

NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Report from the Parish Council 'virtual' Roads & Footpath Committee Meeting, held on
Wednesday 17th March 2021, Commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr N Bryant (Chairman) Cllr O Hydes (OBE)
Cllr J Bromley Cllr C Kenny (Vice Chairman)
Cllr R Cato Cllr T Nelson
Cllr J Chaytor

The Clerk to the Parish Council, Sarah Hall, Cllr D Harber, Steve Douglas (WSCC Highways Assistant Manager Central Area) and four members of the public also attended the meeting.

RFC047-20/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that there were no apologies for absence.

RFC048-20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest, as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils Code of Conduct, were made.

RFC049-20/21 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE ROADS & FOOTPATH COMMITTEE MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the [Roads and Footpath Committee meeting](#) held on 20th January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and be recommended for approval to the Full Parish Council (unanimously approved).

RFC050-20/21 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Roads & Footpath committee did not make any announcements.

RFC051-20/21 CHURCH ROAD FOOTPATH

Steve Douglas (WSCC Highways Assistant Manager Central Area) explained that there were two options available to deal with the hedgerows and pavement along Church Road;

- 1) Request residents to cut their hedgerows back to the boundary. This was not a favoured option because many hedgerows would die if severely cut back. The minimum width of a new footpath is 1.2 metres and with the footpath being so narrow, even if the hedgerows were cut back there is no guarantee that a width of 1.2 metres would be achieved.
- 2) Apply for a Community Highway Scheme to finance 'verge hardening', this may urbanise the street scene. The process is quite long, the application will be scored and there is competition from other projects for the capital funds.

The footpath is also lower than the road and if raised there would be all kinds of issues, including gullies and vehicular access to the properties.

Residents of Church Road commented that the highway signs could be moved further away from the pavement, the usage of the pavement would not justify large amounts of money being spent on any project, the residents are community minded and already

maintain their hedgerows, volunteers to assist with hedge cutting if residents needed help.

It was **RESOLVED** to take no further action. There are more pressing challenges in the parish and both options would urbanise the street scene.

RFC052-20/21 QUESTIONS FOR STEVE DOUGLAS (WSCC HIGHWAYS ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR CENTRAL AREA)

- 1) **Parking outside St Andrew's Primary School is causing a hazard to vehicles leaving Harriots Close, is there anything that WSCC Highways can be do?**
Parking outside Primary Schools is a recurrent problem and are a relentless source of enquires. If the vehicles which are parked outside the school all day are parked legally there is very little that WSCC Highways can do.

A TRO could be applied for to reduce the speed limit and passing places could be constructed on Nuthurst Road to assist with the traffic flow.

Steve Douglas suggested that residents liaised with the school about its 'School Transport Plan' and any 'soft' measures which could be implemented.

- 2) **Is there anything that can be done to stop the lorries and buses mounting the green space along Church Road and damaging the verge?**
In 2015 WSCC made the decision to no longer install bollards along the public highway unless there is a hazard. If the damage to the verge is more than 100mm deep WSCC Highways have a legal obligation to repair the damage (rake out, add soil and re-seed), this may be delayed until spring.

- 3) **Would the Parish Council be permitted to place a bench on the green space along Church Road?**
There is a Section 115 process for applying to place a bench on WSCC Highways land but the contractor will need £10 million PLI and have New Roads and Street Works accreditation if the installation 'breaks the ground'. The amount of PLI could be reduced if the Parish Council ascertain the locations of the underground services and the bench is located 15 metres from the road. Steve Douglas to confirm the criteria for fixing the bench to a concrete slab.

If the Parish Council receive requests from residents to erect benches in the parish, the costs will not come from Parish Council funds.

- 4) **In heavy rainfall the road outside Hawthorns, Bar Lane floods, flood signs have been erected, is anything being done about this issue?**
A job has been raised to jet the culverts, but due to current work volumes for drainage works this is subject to scheduling. Jetting may only temporarily resolve the issue, the cause of the flooding needs to be located, if not on WSCC land the landowner will need to address the issue.

