

Cllr P Seeley (Chair), Cllr P Hill, Cllr M Keller (EDFPC)
Cllr S Shing (ESCC)
Ian Johnson – Traffic and Safety Manager (ESCC)
Thomas Lee – Highway Steward (ESCC)
Katrina Larkin (Parish Clerk)



STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 13 March 2018 at 10.00am In the Small Hall, East Dean Village Hall

Minutes

1. **Apologies for absence:** - None
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017:** - Agreed
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a) **On foot to Birling Gap** – it was noted that a ‘pedestrians in road’ sign had gone up at Birling Gap. Cllr Hill kindly undertook to prepare a draft planning application to cover the provision of new signage for walkers passing between the village and the coast, to be presented to a future parish planning committee meeting for endorsement and submission to the SDNPA
 - b) **Yellow lines and inconsiderate parking** – IJ stated that the programme of installing additional yellow lines had stalled due to staff changes, but he would notify the clerk when the plans were ready for consultation. In view of the fact that parking was currently decriminalised in the Wealden District there was arguably no point in providing yellow lines except for safety reasons (which did apply in East Dean).
 - c) **Flooding on A259** – the Highway Steward had arranged for the vegetation to be cut back at the corner of Upper Street. Further work to reshape the road surface had been ordered and was now waiting on the list of works for the Drainage Team. A number of gully pots had recently been cleared, but the two that had been missed (opposite the entrance to Micheldene Road, and halfway up Friston Hill) should be done within 28 days.
 - d) **Friston build-out** – IJ confirmed that this project was included in the list of Community Match projects which were considered monthly. There was clearly a delay, and the clerk should ask James Vaks for an update. **ACTION: KL (copy in SS and IJ)**
 - e) **Road signs** – (i) ‘Slow’ sign on road surface at bottom of Friston Hill - done; (ii) East Dean village sign (westbound) - approved by the parish council on 1 March and now awaiting implementation; (iii) cleaning/clearing of road signs – done. Councillors thanked ESCC for all these improvements.
 - f) **Speed data** – councillors asked who was collecting data on the A259 in September 2017. This was not an ESCC Highways exercise (last done in September 2014). However,

Highways should have a record of contractors who had received permission to do works on the verge. **ACTION: KL to enquire**

- g) **Bulbs on verges** – ESCC had done the planting without publishing a list of locations. However, the bulbs were now coming up and were much appreciated
- h) **Twitten railings** – these had been done by the parish at a competitive price. Match funding would not be sought.
- i) **Retaining wall on Friston Hill** – an informal warning sign had been affixed to the dwelling on this plot, but did not mark the actual position of the retaining wall (now partially obscured by vegetation), which could pose a hazard to motorists. IJ advised that nothing could be done about the sign. However, he suggested that a comparison of street view pictures from Google Earth be undertaken to check whether the wall had been rebuilt higher than it was originally. The current height would be difficult to measure due to the steep slope of the land.
ACTION: KL
- j) **Split tree by East Dean bus stop** – removed by the landowner.
- k) **Brown sign at A259/Gilberts Drive junction** – councillors thanked ESCC for repairing and replacing this.

- 4. **Light shield** – a resident had requested that a light shield be added to the eastern globe light at the pedestrian refuge on the A259 in East Dean. TL confirmed that this had been raised with the Street Lighting Team and a response was awaited.
- 5. **Controlled crossing on A259 in East Dean/30 mph speed limit** – a resident had asked for a controlled crossing to be considered, especially as there was currently no prospect of lowering the speed limit to 30 mph. Another resident had pointed out that the guidelines setting out the criteria for lowering the speed limit to 30 mph were discretionary, and could in principle be waived in the parish's favour. IJ acknowledged this but explained that there were other considerations. County policy was very specific in terms of the development characteristics required to justify 30 mph. The current 2 year speed management programme on A and B roads did not include the A2659 at all. There was no funding to enlarge the programme, and yet there were over 200 similar requests from parishes all over the county. IJ also advised that signs alone would not suffice to slow traffic further in East Dean, and that traffic calming would be costly: it would have to be match funded, and ESCC would not say that this location would qualify.
- 6. **Yellow lines/rocks at north end of Gilberts Drive** – councillors reported a new problem with vehicles parking on the verge of Gilberts Drive ahead of the junction with the main A259. In discussion it was agreed that a bollard on the verge might be the best deterrent. If the parish was prepared to pay, and ESCC's Licensing and Enforcement Team was prepared to approve it, it could be done. The parish would need to source a contractor qualified to work on the highway. They could ask Costain for a quote. **ACTION: KL**
- 7. **Gore Farm Close** – at the junction of Gore Farm Close and the A259 there was another damaged verge, done recently by the contractor who had replaced the ANPR camera for the Sussex Police. IJ advised that if the work had been done under permit then ESCC should be able to require the

contractor to make good **ACTION: TL**. For longer term protection, a bollard could be moved strategically: the procedure to be followed should be the same as in item 6 above. **ACTION: KL**

8. **Closure of Jevington Road** - in the week beginning 26 February 2018 the road had been closed but the parish council did not receive prior warning. The closure involved a detour of 4 miles and considerable inconvenience. IJ stated that the closure had been requested by BT, and bad weather had forced the works to be re-timed. Utility companies were not obliged to inform relevant parties. He would take up the point with Liam Reilly. **ACTION: TL**
9. **Rights of Way** – a potential problem has been reported with an electric fence crossing the junction of Footpaths 10b, 10c, and 11 at Crowlink Corner. An ESCC Rights of Way officer had investigated and reported that the fence was neither a nuisance nor an obstruction, and stopped before the path narrowed (Footpath 10b). It could be a danger to dogs, but dogs should be under close control as there were sheep present. Councillors accepted these points, but advised that the electric current going through the fence was so considerable that it could be heard 50 yards away; it was too powerful and this should be corrected. **ACTION: IJ to report back to ROW**

10. Any other business

- a) Verge cutting – councillors thanked ESCC for agreeing to finance verge cutting in the parish (undertaken by the parish's contractor) at the same rate in 2018 as it had in 2017. However, it was understood that from 2019 onwards a reduction was to be expected.
- b) Changes to bus service 12X – councillors reported that because there was no longer a stop on this service in the Bishopstone area of Seaford (i.e. nothing between Newhaven and Seaford Library), Bishopstone residents were driving into East Dean and parking in Gilberts Drive to pick up the bus there. This was a major cause of the damage to the verge in Gilberts Drive, and a cause of congestion at the junction with the main A259. ESCC was requested to support the parish in asking Brighton and Hove buses to re-instate a stop in Bishopstone.
- c) Exceat Bridge – Cllr Shing reported that information was being gathered in advance of construction work, and stakeholders such as the SDNPA were being consulted. This phase would continue for some time. The new bridge would be on a new alignment.
- d) Footpath 8 sign – the new sign would be re-installed shortly on the other side of the tway, with the permission of the adjacent householder.
- e) Gritting – councillors thanked ESCC for the very efficient gritting and information service run during the recent severe weather. It was noted that ESCC could provide grit bins to be paid for by the parish and installed in approved locations. However, grit could already be stored in three 300ml pipes in the wall on the north side of the A259 in the centre of the village. A question was raised as to whether ESCC could grit roads which were privately owned, if they were paid for it. TL considered this unlikely to be feasible if it were permissible in principle. Priority would be given to defined through-routes, and always undertaken in response to detailed weather forecasting.

11. **Date and time of next meeting** – 23 October 2018 at 10.00 am in the Small Hall of East Dean village hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.55 am