

## Strengthening Local Relationships

### **Brede Parish Council Liaison Meeting with ESCC Highways 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 in the Trinity Methodist Church Hall Minutes**

Present: Helen Clee (Senior Traffic and Safety Officer), Nicola Black (Contract Director), James Kelly, (Steward), Zoe West (Customer Service Manager), Cllrs L Nottage, and R Oliver. Clerk (Tracy Dixon)

- 1     **Apologies** – Cllr Griffiths, Ian Johnson
- 2     **Approve minutes from previous meeting** – minutes had been circulated and were accepted as correct, the last meeting having been more than a year ago.
- 3     **Grit Bin at the Crossways**  
Cllr Nottage asked if it was possible for Highways to consider placing a grit bin at the crossways. The Parish Council had received the costs and would consider it from their budget, but asked if Highways would consider it as a site they would supply and maintain a bin due to the dangers should the crossways become icy. There had been a grit bin there before, but some years ago. The clerk to liaise with Zoe.
- 4     **Bollards for Kingwood Hill around Millers Dale,**  
Helen Clee assured Councillors that the road is wide enough and HGV's should be able to pass. Any hazard posts would be knocked down too easily. Councillor Nottage raised concerns that the bank may have slipped, reducing the width of the road. James will check this.
- 5     **Collapsed drains in Kingwood Hill.**  
One had been reported for repairs and the repairs completed. The rest do not yet meet the required level 4 requirement for repair.
- 6     **Condition and Width of footpath over Kingwood Hill, and camber of path.**  
The footpath needs a good sweep, which is done by Rother not ESCC, the clerk to request this. The camber is more difficult to review as any build up on one side is at risk of crumbling away, and any digging out on the other will result in further mud slippage.
- 7     **Trees overhanging on Kingwood Hill and covering directional signs.**  
James had already reported these as needing attention, and a trim has been booked, no date know yet..
- 8     **Loose granite Kerbstones in Reedswood.**  
Some of these have already been highlighted as requiring reinserting. James will check further.
- 9     **Reduction of Hump at the crossways.**  
Councillors asked if work to reduce the size of the hump at the crossways could be considered. Successive retarmacking has increased the height of the hump and further reduced visibility. This will be passed on as a recommendation.
- 10    **Double yellow lines from shop corner and around Reedswood.**  
Parking at both places is an issue. Double yellow lines are thought unlikely to help, but to request them and then report regularly to enforcement via operation crackdown to try and catch offenders. Link for application to be sent to the clerk by Zoe.
- 11    **Poor condition of Chitcombe Road from Crossways**

The centre of the road is badly damaged from the recent building of the new houses, but it is not yet deep enough for a repair.

12 **Condition of road from Oakhill Drive to Crossways**

This section of road has already been reported for patching.

13 **Condition of Path edges in Pottery Lane and Pottery Close**

The mud has been scraped back. Weed spraying is now done once a year, the schedule is on the website, clerk to look up and advise Councillors. If regrowth is rapid it can be reported for respraying.

14 **Collapsed drain outside Dolphins, Chitcombe Road**

The drain was repaired, but it has already sunk again and is rocking. James will check and report.

15 **Failure or Repairs in Northiam Road**

The temporary repairs had failed within weeks, but have already been reported.

16 **Potholes and condition of Stubb Lane entrance to Rose Cottage**

The condition of this section of road has already been raised for repairs.

17 **Highways Update**

James has been out and about reporting various issues.

Cllr Nottage asked what difference the new contract with Balfour Beatty and the changes will make to the Parish. Helen and Nicola explained that they now have a larger pool of resources (contractors) to respond to problems more quickly. Residents should see more activity and the quality of repairs should be improved. There is now more supervision of works to ensure they are completed to a higher level and last longer. The contact centre is now in house, improving response times.

The stewards structure has been changed to increase the numbers of stewards out on the roads to identify the hazards.

18 **Any other business**

The condition of the tarmac between Northiam Road and Udimore Road was raised, along with the footpath at Reedswood, both of which are regularly used by school children. On checking they are maintained by ESCC rights of way, so Tracy to contact the rights of way team.

Cllr Oliver expressed concerns about the condition of the road surface at the entrance to Waterworks Lane, James will check and report if any action needed.

Cllr Nottage asked if the Community Match Scheme was continuing and if it was possible to rebook the feasibility study the Council had requested. Tracy to send details to Zoe.

Cllr Nottage raised the enquiry from the school about a possible 20mph zone outside the school, and a crossing. The clerk to send a request via Zoe.

19 **Next Meeting –**

Booked for 20<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm, in Trinity Methodist Church Hall.