



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down

Tuesday \* 2010 at 7.00 pm

*Note – this is a draft copy to be agreed and amended, if necessary, at the next Council Meeting*

Present: Councillors Paul James (Chairman), David Walker, Graham Terry, Michael Lunn and Lucy McConachie.  
Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

178. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – The meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September wasn't quorate so wasn't held, however as a number of people attended who wanted to make comments on application no. WD/2009/2515/MEA the Clerk recorded their comments which are attached to these minutes. A member of the public raised that with regard to the application they were concerned about the effluent, especially for those lower than Five Chimneys Farm as it may then go into the ditches, then into the stream etc. Concern was expressed regarding the work on the land below Standen Mews, they have been advised that the hedge near the Village Hall is going to be levelled to the ground this would then open up the back of Standen Mews to the public. The Chair confirmed that there has always been a hedge there although it has become overgrown and could be reduced in height. *ML to speak to WDC regarding the possible issue of the hedge being cut back to ground level.* **ML**
179. **PCSO KATIE BREEDS** – In Katie's absence she reported that the following incidents had occurred between 5<sup>th</sup> Aug – 5<sup>th</sup> September:  
7<sup>th</sup> August – damage to sign in Five Chimneys Lane  
10<sup>th</sup> August – theft of camera from woodland. The Clerk also received correspondence from the owners of the camera which was stolen from Waste Wood.  
4<sup>th</sup> September – break in to horse box/tack room and theft of tack in Brick Kiln Lane  
A meeting is being held to update parish council's (PC) regarding changes to Neighbourhood Policing, the clerk is unable to attend the meeting and *will request a report from Katie* **Clerk**
180. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – received from Cllr Lisa Scott.
181. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – PJ and ML declared a personal interest on point 184 Five Chimneys Farm. All Councillors declared a personal interest on point 184 The Old Store.
182. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and the extraordinary meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August agreed and signed as true records (previously circulated). The Chair confirmed that the notes from the 7<sup>th</sup> September are just notes of a discussion and aren't legal minutes from that night, however they will be attached to these minutes as part of tonight's meeting.
183. **MATTERS ARISING (from prev. mtgs):**  
i. Japanese knotweed article – ML has sent the Clerk details of the website, *she will write an article for the Parish Magazine.* **Clerk**  
ii. Fence adjacent to play area – c/f **PJ**  
iii. Sites for deer warning signs – ML has written to ESCC enclosing a map and is waiting to hear back from them, It is proposed to have 1 sign near Hadlow House and 1 near Five Chimneys Cottage.  
iv. Land Registry pack – PJ has briefly looked at the pack but not had a chance to do anything with it yet. **PJ**  
v. Email regarding community led project – not yet received **KO**  
vi. Quote for work at play area – GT advised that he has a meeting next week regarding the work. **GT**  
vii. Clerks Report: update passed to councillors with agenda  
a. Safety issues for cyclists on A272 – ESCC have rechecked the police crash records and the accident is now on there. They have reiterated that ESCC has no duty nor budget to provide any new footways however they have added our request to their list.  
b. Highways have cut back the hedge of the field next to Waste Wood as part of their roadworks  
c. A response was received to the PCs letter to Kit Wilson Trust regarding dog poo. They have confirmed that their walkers use bags so are not responsible for any faeces left. The PC have apologised to the Trust for any confusion resulting from their original letter and the minutes. They are grateful that the Trust takes a responsible attitude to this problem and ensures that their walkers clear up any mess. An article has gone in the Parish Magazine to highlight to villagers the need to pick up their dog's faeces.  
d. The insurance company have reviewed the play area inspection report and equipment is now covered resulting in an increased premium of £39.25. A copy of the documentation has been sent to WDC who are arranging for the final payment to be credited.  
e. The insurance company have covered the PC for youth work, there will be no charge as it will count as a pilot scheme.  
f. Norman Buck sent apologies for the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August, however as these weren't received prior to the Clerk's holiday they didn't appear in the minutes.  
g. Confirmation of receipt of PC's report regarding consultation on council tax increases received from Charles Hendry and Department for Communities and Local Government

**184. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**WD/2009/2515/MEA – FARM BUILDINGS, FIVE CHIMNEYS FARM, CURTAINS HILL, TN22 4DU –** Erection of an agricultural building for free range hens. 4 of the Councillors have visited the site. The Clerk also received correspondence from a villager regarding the application. The Chair confirmed that this was a new application and that the PC needed to recommend. The environmental report has now been completed. DW went through the PC's comments from January. A long discussion was held regarding the application, members of the public advised that it is over intensification and that adjoining neighbours will have the biggest impact from the development. They also advised that they didn't object to the first shed as they felt that was reasonable however the second one makes it too big. The PC made the following return to WDC:

