

Unconfirmed Minutes subject to approval/amendment at the next meeting of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

23 March 2016 – At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00pm at Ashurst Wood Primary School.

Present: Mrs Brunsdon (Imberdown), Mrs Field (Lindfield and High Weald) (Chairman) and Mr O'Brien, (East Grinstead South and Ashurst Wood).

In attendance: Rachel Allan (Democratic Services Officer) and Richard Speller (Highway Area Manager).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Acraman (Worth Forest) and Mrs Bennett (East Grinstead Meridian).

Welcome

72. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the Committee and officers to introduce themselves.

Declaration of Interests

73. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

74. Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2016 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Urgent Matters

75. There were no urgent matters.

Progress Statement

76. The Chairman introduced the Progress Statement (copy attached to the signed minutes). She advised that a series of answers relating to a question about Philpots Quarry, West Hoathly had been received and was given to the member of public in question. She added that this matter had now been referred to planning policy as it was a compliance issue, and that a local meeting was going to be arranged to take this matter forward.

77. The member for Imberdown confirmed that issues relating to parking in Crossways Avenue, East Grinstead were being dealt with.

78. In response to a Member's question, the Highways Area Manager advised that the resurfacing on a number of roads around Milton Crescent, Wordsworth Rise and Kipling Way had been identified in 2013, but was now on hold. *Action: Richard Speller to update the Committee on this matter.*

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79. The Highways Area Manager advised that a meeting had taken place with the improvements team regarding access and traffic calming issues around Imberhorne Lane. He confirmed that appropriate measures would be put in place once the scheme had been completed, and funded via Section 106 monies. He added that this would be scheduled for the 2016/17 financial year.

80. Resolved – That the Committee notes the progress statement.

Highways Update

81. The Committee received an oral presentation from Richard Speller, Highways Area Manager, regarding the new traffic regulation order process. He advised that, following the major reorganisation of the Highways Department in 2015, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport had commissioned a review of the process for the assessment and implementation of TROs. As part of the review, an Executive Task and Finish Group (TFG) had been established by the Cabinet Member to review current arrangements and make recommendations on a future process.

82. The Cabinet Member had considered the recommendations, and the outcome of this review had been the creation of a new process for the proposal and prioritisation of TROs by County Local Committees that was clear, transparent and sustainable. The new process concerned non-complex TRO proposals. More complex TROs, as defined by criteria in this report, would be considered for progression as a highways improvement scheme and so fell outside the new process.

83. The Highways Area Manager advised that the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee had an allocation of one TRO per annum. He added that the new process would be in place for 1 April 2016, and that the North Mid Sussex CLC would be considering the 2017/18 potential TROs at its September 2016 meeting.

84. The Highways Area Manager advised the Committee that the speed indicator device was presently in Crawley Down, and would be moved around parishes as appropriate. He added that students from Ardingly College had fixed the software so data received from the device could be analysed. Members advised that data from the speed indicator device would be helpful whilst prioritising traffic regulation order requests.

85. The Highways Area Manager updated the Committee regarding Operation Watershed. He confirmed that there would be a third tranche of monies.

86. In response to a Member's question, the Highways Area Manager confirmed that the permit scheme in relation to utility companies work on the highways would be launched on 1 April 2016. He advised that this scheme would enable the Council to insist on certain standards from utility companies whilst works were being carried out on the highways. It would also allow more frequent inspections.

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87. The Highways Area Manager explained that the water mains leak at Imberhorne Lane and London Road appeared to have ceased, and that if no complaints were received in the near future, the sign would be removed.

East Grinstead Parking Scheme

88. The Chairman advised that at the last meeting of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee, she had undertaken to report back at this meeting the results of the consultation that had taken place. The consultation ended on 18 March 2016, and there had been 180 representations received. She took members through some of the initial feedback, but advised that a more detailed report would be brought to the next meeting of the North Mid Sussex County Local Committee on 15 June 2016. She added that it was likely that the final decision would be taken at the Committee's meeting in September 2016.

