to thank Highways **for agreeing to cut back overgrowth and scrub along Banks Lane after the nesting season.** **Action: Parish Council**
5. *Condition of A275 leading to St |Peter's School* The Parish Council drew attention to the significant deterioration of the A275 before and after St Peter's School as far as the sharp bend; Rob Stevens was aware and monitoring the highway surface as part of his monthly inspection rota; he had highlighted the condition to the Asset Team as longer works would eventually be required. **Action: Rob Stevens**
6. *Possible Speed Restriction on Cinder Hill/Oxbottom Lane in view of increased housing development* Ken Jordan drew attention to this lane, used as a cut-through with consequent dangers to pedestrians and excessive speeds. A recent Planning application for 20 houses was causing alarm in regard to increased traffic, and he asked whether there should not be 40mph speed limit rather than derestricted. Discussion followed, and Ian Johnson recalled the Petition against HGVs; a problem was the level of frontage along the whole length. Highways had no funding for speed signage on C roads. He suggested a feasibility study and discussion with Sussex Police – was there existing speed data? The request should be flagged up with Transport Development Control if the development went ahead; he did not think one could ask for it to be a Condition as the development was relatively modest but one could request measures to mitigate. **Action: Parish Council**
7. *Any Other Business*
 - Cllr Jordan drew attention to the rainwater pooling in the dip beside Roeheath along Cinder Hill. The pool had been a standing lake for several months, and had posed a particular danger during the cold months when there was risk that spray would form a sheet of ice. Access to the post-box was very difficult and the pool lay across the Chailey Link walk and impeded pedestrians; Rob Stevens reported two visits by 'jetting' lorries and that the drainage team had reported the drain was running but slowly; he had raised a ticket for the ditches to be dug out. **Action: Rob Stevens**
 - Chris Tree reported that James Vaks would be leaving East Sussex to take up a post with Surrey; his replacement was yet to be announced. **For information**
 - Mark Evans requested that, now works at St Peter's Church were complete, the potholes along Church Road should be treated. **Rob Stevens had already noted this.**
 - Mark Evans reported a resident's complaint about speed through the King's Head roundabouts; he suggested the circles and marking needed to be refreshed to act as a clear warning to motorists. **Rob Stevens had already raised a ticket.**
 - Mark Evans noted that a complaint [00489 835] about wayside markers alongside Lane End Common had been passed to Enforcement. **Action: Sophie Walker**
8. *Next meeting – date time location* Agreed to stay with 10.30 on a Monday in the autumn (Sept/Oct) in person, or Zoom, as regulations permit. **Action: Sophie Walker**