The Parish Council strongly objects to this application. We are firstly concerned about the over intensification of the site in a High Weald area of outstanding natural beauty, which goes against the aims and objectives of the High Weald Management Plan. We are concerned that this over intensification of the development could lead to the following:

The visual impact from all sides, particularly from the south, which has a negative impact on the AONB. The intensification of having a large number of birds on site to the detriment of the flora and fauna and the potential run-off of heavy, possibly polluted, rainwater into ancient woodland.

We are also concerned as to the impact to local residents from the odour when the units are mucked out.

**WD/2010/1898/FE - THE OLD STORE, MAIN ROAD, TN22 4HJ -** Extension of time of WD/2008/1394/RM –Reserved matters – Two link attached houses – Can Wealden District Council clarify that the new garage in the grounds of The Old Store is subject to this application. No objection to extension of time.

**WD/2010/1769/F – QUINCES, WILDERNESS LANE, TN22 4HT –** Addition of a conservatory – The Parish Council support this application.

**WD/2010/1787/F – HASTINGFORD FISHERY, HASTINGFORD LANE, TN22 4DY –** Fishing lodge extension with live work element – Based on the paperwork provided by WDC the Parish Council cannot support this application. The Parish Council would like to reconsider the application with further evidence i.e. a business plan.

**WD/2010/1708/F – LITTLE ENGLAND FARM, MAIN ROAD, TN22 4EP –** Conversion of part of existing agricultural barn to accommodate plant required for the renewable energy generation for the whole site – The Parish Council support this application.

**GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:**

**APPEAL REF: APP/C1435/D/10/2131918 (WD/2010/0392/F) – THE OAST HOUSE, SHEPHERDS HILL**

**TN22 4PX –**

Demolition of front porch, rear conservatory and rear utility and replacement with single storey rear extension and new front porch and wc.

**APPEAL REF: APP/C1435/D/10/2130072 (WD/2010/0604/F) – WOODLANDS FARM, MAIN ROAD –** Single storey side extension and two storey rear extension

The Chair confirmed that the PC had supported both these applications and WDC had lost both of them at appeal.

A member of the public arrived and advised that his trees had been damaged from the work being done on the land below Standen Mews. Concern also expressed regarding the potential bonfire near the TPO Oak and the Mews. ML will also report this to WDC

**ML**

**185. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLRs. KEN OGDEN and NORMAN BUCK WDC –** notes from discussion held on 7<sup>th</sup> September attached. ML advised that he has raised with Highways that when the School Lane to Tinkers Lane section of the A272 is resurfaced that the kerbing is also done at the same time. This is also on the agenda to be discussed at the SLR meeting.

**186. BANK RECONCILIATION: –** dated 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010 agreed and signed.

**187. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –**

i. CRB checks for the Youth Club – the Chair questioned whether if someone has already been checked by another organisation if they will need a further check for the youth club. It was confirmed that they would. It was questioned whether the checks could be done through the school. The Clerk confirmed that there would be a charge of £15 per check to do them through ESCC. *Clerk to forward information to the Councillors to then be discussed at the Finance meeting.*

**Clerk**

ii. Bank statement for Youth Club checked and signed The following payments were ratified:

iii. Express Matting Services Ltd - £470 to be taken from Pathfinder Grant

iv. Jason Pooley - £120 to be taken from Pathfinder Grant

v. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £718.74 includes £9.60 for mileage, £32.52 extra hours and £162.62 training hours, £520 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £198.74.

vi. Suffolk Acre Services Ltd - £39.25, increased insurance cover for play area

vii. Agrifactors - £32.64, to be taken from Pathfinder Grant

viii. Peter Gillies - £37.29 - £9.09 for Stuart Foord Fencing Supplies and £28.20 for Resurgem Engineering, to be taken from Pathfinder Grant

ix. Action in rural Sussex - £24.00 for Village Hall Workshop

x. Action in rural Sussex - £42.01 for AirS annual conference

xi. Sussex Associations of Local Councils - £52.88 for Clerks Networking Day

xii. St Mark's School House Trust - £15 for lease of land adjacent to Playing Field

xiii. BT - £139.54 – to be paid by direct debit

xiv. Barcombe Landscapes Ltd - £417.13 – maintenance at the burial ground

**188. PLAY AREA** – The Clerk confirmed that all the grant has now been spent apart from the final funding due from WDC. The invoice for the inspection report will also need to be paid when it is received. *LS and LM to look into risk assessments for the play area.*

**LS/LM**

**189. RISK ASSESSMENT** – *ML to pass Clerk the paperwork for the recent risk assessments* **ML**

**190. REPORT ON THE OAK TREE AT THE PLAY AREA** – Inspection report has been received. *Clerk to check the deeds to confirm whether the PC is responsible for the work required on the oak tree.* The hedge should have now been reinstated where a gateway was previously put in.

