



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down

at 7.00 pm on Tuesday April 1st 2008

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

Present: Cllrs Paul James (Chairman), Colin James, Vicky Richards, David Walker, Graham Terry and Marian Wilson. Also in attendance were Cllr. Tony Reid (ESCC), Cllr Ken Ogden (WDC), PCSO Tam Bennett, Joan Wiltshire (Courier) and Jean Holmwood (Clerk).

1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.** Fiona spoke about the continuing problems with the gulleys and potholes in Five Chimneys Lane. The Clerk apologised saying that she had already chased up ESCC and, as she had not heard any more, presumed that they had dealt with the matter. *She will contact them again as a matter of urgency.*
2. **PCSO Tam Bennett.** Tam reported the following: Road Traffic Collision (RTC) at the A267/A272 junction – no injuries. A cable down in Stonehurst Lane. A suspicious white transit in Stonehurst Lane, looking for scrap. She advised that there have been a lot of scrap thefts in the Wealden Area. The public are asked to take registration numbers of any suspicious vehicles. Tam has been using the speed camera in the village. No-one has been caught but they are certain that it is acting as a deterrent. Tam also advised that the tack marking service is ongoing. David said that there is a spate of stealing fuel from heating oil tanks, as well as from cars, vans and lorries. It was suggested that a warning could be made through the Parish Magazine. *The Clerk will forward.*
3. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE:** Received from Cllr Jo Dummer and Cllr Norman Buck (WDC)
4. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** There were none.
5. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on March 4th were agreed and signed as a true record. (Previously circulated and posted on notice boards and the village website).
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - i. ESCC – Public Bridleway no 25. They stated that they had found an entrance which did not comply with the correct gap at the north end of the bridleway. They are going to contact the land owners. It was agreed that the gate at the southern end was also incorrect. The Clerk will advise.
 - ii. ESCC – Public Byways 22 and 24. Details were given about plans for future works and repairs to these two green lanes. (Full details can be obtained from the Clerk). It was advised that notices had already been erected on the lane from the A272 to Dog Kennel Lane. *The Clerk will write to thank ESCC for their efforts.*
 - iii. Risk assessment from Graham. Graham had prepared part of a risk assessment in the format he had seen at the recent risk assessment training day. It had previously been circulated to Councillors who agreed that the format was improved. Graham offered to finish the rest of the document for adoption at a future meeting.
 - iv. Clerk's report on other matters.
 1. Information received that the Stonehurst Lane road sign had been demolished. ESCC advised, as well as Tam, who had no reports of an RTC.
 2. 17th March - Email from Vicky about the state of the road at Waste Wood. Email forwarded to ESCC – standard 15 day reply received. (Works had been carried out today)
 3. We were accepted for the front page of the PM for a fee of £20. Approved at the recent finance meeting. Jean had had one designed, which had been agreed and was due to be published about now. Paul suggested we put up small versions in the village. Thanks were given to the designer.
 4. Rubbish Event for May . All is going well with ESCC and WDC and the school. The event will be open from 3 pm. Councillors will try to attend if possible during the afternoon.
 5. Posters had been ordered from David Peacock for the May meeting.
 6. Ned Neill accepted our offer of a £200 payment towards the Parish Magazine. The cheque will be included below.
 7. Insurance quote – email received from Came and Co assuring us (and all the others) that their quotes WILL be sent before the renewal date.
 8. Message received from ESCC regarding the request for kerbing and the matter of the bollards on the Main Road. It stated that the Village Maintenance Team will be along to clear the sides and paths, but no-one wants to pay for the requested kerbing. The Clerk was asked to write again to ESCC stating that the bollards prevented disabled access and that the kerbing was a matter of safety.
 9. A letter had been received today from the Forestry Commission regarding our request for help in the matter of Waste Wood. The main part is as follows ...

