

**Minutes of Whatlington Parish Council meeting on 19st September 2024 in the village hall
At 7.30p.m. Open Session 7.30p.m. – 7.50p.m.**

AGENDA

OPEN SESSION / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were nine local parishioners attending

A parishioner said he had three matters he wished to raise with the council.

Firstly- The speed limit of 40mph along the C.293 need to be lowered to 30mph. With no pavements, Pathways and few grass verges, pedestrian have to walk along the road. It is especially dangerous on the bend by the church entrench. It has become more dangerous with all the work and closures on the A.21 and A.2100 causing at times diversion down the C.293 with extra vehicles putting pedestrians in further danger, also once motorist find it a quicker route to battle, with the 40mph, they continue for the future to use it. After discussion it was agreed to write to East Sussex Highways asking for both the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph and pathways introduced especially around the bend by the church

Second – Would the council write to National England asking them to contact Southern Water asking for the flooding by Marley Lane is dealt with. This would save the closures or traffic lights continually happening on the A.21 due to the flooding. The clerk was asked to contact Sedlescombe and Battle councils asking them to support us in this.

Finally- Could the council consider making the Royal Oak a Parish Asset which would safe guard it for the future. The Chairman said that although the council would probably agree with this the request has to be by the community. Perhaps the Whatlington Connectors could consider doing this.

Our Footpath warden said a few years ago he spoke with the Chairman about checking the condition of all our Footpaths, but with these covering 9,380.89 metres he has only managed to check a third so help for this would be needed.

The Chairman added Appeal Decision APP/U1430/W/3332233 Riccards Farm to the agenda

1 APOLOGIES

County and District Councillor Field

2 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the council meeting on the 16th May 2024, copies of which had been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING

- a) Overgrown verge junction Riccards Lane – A.21 This has been cut by National Highways
- b) Residents near Park Lane are having difficulty walking along this and Battle Road both with a 60mph Councillor Clarkson said there had been no reply to our and his request to East Sussex Highways for a reduced speed limit for these roads. The clerk was asked to write to East Sussex Highways asking for a reduced speed limit and to include Riccards Lane also 60pmh which we had also asked for a reduced limit and had received no response

5 CORRESPONDENCES

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- a) Annette Holmes -Volunteer Co-ordinator -Rother Voluntary Action- They would like to attend a parish council meeting to explain what they do and how we may be able to work together. It was agreed to invite them to our Parish Assembly in March 2025.

- 5 b) A.21 Package Team. Meeting being arranged by Sergio Dosti with Chairman. The Chairman had spoken with Sergio Dosti who had advised the following.

As we discussed, we are looking to implement a footpath between the Whatlington 2b public right of way from Hoath Lane to the paved area slightly north of Whatlington Garage. We are also looking to include an uncontrolled crossing in the area between the White Chapel and Whatlington Garage. This is where the highest footfall for crossings has been recorded. The aim of this footpath and crossing is to provide a safer pedestrian route through Whatlington.

During this process we were aware of several potential constraints, which our surveys have confirmed to be applicable. The majority of these impact the land both north and south of the proposed locations for the footpath and crossing, which restricts the land and locations we can use. These constraints, as spoken about during the call, are also laid out below:

During this process we were aware of several potential constraints, which our surveys have confirmed to be applicable. The majority of these impact the land both north and south of the proposed locations for the footpath and crossing, which restricts the land and locations we can use. These constraints, as spoken about during the call, are also laid out below:

Constraints for the footpath:

- Land width – ensuring there is sufficient width to put a footpath in that is safe for pedestrians to use.
- Environmental – there are several mature trees and tree roots in the area which we are aiming to maintain and keep environmental impact to a minimum.
- Ensuring any impact on existing road conditions is kept at a minimum as this could lead to further constraints.
- Land ownership, stopping in a safe location – to mitigate this, we are keeping the footpath on National Highways land.

Constraints for the crossing:

- Crossing at a safe location for visibility and safe distance for drivers and pedestrians – ensuring that visibility is not impaired for pedestrians or cars.
- Implemented in an area with a significant number of crossings to justify the requirement of the crossing – our pedestrian counts show that between Whatlington Garage and the White Chapel is the best location to cater for safe crossings.

Due to these constraints, the locations outlined above have been identified as the best solution that we can provide to increase the safety for pedestrians in Whatlington. Please find attached the draft drawings depicting the locations of our proposed footpath and crossing as discussed in our call. Please note that these are still in draft and may change.

