

Strengthening Local Relationships
Hadlow Down Parish Council
Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at 10:00am via MS Teams

Present: Sarah McEvoy-Peall (SMP), Cllr Bob Standley (BS), Cllr Michael Lunn (ML), Cllr Peter Weston (PW), Dominic Ward (DW), Bobby Ennis (BE), Jo Reed (JR), Michael Higgs (MH) and Vicki Rutt (VR).

Draft Minutes

Number	Item
1	Apologies Apologies were received from Liz Humphries.
2	Vegetation at road signs Cllr Lunn reported that he has received numerous complaints about foliage around road signs on the A267 junction. The A267 safety group are highlighting the issue through the Sussex Express. Some foliage was cleared from the illuminated sign but not enough for visibility lines. DW reported that he investigated this, the sign does light up but the vegetation cut back was not enough so he will raise further works that the site will be rectified. DW stated will be done within 28 days but will try to push for sooner. Action 1. Regarding other signs on the approaches and the A272, DW confirmed that if it is private vegetation, a notice can be served to the landowner to request them to clear. PW reported that westbound on the A272, the speed signs are covered by foliage. He also stated, that heading West on the A272, vehicles are zigzagging because of the potholes which means the vehicles are moving into the verges causing erosion, so they are getting very close to the street furniture. DW to look at this issue. Action 2.
3	Ongoing drain issues Cllr Standley reported that the drains at Five Chimneys Lane have been cleared but not the pipes. It is increasingly bad and floods nearby properties. ML explained that he spoke to the foreman of UKPN when they were doing the works, they took before/during/after pictures and sent them, along with a report to someone at ESH about the state of the drains. DW will liaise with the drainage team and find out who received this report. Liz to get a timeline to the Clerk. Action 3. Also raised was the drain on the A272, at the top of Tinkers Lane. DW will show BE, so he knows the drain that needs to be regularly cleared. Action 4.
4	The worsening sunken bumps need Five Chimneys There are 3 or 4 drain covers that have sunken into the Highway around the Five Chimneys business park on the A272. DW is aware of the area and will show BE so he can action this issue. Action 5.

5	<p>Update on the speed limit change on the A272 following recent consultation</p> <p>MH explained that the consultation went out for 21 days, comments received back from HDPC and Buxted PC. They are now proceeding to a formal consultation for 21 days, which will likely commence in 2/3 weeks' time. Once complete, if no objections received, they can move to placing the required work orders and obtain costings from contractor. PW asked about the comment made in response, "if any objections received, they have to go to planning committee and can't be tweaked, will have to re-start again". MH explained that if any objections received, as the formal consultation had commenced, they are not able to tweak so would have to start the whole process again. MH stated that whilst the consultation is taking place, there is nothing to stop MH and JR looking at possible name plates and look at the area where the school children cross the road so MH will do this and report back to the Clerk. Action 6.</p>
6	<p>The non-slip road texture proposal</p> <p>ML explained that around 1.5 years ago at a SLR meeting, it was raised that line marking, and the roundels would be re painted in the village. It was delayed due to the UKPN upcoming works, and the UKPN contractors actually did repaint one of the roundels as part of their works. ML asked for an update on where it would be done. MH stated that the work order is in place, but it was reported that the state of the road is not good enough for it to be done so this needed to be rectified by scarifying the road surface and resurfacing then repainting. MH is going to find out the timeline, he believes in the next 2 weeks and will let the Clerk know. Action 7.</p> <p><i>MH has since let the Clerk know that weather permitting the red high friction surfacing and new 30mph speed limit roundels are programmed for 14th to 16th October 2025.</i></p>
7	<p>Communication between HDPC and ESH</p> <p>The Clerk wanted to share the positive improvement with communication between HDPC and ESH. The Clerk has seen many changes in the past 2 year with both stewards and customer service officers but the difference with Liz as new CSM has been great. We always get a response, and she is very proactive. Cllr Standley agreed and said the improvement has been noticed by him also.</p> <p>SMP thanked the Clerk and Cllr Standley, it will be feedback to Liz. SMP explained that there are constant changes within the steward role and there are 3 liaison officers who cover the whole of East Sussex, so it is important to build good working relationships. SMP explained that there are going to be training sessions held shortly which will be a 'how to guide' information session which will assist Clerks with updating the community. There will also be webinars held, and FAQ documents created.</p>
8	<p>Any other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Lane – it doesn't meet criteria at present, but we are consistently getting complaints so could this be closely monitored. • When road closures have taken place, could the signs be removed promptly as they can be left up for long periods at times.

9	Next meeting The next meeting date to be confirmed, it will be in March 2026.
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The meeting closed at 10:53.