- 5) **There are four roads in Copsale, all of which are de-restricted, what can be done to reduce the speed limits along the country lanes?**
An application for a TRO could be submitted to WSCC requesting for the speed limit to be reduced, the application must be supported by the Parish's County Councillor. The reduced speed limit must be realistic, if you introduce a 40mph speed limit on a derestricted road, motorists would not reduce their

speed limit to 40mph they would drive to the road condition. Statistical evidence shows that if you reduce the speed limit by 10mph drivers will reduce their speed by 1mph.

WSCC must follow their 'Speed Policy', this was formulated in conjunction with Sussex Police. If any proposed speed limit is unrealistic or will cause a law and disorder issue the Police will object to the application. The speed policy states that WSCC are required to get speed data for each TRO application. The speed data gathered must be close to the desired speed limit, if an application is submitted to reduce the speed limit on a derestricted road to 50mph the average speed must not exceed 52mph. To be implemented the application would also need to be selected at the CLC's.

The Police look at the 85% percentile, although most drivers are responsible there will always be some who exceed the speed limit. Without introducing obstacles (for example speed humps), you will not get everyone to reduce their speed limit.

6) **Are there any restrictions for mobile Fish & Chip / Pizza vans stopping on the public highway?**

The proprietor would need to apply to HDC for a Street Trader Licence.

7) **The remains of a fallen tree are still on the edge of Broadwater Lane causing a hazard when will they be removed?**

Report on the Lovewestsussex website, if the tree's located on WSCC land they will arrange for the removal or if the land is privately owned the removal is the landowner's responsibility.

RFC053-20/21 PUBLIC SESSION

A Mannings Heath resident asked for consideration to be given to planting an ornamental Cherry, or something similar, on the WSCC triangle of land outside the old village store. The resident offered to contact Mr R Walter to ask if he has any objection to the proposal.

RFC054-20/21 TRAFFIC ISSUES IN THE PARISH

Electronic Speed Signs outside St Andrews School

The Parish Council have allocated £7,000.00 in the 2021/22 budget for traffic calming in the parish. One proposal is to erect a SID outside St Andrew's Primary School.

CLlr R Cato has been looking into the installation of a SID and advised that the SIDs in Partridge Green are very effective and record speed data in both directions. CLlr R Cato had obtained costings and one SID could be purchased for approximately £3,900.00. There would also be installation costs.

The Parish Community Group have also earmarked monies for this project and have asked if the SID will be erected in the forthcoming financial year.

The members were asked if they agreed to the proposal in principle.

The Chairman of the Parish Council advised that the Roads and Footpath Committee could not make any decisions and that any recommendation would need to go to the Full Parish Council for approval.

Cllr Nelson stated that in the event of this matter being brought to the full Parish Council for approval, it must be accompanied by a complete budget, including the equipment, the installation on site, and any additional costs (contractors, insurances, etc). Given the amounts anticipated, this budget should be supported by written quotations.

There are questions in the Parish Survey on road safety and it was **RESOLVED** to wait for the analysis of the survey data before going to Full Parish Council.

RFC055-20/21 RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FOOTPATH ALONGSIDE WINTHRIFT

The Core Grass on the footpath alongside Winthrift was not installed to the correct specification, if installed correctly the system provides a hard surface, instead there is a muddy mess along the length of the footpath. WSCC PROW Countryside Access Ranger has contacted the landowner and he has filled the ruts in and planted three saplings, this has not resolved the issue. The landowner has also failed to remove the unlawful gate or widen the footpath by re-siting the fence as required by WSCC and HDC.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Parish Council that the matter is taken further.

RFC056-20/21 INSTALLATION OF DOG BINS IN NUTHURST AND MAPLEHURST

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that HDC carried out a survey of the footpaths/verges in Nuthurst and concluded that *`at the moment it is really hard to justify the use of the public purse to install new bins and have them emptied when the results of a survey are this low`.*

RFC057-20/21 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS TO BE REFERRED TO ON THE NEXT AGENDA

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the members did not request for any items to be included on the next agenda.

RFC058-20/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that the next meeting of the Roads and Footpath Committee will be advised.

The meeting closed at 21.05pm

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Chairman of the Roads & Footpath Committee

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Date