“ .. The Woodland has been managed with support from the Forestry Commission for a number of years by English Woodlands Timber. This has resulted in a well managed woodland providing conservation benefits as well as sustainable timber production. As you are aware it has recently been sold to Own Wood Ltd. The sale of a woodland means that all current agreements with the Forestry Commission are terminated, unless

the new owner approaches us to re enter the Grant Scheme. Until recently Own Wood has not approached us. During the intervening period the local authority discussed with us the need for the tree preservation order. Historically Lotted woods have been used for a variety of leisure purposes and it was felt that the added layer of protection that the TPO offered would help to safeguard the woodland against undesirable management but would not prove to be a barrier against sustainable woodland management. Owners who wish to undertake woodland felling operations would need to apply to us for a felling licence, which, if suitable, would be agreed with the local authority. We hope to remain involved with the woodland but it depends very much on the individual owners as the lots are sold. The woodland is in private ownership so the owners are within their rights to discourage the general public access. I am not sure about the use of guns in the woodland, it could be for legitimate use for example owners undertaking vermin control or deer management or for game shooting. If this were the case I would advise against walking through the woodland unannounced. ...". It was agreed that this information gave the advice that we needed and there was nothing more that could be done or said on the matter. *The Clerk will write and thank them and advise the parties who first brought the matter to our attention.*

10. An email had been received today advising the Council that ponies were grazing at Skull Wood. The matter was discussed and it was accepted that they had been there with permission of the owners but they had advised ESCC who had told them that it was not possible. Therefore the owners had now told them that they must leave.

7. **PLANNING MEETINGS**

A planning meeting had been held on March 11th 2008. Minutes had been circulated to Councillors, and posted on the Village website and notice boards.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

WD/2008/0504/F The Corner Cottage, Wilderness Lane. UPVC Conservatory to side elevation. *We approve this application and are glad to see that they are adopting environmentally friendly heating.*

WD/2008/0339/F Little Foxes Farm, Stonehurst Lane. Replacement dwelling including demolition of existing stables/workshop. *Approved. This cannot be seen from the road and will cause no visible intrusion.*

8. **REPORT FROM CLLR. TONY REID, EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

Tony advised the Council that ESCC were going to produce a strategy about climate change which he would be chairing. He asked that we feed back any change of vehicular use of the green lanes.

Tony advised that a report on the viability of the Uckfield to Lewes rail line would be announced at the end of June. It was expected to have a cost of £100M. However there was a concerted effort to find a solution to the parking problem.

Ken advised that they were discouraging further parking at Buxted. A field had been offered but it had been turned down.

REPORT FROM CLLR KEN OGDEN (WDC)

Ken advised the Council that WDC were £187K over budget. One of the main causes was the new rules on issuing bus passes. He asked those present if they thought that delegated powers (planning) were acceptable. Paul said they were inconsistent. David said that the case officers ought to consult us.

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

- i. Village Action Plan, Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths – Vicky reported that she and Paul had met with Ian Johnson from ESCC to discuss the new limits. The new 30mph limit in School Lane will start below the playing field but there will be no 40 mph in School Lane. The 30 mph on the west side of the village will be where the existing 40 starts and there will be no 40mph buffer. On the eastern side the 30mph will start near Wilderness Wood then the 40 mph will stay in the current position. The new 30 mph limit in Wilderness Lane will extend to the fork down both branches of the lane. Paul said he was still not convinced that these were enough but Ian Johnson has said that the alterations may be deferred if we were to challenge their decisions. The Clerk was asked to write to Ian Johnson to see if the 30mph on the eastern side can be extended to the site of the current 40mph sign. Tony asked for a copy of the original maps with Vicky's suggestions and to be copied in on the letter to Ian.

Following the recent publication from ESCC to all homes which contained an article about the Children's film, Vicky had a call from the Battle Road Safety Committee requesting a copy of the film.

- ii. Neighbourhood Watch, New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee.

NHW. Graham said that an insert had been put into the Parish Magazine dealing with DATALINK.

Village Hall. No reply had been received from Mike Ford on behalf of the Church but something had been put into the Parish Magazine.