**191. QUALITY COUNCIL** – *c/f, it was suggested that a separate meeting be held to discuss the requirements to achieve Quality Council status. Clerk to review the folder and come to the meeting with suggestions of who should work on what sections.*

**Clerk**

**192. UNCONSECRATED PART OF BURIAL GROUND** – *c/f, PJ to look at the boundary.*

**PJ**

**193. PC ELECTION 2011** – the Clerk advised that the election may be slightly delayed if there is a referendum on the reform of the parliamentary voting system. It was suggested that villagers need to be given an indication of who will be standing for re-election. It was agreed that an article should go in the Parish Magazine advising that there is presently a vacancy on the Parish Council and that some members may not stand again at the next election and if villagers do not come forward to go on the council then Hadlow Down Parish Council may no longer exist. In which case it may have to join up with another local town/parish council resulting in people not involved in the village making decisions about what happens in it. *GT and ML to write the article for the Parish Magazine and also invite people to attend meetings to see what is involved.*

**GT/ML**

**194. NEW VILLAGE HALL** – a meeting was held of the 'working group' for the new Village Hall. Richard Boswell has been given a design brief. GT, PJ, RB and Janet Tourell have met at the Playing Field. 2 options have been suggested for a hall, 1 with a T-shaped building going between the 2 oak trees, the other on the Playing Field running up into the pit which would be 2 storey with the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor going up onto the higher level. RB is producing some designs. The chair expressed concern over the way it could roll forward, there is a PC Precept meeting next week when the PC will be looking at the precept for 2010-11, however as a new Village Hall Committee has not yet been formed there won't be a committee coming to the meeting requesting money for the next financial year. GT advised that a committee would not be needed in order to precept money for anticipated work on the new hall. The Chair advised that a formal committee will need to be formed after the public meeting has been held, GT agreed that this was required to move the project forward.

RB has confirmed the cost for the work he is undertaking.

A member of the public advised that it is important that it is clear what is being spent and by whom.

**195. NUMBER OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS EACH MONTH** – it was questioned why there was a need to have a meeting

every fortnight and whether it would be possible to have committees. It was felt that there were insufficient Councillors to make having Committees a viable option as the meetings would still need to quorate. ML suggested having a different person chair the planning meeting. Some people preferred two shorter meetings. A long discussion was held and it was suggested that the new PC make a decision on the number of meetings next year.

**196. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**

Neighbourhood Watch and Wealdlink – Cllr. Lucy McConachie – nothing to report

Tree Warden, Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths – Cllr. David Walker – DW reported that the footpath sign at the top of Gillhope Farm is broken and needs replacing. *Clerk to contact Rights of Way Team.* **Clerk**

Councillors updated on the problems created by the resurfacing of Stonehurst Lane, *Clerk to write to ESCC and copy in Cllr. Tony Reid.*

**Clerk**

Member of public advised that the school are looking into off road parking.

The Chair advised that the village maintenance team have cut back the footpaths and taken the excess soil away. *Clerk to contact Highways to see what action they have taken over the problem of water coming from the field north of the A272, across the road to the entrance to Little England Farm, during the cold weather this becomes an ice risk.*

**Clerk**

New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee – Cllr. Graham Terry – nothing to report

Community Strategies, Sustainable Development, Environment Matters and WDALC – Cllr. Michael Lunn – ML updated on the proposed nitesafe lights for School Lane. The company has been bought out by another company. It was agreed that the PC doesn't have the money to pay for this at present.

Burial Ground – Cllr. Paul James – PJ advised that a pier at the entrance to the burial ground has been knocked over, the Clerk has obtained an insurance claim form and PJ will provide a quote.

Neighbourhood Watch, Old Village Hall, Emergency Planning and Youth – Cllr. Lisa Scott – in LS's absence the Clerk advised that LS had placed an article in the Parish Magazine regarding the youth club.

