

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on
Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall

All councillors were in attendance including Cllr Kathryn Field, ESCC and the clerk and approximately 45 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed members of the public who had been verified for eligibility by the clerk on arrival, in readiness for a show of hands and potential parish poll.
2. Cllr Thomas went on to summarise the background to the issue of parking on Sandrock Hill, and the feasibility study that had been carried out by East Sussex Highways refusing the creation of a formal parking area for safety reasons. This had led to the suggestion of bollards being installed and a licence application had been made to Highways. They then suggested that the whole length of Sandrock Hill should have bollards to prevent vehicles accessing from behind a single section of bollards. As this will affect many residents, not just those who live on Sandrock Hill, a parish meeting had been called, to allow for public discussion and a parish poll could be requested with a referendum style question – this is the most democratic way to resolve an issue, hence the need to ensure that those taking part would be entitled to vote.
3. Cllr Thomas then opened the meeting to allow for public discussion, questions and comments.

There were a few residents who understood that they were entitled to park in front of their properties on Sandrock Hill (estate agents or solicitors had informed them of such when buying), but in fact the verge is the property of East Sussex County Council. There was discussion about the parking in garages behind the properties which are small, and vehicular access can be difficult, so they are generally used for storage. Delivery drivers also tend to use the area immediately in front of the houses.

Questions were asked about yellow lines or other measures, and there were some suggestions for other possible solutions which varied from creating more space at the Recreation Ground car park to re-jigging the layout of the tennis court/cricket square etc. to allow for more parking and a path back to Sandrock Hill avoiding the road.

The issue of speeding traffic and the verge being used by pedestrians was also raised, and someone asked if Highways could attend a meeting to suggest alternative solutions having blocked the creation of a formal parking area.

Cllr Plato asked if members of the public would be prepared to join a working party to look at the current situation and try to find solutions. Several residents raised their hand to volunteer.

4. The Chairman then said that as there were no further comments, he would propose the question of holding a parish poll which in turn would consider “Should bollards be installed on Sandrock Hill?” Having clarified that the show of hands was purely for a parish poll, not the issue itself, there was an overriding result NOT to hold a poll.

Cllr Thomas confirmed that the creation of a working party would be included on the agenda at the next parish meeting, with the aim of exploring possible solutions to the wider issue of parking in the village as well as the use of bollards to restrict parking.

He then thanked everyone for coming, and closed the meeting.