Playing Field Committee. At a recent meeting of the PFC the mowing of the PF by KCC contractors was discussed. Currently the annual cost is £799 which is paid by St Marks (£590) and the Parish Council (£200). It was agreed that the St Mark's payment was too high and that a more reasonable share was £200 each with the PFC paying the balance. The next project is to be a play area which should be sited near the road. They are contacting Play England for advice on locations and grants etc. It was agreed in principal that the Parish Council will make a grant but needs a more detailed proposal.

- iii. Burial Ground. Marian said there was nothing specific to report but the Clerk said that the contract was due for renewal and she was getting letters sent out inviting tenders. Paul said that the current contractor had not contacted him although the Clerk had asked him to do so.
 - iv. Village Hall Management Committee and Parish Emergency Plan. Jo had emailed a report saying that Janet Tourell has now taken over as Chairman of the Village Hall. There has been an increase in bookings and the Committee is now being properly represented. Bank balances are healthier although there are some outstanding repairs, especially the roof. The toilets need updating although some updating had been made to the gents. Jo confirmed that the Village Hall insurance was now included with that of the PF and Village Fair, thus saving about £500 to the 3 organisations.
Eddie Westfield is due to take over Chairman of the Emergency Team at the next meeting in April. Graham will remain the PC's representative.
 - v. Wealden Association of Local Councils and Safer Wealden Partnership. Colin advised that the latest meeting of the WDALC had been cancelled.
10. **BANK RECONCILIATION** – Statement not received so deferred to next month.
11. **OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:** None to report.
12. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**
- i. Jean Holmwood. Salary £491.84 and expenses £79.60 = total £571.44
 - ii. SALC – Clerks networking day - £35.25
 - iii. Inland Revenue £680.07 .
 - iv. SALC – annual subscription (includes NALC and LCR) - £215.27 .
 - v. BT – phone bill - £60.92
 - vi. Parish Magazine - £220. £200 donation + £20 for the printing on the front cover.
13. **CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerk offered an extra 8 ½ hours for attending the SALC networking day plus 2 hours training. These were agreed and will be paid next month.
 - ii. The Clerk briefly mentioned the “Power of Wellbeing” which had been discussed at the recent SALC training day, but would report in full to Councillors at a later date.
 - iii. The Clerk's contract was almost ready for acceptance. Graham will circulate it soon.
14. **TRAINING**
Nothing received.
15. **OTHER MATTERS** – (To be advised to the Clerk in advance of the meeting – other matters may be discussed but decisions may be deferred to the next meeting)
- i. From the Clerk. Guidance needed for the management of the Emergency Plan Committee. The Clerk was concerned that the information packs that had been distributed to the ET were already out of date and asked who was to be responsible for updating them. It was agreed that the ET would be responsible and should keep the PC updated for the copies held by them.
 - ii. From the Clerk – suggestion for distributing reading matter to Councillors. The Clerk suggested a system be introduced for Councillors to circulate various printed items. This was agreed.
 - iii. From the Clerk – items for the agenda for the Annual Assembly in May. The Clerk had prepared a copy of the agenda for the May Annual Assembly for approval and suggestions. The plans were discussed including the catering. There was also a discussion about future responsibilities. Graham asked to drop the NHW committee. It was agreed that two new responsibilities should be included. 1
16. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE.**
- i. Peter Gornall had emailed the Clerk with a suggestion about an alternative website for the PC. The Clerk had tried to get together with Peter and Gwyn but there had been no reply from Gwyn. It was decided to pursue other avenues.
 - ii. Invitation to a Patient and Public Involvement Day with the PCT. No-one able to attend.
17. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – FOR FILING OR DISTRIBUTION**
- i. ESCC – copy of “Focus on East Sussex”. Can be downloaded or distributed.
 - ii. Standards Board – Town and Parish Standard. To be circulated to Councillors.
18. **ITEMS RECEIVED AND AVAILABLE TO FORWARD OR VIEW.**
- i. WDC – Core Strategy Studies.
 - ii. ESCC – “Focus on East Sussex 2008” www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk
 - iii.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE AGM FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
on Tuesday 6th of May 2008 at 7.00 P.M**