**197. CLERK'S MATTERS:**

- i. Hours checked agreed and signed. The Clerk also updated the PC on her progress with CILCA
- ii. Update on New Inn planning application – planning have advised that discussions have been held with the Highway Authority and a way forward has now been agreed. Planning will be going back to the applicant to ask for some revisions to the application. They may then be re-consulting the PC.
- iii. Precept meeting – notices have been put on the boards inviting villagers to attend the Finance meeting on 21<sup>st</sup>

September with any requests for funding, for their groups, for the next financial year. There will also be a presentation at the meeting on ESCC's plans for Scull Wood. On 19<sup>th</sup> October there will be a Finance meeting where the Clerk will present her proposals for the new precept.

- iv. Neighbourhood Watch – Eddie Westfield has confirmed to the Clerk that he is the contact for the police to add any neighbourhood watch notices to the website. *Clerk to write to EW to thank him for his involvement and to confirm that LS and LM are involved in Neighbourhood Watch.* **Clerk**
- v. A272 resurfacing – due to the bad weather delaying work and a fire at the tarmac factory, the A272 from School Lane to Tinkers Lane won't be resurfaced till next year.
- vi. Forthcoming roadworks – already completed

**198. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:**

- i. East Sussex Local Involvement Network meeting to discuss recent NHS White Paper – no-one to attend
- ii. East Sussex Downs and Weald NHS AGM – no-one to attend
- iii. Transport for Life conference – details forwarded to LM prior to the meeting
- iv. SALC and Sussex Rural Community Council AGMs in November – no-one to attend

**199. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION**

- i. NALC e-bulletins
- ii. South Downs National Park news
- iii. The Rural Challenge report – information sent to ML prior to the meeting
- iv. ESCC Transport and Environment update for September/October
- v. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service newsletter
- vi. Community Right to Build – sent to all councillors prior to the meeting
- vii. Wealden District Commander update
- viii. Affordable housing keeps villages alive – forwarded to DW prior to the meeting
- ix. Wealden Food and Safety Bulletin
- x. Rural Services Community newsletter
- xi. East Sussex Seniors Association newsletter, walks and environmental events
- xii. Grey Matters

The Clerk advised that her phone and answerphone will be unavailable for a couple of days week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> September due to work being undertaken in her office.

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE A PRECEPT MEETING on Tuesday 21<sup>ST</sup> September 2010 at 7pm.**

**NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC'S COMMENTS AT THE MEETING ON 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 7PM**  
**Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down**

Present: Councillors Paul James, Graham Terry, Tony Reid (ESCC) and Ken Ogden (WDC). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

PJ confirmed that as the Parish Council meeting wasn't quorate it could not be held.

There was a large number of members of the public who wished to make comments on planning application no: WD/2009/2515/MEA for the erection of an agricultural building for free range hens at Five Chimneys Farm. The Clerk agreed to make a note of these comments and to take them to the next Parish Council meeting. Any comments that follow that were expressed by Councillors are their own personal opinions rather than the opinion of the Parish Council or District Council.

The full environmental impact assessment has now been undertaken of the site. A member of the public believed that the proposed development was still over intensification of the site especially as it is in an AONB. He advised that WDC have adopted the High Wealden Management Plan which promotes small sustainable farming and that this application does not fall into this category. The fly situation has got a lot worse, especially recently with the change in weather. It is the worst that it's been for a large number of years. There has also been a severe drop in water pressure, however it was not known if this was due to the chicken farm. PJ confirmed that he had noticed a drop in the pressure but didn't think this was related to the chicken farm. Other members of the public commented that they have noticed more flies and 1 advised that flies can travel up to 2 miles from a poultry farm.

Concern was expressed as to whether the noise from the fans would be heard from the new building. Some people can currently hear the fans from the present building when they are downwind from them. It was also expressed that if planning permission wasn't allowed that the owner would still be entitled to put mobile units on the land.

PJ advised that from a personal point of view agricultural land will create muck. A member of public commented that they are concerned over the intensification due to the number of chickens on the land. Concern was also expressed that if, as the owner got permission for an additional house, he could then get permission for another house. PJ felt that an additional house would not be required for the new unit.

It was confirmed that the volume of traffic is not at present a problem.

KO confirmed that WDC have recently visited the site.

It was asked whether the building would provide work for the area. It should provide some part-time employment. It was also questioned whether it was still a sustainable viable project.

KO confirmed that the new building would be dug into the bank and would be about 1 metre high

People confirmed that they have had problems accessing the reports on the WDC website.

Another member of the public advised that they felt the first building was fine however they are very concerned about the flies

PJ reconfirmed that anything discussed has been their personal opinions rather than their opinions as Councillors.