ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of a Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting held at The Star Inn, Alfriston on Friday 30th June 2017 at 8.45 a.m.**

**Present:**

Cllr. Nick Beechey – Chair of Alfriston Parish Council

Cllr. Jen Dumelow – Vice Chair of Alfriston Parish Council

Cllr. Stephen Shing – East Sussex County Councillor

Ian Johnson – Traffic & Safety Manager, East Sussex County Council

Thomas Lee - East Sussex Highways Steward

**In attendance:**

Victoria Rutt - Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. Keith Halliday.

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 28th October 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of 28th October 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record. The action relating to village signs is still outstanding, Cllr Beechey confirmed this will sit on the back burner at the moment until we know more about the ESCC traffic signal proposals and have funds available.

1. **Grass Cutting**

Cllr Beechey updated that we have always paid our contractors to cut the grass verges and ESCC gives us a contribution. We pay for any extra cuts. We went with a new contractor this year and upon presenting the cutting schedule to ESCC, we were told a number of areas we were not allowed to cut i.e. Whiteway and outside Willows car park/C39 to Long Bridge turning. Our new contractor has not cut these, however neither has ESH or they have been cut badly so we are receiving complaints about the mess and the obstruction. Victoria is communicating with Peter Sutton about this and hopes some of the ‘problem’ roads can be changed into urban roads and the Contractor will be allowed to do extra cuts.

1. **Bike racks**

APC undertook to ask whether we could install bike racks in the Square in the road as we have an issue with cyclists leaving their bikes against business windows or around the village square. Ian Johnson confirmed that we can’t have racks in the road.

1. **Footpaths**

The high path going out of Alfriston towards Long Bridge turning was discussed. The path surface is a considerable hazard for pedestrians as there is a significant drop off from the made to the unmade. Cllr Beechey stated that he has raised this at just about every SLR he has attended. It was raised that if people walk in the dark and fall off the path due to its condition, who is going to be at fault? It was also stated that the hedgerow and grass bank along the high path requires more regular attention as when overgrown it makes the path even more difficult to navigate. Thomas Lee said he would look at the path.

It was also raised that the pavement outside Stanley House on the High Street requires remedial attention. Thomas Lee stated that he will look into this.

1. **Right of Way maintenance**

All covered in the above agenda item.

1. **Traffic Management Proposal**

It was raised that on a couple of weekends recently bollards had been placed on the single yellow line outside the Star and the effect has been hugely beneficial in terms of improving traffic flow through the village.

Ian Johnson stated that ESCC could not authorise the placing of cones in the road. The only body that could authorise would be Sussex Police. Clerk to write to SP to ask for permission to place bollards on this single yellow at weekends during the restricted period.

It was raised whether the current single yellow line outside the Star Inn could be changed into a double yellow line. Ian Johnson confirmed that he can assess the lines being changed into double yellows and will let the Clerk know.

Cllr Beechey stated that there is only 1 sign up about the restriction on the single yellow line, Ian stated it may be there should be 2 signs so he will look into this also.

ESCC traffic light proposal was raised. Ian read out a briefing note [attached to minutes] that he believed APC had had a copy of. It was confirmed they had not had sight of this. Cllr Beechey stated that it is quite wrong that having been told we would be consulted as the plan was progressed we have not and we do not even get updates. APC has had no communication other than when they have made requests for information. Ian had invited James Vaks and/or Andrew Kier, who are heading up the traffic proposal, to the meeting but they were unable to attend. Cllr Beechey stated that questions such as how the owners of a garage and a driveway within the traffic light zone, equestrians, bin lorries, those with no vehicular access will be catered for within the proposal have never been answered despite repeated asking. No one from ESCC has answered what will happen to the South Downs Way if Star Lane becomes one way. Cllr Beechey asked if the further modelling proposed in the briefing note was to be computer modelling or practical experiment with temporary lights. Cllrs Beechey and Dumelow stated that the previous traffic light experiment led to heightened pollution - fume, noise and light - affecting businesses such as the George, Tudor House and Star such that they lost business; that traffic lights will exacerbate the problems faced elsewhere in the High St and North St and are not a workable solution as far as those who know the village best are concerned.

Cllr Shing stated that it is important that a meeting is arranged between himself, APC, James Vaks and Andrew Kier as they need to communicate with stakeholders and so he will ask them to meet.

1. **Flooding Update**

Cllr Shing raised whether there is an issue of flooding outside Deans Place. Cllr Beechey confirmed that it is not such a problem as Alfriston’s Emergency Group [AEG] is very good at clearing the drains. Cllr Shing stated that the road has got narrower over time and would we like to query whether this could be widened. It was agreed that the road is ok but the foliage could do with a good cut back and the drains being cleared thoroughly by ESCC. Possibly work to improve the culverts may assist.

Cllr Beechey asked if ESCC or ESH would be willing to grant some money towards the Flood Forum which wishes to purchase a pump at the cost of £3000 to be able to pump the water out of the road quicker in order for it to reopen in the event of a flood. Tom Lee stated that neither ESSC nor APC could condone individuals or groups doing any work in the road because of liability issues. ESCC would not therefore offer any funds.

1. **Reintroduction of temporary weighbridge**

Cllr Beechey updated that a letter has been sent to Chief Constable Giles York, Police Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne, Cllr Shing, Ian Johnson and VOSA to request another temporary weighbridge be put in at Berwick Court Farm as it worked really well in the past and word spread around the lorry drivers. Cllr Shing asked if there was a possibility of a width restriction. Cllr Beechey raised the possibility of a length restriction. Ian Johnson confirmed a length restriction is something Rotherfield are looking at the moment but it means a lot of signs need to be put up and it is hard to enforce, as is a width restriction without a physical restriction. Ian Johnson stated that Cllr Nick Bennett used to have leaflets handed out at the Ports and in the drivers’ waiting areas. Cllr Shing stated that he will look into keeping this up.

1. **AOB**

There was no any other business.

1. **Date of next meeting**

Friday 20th October at 08:45 in the Library Room, Star Inn, Alfriston.

Signed  Victoria Rutt – Parish Clerk