Talk With Us – Open Forum

89. The Chairman advised that the open forum was an opportunity for comments and questions to be raised on items not already on the agenda and invited questions and comments. The following issues were raised and responses made:

90. A representative from Turners Hill Parish Council asked for clarity on road markings in Turners Hill. The Highways Area Manager agreed to examine this issue and feedback to the Parish Council.

91. There were a number of questions received in relation to the East Grinstead parking scheme. The Chairman confirmed with all of those who raised questions that their concerns had been fed into the consultation process, therefore would be considered. She advised that the consultation results would be made public online.

92. A member of the public asked when the box junction markings by the fire station would be refreshed. The Highways Area Manager agreed to return with a provisional date, but advised that there were other higher priority box junction markings to be updated first.

93. A representative from Copthorne Junior School road safety group asked whether, if there was a successful traffic regulation order placed by the school, could a pilot CCTV scheme be used by the school. Members advised that this was unlikely, but the Highways Area Manager would examine this and feedback at a future meeting.

94. A member of the public asked why resurfacing work had taken place on Brooklands Way, East Grinstead, in light of the recent consultation that had taken place as changes to road marking in that area could occur in the near future. The Highways Area Manager advised that this was unfortunate, but that these works had already been scheduled, and it was now yet known if any changes to an existing traffic regulation order would be.

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95. A member of the public questioned how the Council fed into their role as a statutory consultee on planning applications considered by Mid Sussex District Council, specifically in regard to proposals for new homes development. The Committee clarified that there was a formal process and framework that the County Council took part in, as well as consultation with the local member.

96. A representative from a Parish Council thanked the Highways Area Manager for the recent road resurfacing on Brooklands Way, and for his effective communication with parish councils over highways issues.

97. A member of the public thanked the Committee for the responses he had received from the last meeting regarding Philpot Quarry. He added that there was still concerns in regard to the operation of lorries around the quarry, and asked whether an evaluation of the impact of said lorries could be undertaken. The Committee reiterated that a meeting would be taking place to which the quarry company would be invited and further information on this issue would be available after that.

Community Initiative Funding

98. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy (copy attached to the signed minutes) which detailed applications for Community Initiative Funding. The Chairman explained that in the event that any part of the fund remained unallocated, the residual sum could be "rolled-over" and added to the Committee's 2016/17 Community Initiative Fund budget.

99. The Committee debated the respective merits of the applications.

100. Resolved: - That the following applications be approved: -

907/NMS – St John's PCC Copthorne, £2000.00, towards storage facilities, and providing a blind for the Parish Hub. The Committee was unable to fund the flat screen television.

940/NMS - Copthorne Village Millennium Group, £1,700.00, to provide materials to support the Copthorne archive.

944/NMS - Mid Sussex Older People's Council, £250.00, towards transport costs bringing residents to and from the Queen's 90th Birthday Tea.

101. Resolved: - That the following applications be declined: -

871/NMS - Donkey Field pre-school, £3,117.50, for staff training, iPad and laptop purchase and the purchase of outdoor clothing. This application was inappropriate for CIF funding as it would not benefit the wider community.

919/NMS – Turners Hill Parish Council, £2,500.00, towards costs for a new boiler control panel. The Committee was unable to fund a precepting authority.

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931/NMS – Yarburgh Community Playgroup, £1,604.41, to provide electronic
and other IT equipment. This application was inappropriate for CIF funding as
it would not benefit the wider community.

102. Resolved:- That the following application be deferred:-

947/NMS - Travel Plan Group for Crawley Down Village School, £1,269.77,
to purchase 320 pedometers and high visibility jackets. The Committee
recommends that the school make adjustments to the application to make this
project a smaller pilot scheme.

103. The Committee confirmed that any remaining CIF monies would be carried
over to the 2016/17 financial year. For the North Mid Sussex County Local
Committee, that would be a total of £15,215. It further requested that officers
ensured that clearer advice was given to applicants on CIF criteria as part of the
process to ensure that correct validation had taken place.

Nominations and Appointments of Authority School Governors

104. There were no nominations or vacancies for the Committee to consider.

Date of Next Meeting

105. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would be
held on Wednesday 15 June 2016 at 7.00pm at a venue to be confirmed in East
Grinstead.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman