

# Burwash Parish Council

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Minutes of the **Virtual Burwash Parish Traffic & Transport Working Party** meeting held at 19.00 on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

The meeting was conducted using Zoom Meeting Space and was recorded.

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**Members Present:** Cllr. R. Franklin, Cllr. Newman, Cllr. A. Newson, Cllr. F. Hosein, Cllr. B, Wraight. Cllr. J. Kenny, Cllr. D. Stemp, Declan O'Neill, Lindsay Green, Lesley Moore, Helga Castle, Halina Keep, Hilary Stewart, George McAllister, Steve Moore, David Cowell and Betty McBride

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**Apologies:** Cllr. Caulkin

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**Meeting opened:** 19.02

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**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. Caulkin sent apologies.

**2. Election of Chair.**

Cllr. Franklin requested that a Councillor volunteer to Chair this working party. No Councillors volunteered.

It was suggested that Declan O'Neill chair the meeting in the absence of a Parish Councillor taking the position and Cllr. Franklin report back to Full Council on any items necessary.

Members of the working party agreed.

Mr. O'Neill agreed to chair until a Councillor was found to be the formal chair of the working party. Mr. O'Neill also agreed to mentor the new chair if required.

Members of the working party thanked Mr. O'Neill.

**3. Disclosure of Interest.**

Ms. Betty McBride suggested that as this is a working party and not a formal committee, this item could be removed from the agenda.

**Action:** Clerk to double check the correct procedure and inform the working party.

**Clerk's Note: Confirmation that this does not need to appear in minutes for a working party and will be removed from any subsequent agenda.**

**4. Working Party Procedure.**

Cllr. Franklin explained that the questions given to the Full Council were outlined again in the agenda to ensure that members had the opportunity to fully debate and resolve any outstanding queries.

It was agreed to remove the questions regarding Down Meadow.

It was agreed to move the agenda along without specifically addressing the questions in the agenda as most answers would come from discussion on the standing agenda items.

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## 5. Accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the requested amendments were made to the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the working party meeting held on 27-07-20 were agreed by members of the group as an accurate record of the meeting.

## 6. Burwash Weald & Common Feasibility Study.

Mr. Lindsay Green confirmed that the feasibility study form had been completed for the Burwash Weald and Common. The study would be requesting they look at 20mph limits for selected roads in Burwash Common & Weald, village gates and a possible crossing.

Discussion took place over whether to include everything in one study.

Members of the group advised that all options should be put in the initial request for a feasibility study and none should be ruled out. Confirmation was given that the initial request doesn't bind the Parish Council to spending money.

Cllr. Franklin advised that the crossing should be a separate application.

Cllr. Kenny requested that the section of road between Burnt House Farm and Kestral House be included in the feasibility study request.

Mr. Green agreed to take this request to the resident's association meeting for confirmation but doesn't see any reason not to include that stretch of road.

Cllr. Kenny confirmed that it would need to specifically concentrate on the speed limits of the road. Cllr. Kenny reported that the area forms part of a heavily advertised walk which is currently at 50mph along the A265.

Members agreed that the feasibility study request should concentrate on village gates, speed limits across all roads, footpath requests and potential crossing sites.

Mrs. Lesley Moore asked for confirmation that there was money in the Parish Council budget set aside for this study.

Cllr. Franklin confirmed that this is budgeted for in this year's figures.

**Action:** Mr. Green to amend the feasibility study paperwork and submit it to the Clerk by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Members of the working party **RESOLVE** to request the expenditure of £500 + VAT to the Full Council on 08-09-20 for the submission of the feasibility study for Burwash Common & Weald.

## 7. Parish Highway Maintenance Report.

Cllr. Franklin outlined to the members of the working party the general dissatisfaction with recent road repairs and with Costain and various sub-contractors that have carried out road works in the Parish.

Mr. Green and Mr. Jeremy Richardson have compiled a report with photographs to submit to the Scrutiny Committee at East Sussex County Council.

Process of submission and the date of the next meeting is being researched by the Clerk.

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Mr. Green requested that Mr. Richardson be involved with presenting the report to the committee. Cllr. Franklin to confirm the process and discuss the presentation offline with Mr. Green.

Members of the working party **RESOLVE** to request that Full Council accept the report in its entirety for presentation to the scrutiny committee as outlined above.

**Action:** Clerk to place on the Full Council agenda scheduled for 08-09-20.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm the date and presentation process of the Scrutiny Committee and feedback to the working party.

**Action:** Members of the working party to feed any unsolved reported cases of repairs into Mr. Green to add to the report.

## 8. 20mph Update.

Ms. McAllister asked for clarification regarding the email and google image email that was circulated to the working party from Mr. Tingley and where it fits with the report and walk round conducted with Mr. Vaks.

Cllr. Franklin confirmed that Mr. Tingley was the engineer that wrote the report that was then signed off by Mr. Vaks. Mr. Tingley states in his email that the possibility of a crossing between the church gate and The Bell public house is not a feasible option due to the width of the pavements and sight lines required each side.

Mr. O'Neill stated that Mr. Tingley was the engineer that couldn't attend the walk round with Mr. Vaks. Mr. O'Neill reported that both Mr. Vaks and Tingley work for Costain so are contractors for ESCC Highways.

Ms. McAllister requested clarification on what process the Parish Council were now following and whether the phasing agreed was to include the crossing in the business plan for match funding. It was stated that inclusion in the business plan for match funding did not commit to the Parish Council spending the money.

Cllr. Franklin confirmed that the Parish Council was following the 2-stage phased approach. Phase 1 was to submit a business plan for match funding to include 20mph limits, village gates and pinch points. This phase would not include a crossing.

Cllr. Franklin clarified that the match funding amount available was £50k. Separating out the crossing into a separate plan would give the possibility of another potential £50k of match funding in the future.

Cllr. Franklin confirmed that the next phase was for the speed limits, village gates and items required from the feasibility study submitted for Burwash Common & Weald. Cllr. Franklin asked Ms. McBride (previous PC Chair) to confirm that this was agreed.

Ms. McBride agreed that this was the process agreed at Parish Council and stated that this was a cohesive approach to deliver a safer Burwash for all residents.

Cllr. Newson requested that confirmation of the pinch point build outs is sought as it doesn't appear in the costings of the report.

**Action:** Clerk to chase Mr. Vaks for the additional costing and feedback to the working party.

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Cllr. Kenny stated that this work does seem to be centered on Burwash village and cautioned that the Weald and Common need to be considered.

Ms. McBride stated that as a phased approach it makes sense, other villages are not forgotten but the work needs to be broken down.

Cllr. Franklin confirmed the agreed phasing to be:

- 1). 20mph limit, village gates and pinch point build out – Burwash Village.
- 2). Feasibility study – Burwash Common & Weald.
  - 2a). works associated with item 2 in respect of traffic speeds.
- 3). Pedestrian Crossing – Burwash Village.
- 4). Pedestrian Crossing – Burwash Common & Weald.

Members of the working group of the group stated that this wasn't their understanding of the original agreement but agreed to move forward and focus on 20mph limit, gates and pinch points for Burwash Village.

Mr. Green stated that the intention is not to hold up works in the village but will submit the feasibility study for Burwash Common & Weald simultaneously and report back once it has been completed.

Mr. Yuti. Chernajovsky noted that the Parish Council need to get tenders for the work to explore any savings to be made.

Cllr. Newson queried whether a full resident consultation needed to be completed before submitting the business plan for match funding.

Mr. O'Neill confirmed that there will be a consultation on the business plan.

## **Agreed Actions:**

- Burwash Common & Weald feasibility study to include all possibilities.
- Phase 1 focus is the 20mph, village gates and pinch point build outs.
- Look at the possibility of taking the work out to tender.
- Discussion of the timings and next phases to be confirmed

## **9. Car Park.**

Cllr. Franklin gave a verbal update on the offer sent by Rother. Rother are offering a one-off lump sum (amount to be confirmed) with the threat of car parking charges if the Parish Council declines. Rother will not consider looking at the car park and toilets under separate items.

Mr. Steve. Moore noted that he was disappointed that the Parish Council hadn't acted on his email advice and spoken to Rother off-line to see if there was a final push that could result in a different outcome. Mr. Moore also requested the assistance of the District Councillors in moving this forward.

Ms. McBride also requested the help of the District Councillors on this subject stating that people rely on the car park in the village and the introduction of charging would be risky.

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**Action:** Clerk to speak to Mr. Moore and Cllr. Franklin and then call Rother. Clerk to feedback to the working party.

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## 10. Cycle Paths & Walkways Update.

Mr. Moore reported that he has walked the proposed footpaths and photographed the areas concerned. The proposed route would be through the church yard and down towards the valley to Borders's Lane and then back along to Etchingham.

This route would link Burwash Village with Etchingham station.

Mr. Moore confirmed that he has written to Sustran and the designated government body for assistance on process and feasibility.

Mr. Moore estimated that 8 properties would need to be involved for permissions and that all stakeholders, including the church would need to be considered.

Mr. O'Neill asked if this would fall into a category for government funding as it's a planned cycleway? Mr. Moore stated that timing was important but it could qualify for some additional funding.

Mr. Chernajovsky added that e-bike rental could be part of the scheme which would make it more attractive for visitors to the area.

Cllr. Kenny noted that this initiative could also be rolled out to include a link from Burwash Common to Stonegate Station.

**Action:** Cllr. Kenny to investigate potential routes from Burwash Common to Stonegate station and feedback to the working party.

**Action:** Clerk to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 11. Footpath Between Burwash and the Weald.

Cllr. Franklin confirmed that the feasibility study had been submitted for this project and a response is expected at the end of this month / beginning of next month.

Cllr. Kenny cautioned that the spend on this would be spread across all 3 villages, but the benefit would only be limited.

Cllr. Franklin agreed and requested that a footpath from Weald & Common to Stonegate be investigated and placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Green offered support to Cllr. Kenny in the investigation of this footpath, to maybe include Ramblers and their knowledge.

## 12. Items for noting or including on the future agenda.

- Footpath between Burwash Common and Stonegate Station.

## 13. Date of next meeting.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – 19.00.

**Meeting Ends 20.52**

# Burwash Parish Council

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Cllr. Robert Franklin  
Chair of Burwash Parish Council

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