You also discussed the potential for works at Royal Oak junction, where the A21 meets Whatlington Road, with another A21 Safety Package project manager, Alice Alexander. Alice explained that the team has investigated a number of possible solutions for the area. Unfortunately, due to several constraints including visibility and verge width we are currently unable to provide a workable solution for this junction.

In view of this the Chairman advised there is no point in having a public meeting. The above will be put in the newsletter and parishioners can send in any concerns to the council.

- 5 c) Flexibus- The Boundary systems areas have changed to allow passengers to travel within a 14-mile radius of the pickup point.

5. d) Simon Hoare M.P Withholding details of councillors' sensitive interest and home addresses.

This was for councillors' information. The clerks had replied asking for Clerks to be included

- e) Kieran Mullan M.P.-Will if invited visit the council and we can inform him of any problems we have.
When to invite him to be discussed at our January meeting.
- f) Parish Online. With different councillors we had to re-registered and councillors asked to forward their passwords for this. As the emails for this had not been received the clerk contacted them and was told there had been problem on the site, now corrected, and emails for the passwords will now be sent.

6 REPORT ON SPEED WATCH FROM STEVE TURNER

We have been promised a new, more accurate gun by the end of the month. It is apparently being reconfigured after the last group's use. There is a likely to be a request for it to be returned at some point if the group doesn't appear to be using it that much. However, the police have suggested we apply for a small grant from its SPSR Fund, with the rest coming perhaps from the parish council in order to purchase our own.

We have been assured that we've been named as a group that requires police attendance/support due to our situation in terms of traffic speed and restricted roadside locations.

The problem now, however, is lack of numbers. Some of the previous members have stepped down leaving only two available for roadside duty. We will be launching another appeal for members this month.

7 REVIEWS OF FOLLOWING POLICIES: -

Accessibility

Charging

Freedom on Information

Risks Schedule`

All were reviewed and agreed

8 PLANNINGS Appeal Decisions

APP/U1430/W/24/3337523	Land adjacent to Riccards, Stream Lane	DISMISSED
APP/U14330/W/3332233	Riccards Farm, Hastings Road 1	APPEAL REFUSED
RR/2024/579/P	Hillside Nurseries. Woodmans Green Road	REFUSED
RR/2024/671/P	Dorrells Woodmans Green Road	GRANTED
RR/2024/672/1	Dorrells Woodmans Green Road	GRANTED
R/2024/682/P	Forest Lodge	GRANTED
RR/2024/1021/P	Dorrells Woodmans Green Road	GRANTED
RR/2024/1044/1	Dorrells - Improvements and refurbishment – damp proofing to basement, replacement ground floor over and replacement windows.	GRANTED
RR2023/2649/P	Leeford Place – Change of use to school boarding accommodation	GRANTED

ENFORCEMENT –

ENF/151/24/WHA -Dorrells, Woodmans Green Road Works undertaken without consent.

9 FINANCES

The Balance at Barclays Bank as at 1st September 2024 Current Account - £4493.03 this includes the final payment of our Precept from Rother District Council Business Account - £11,572.26

There are four bills to pay

100883 – Geosphere Ltd. Parish Online	42.00
100884 V. Bennett – Half yearly salary	1,834.56
100885 V. Bennett – Administration costs	150.50
100886 Averdell – Grass Cutting	560.00
Barclaycard direct debits	
May - Fasthost - Email fee	2.88

FINANCES CONTINUED

June H.P Instant Ink - Photocopying - £11.99 Fasthost – Email fee - £2.88

H.P. Instant Ink – Photocopying - £5.49 20.36

July – H.P. Instant Ink – Photocopying - £5.49. Fasthost – Email fee-2.88 8.37

Barclaycard direct debis

9. August- H.P. Photocopying -£5.49 Fasthosts – Email fee - £2.88 8.37

Cheques drawn between meetings

Direct Debit -June – HugoFox Direct debit – Silver contract 71.97

Cheques drawn between meetings

100879 – Ben Clarkson – Repairs to Bus Shelter 575.00

100881 –McCabe Ford Williams – Internal Audit 252.00

100882`- Rother Association of Local Councils – Subscription 26.00

Direct Debit- Information Commissioners office – Data Protection fee 35.00

We are awaiting a bill for the siting and electrical work needed for the Defibrillator.

All were agreed with cheques drawn and signed

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21st November 2024

The meeting closed at 8.25p.m.

Minutes remain in draft format until approved at the next meeting of the council