



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Monday August 1st 2011.

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

Present: Councillors David Walker (DW) (Chairman), Sandra Richards (SR), Rona Hellewell (RH), Graham Terry (GT), Norman Buck (WDC) and Tony Reid (ESCC). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells. Apologies were received from Cllr. Ken Ogden (WDC).

- 131. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – a member of the public raised re point 145 that there had been a recent fatality on the A272 and a further accident in School Lane and asked what action the Parish Council (PC) would be taking following the accidents. To be discussed at point 145.
- 132. REPORT FROM PCSO MARK CARTER** – The Clerk advised that in Mark's absence he has sent a report advising that there was no reported crime in Hadlow Down between 27th June and 27th July. He also provided a breakdown of the work he undertook over a week's basis.
- 133. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Damon Wellman (DWE).
- 134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – SR declared a personal interest in point 137i and DW a personal interest in point 137ii.
- 135. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 4th and 18th July 2011 were agreed and signed as true records. It had however been raised by a member of the public that at point 118, New Community Centre, that a comment made by a Councillor had not been recorded. The Clerk advised that the minutes aren't a verbatim record.
- 136. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. Article for Parish Magazine regarding electricity monitors, *ML to pass back to Clerk to produce article.*
ML/Clerk
 - ii. Consultations on Planning for Traveller Sites and Relaxation of Planning Rules – RH has sent a response.
 - iii. DW confirmed that the oak tree at the playing field will be felled in August.
 - iv. GT will continue to try and speak to Cllr. Ken Ogden about the new Community Hall.
 - v. GT confirmed that his profile doesn't need updating. *Other Councillors to either provide profile to Clerk or an updated profile.*
RH/DW/DWE/ML
 - vi. SR confirmed that she felt that it wasn't suitable for an article on Homeworks to go on the website as people had to be referred by a 3rd party.
 - vii. Clerks Report sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on the work she has undertaken over the last month, this included:
 - a. Notice regarding the claiming of Councillor's allowances was removed from the notice boards after the 18th July meeting pending the outcome of the Clerk's further investigations into the claiming of the allowance and the tax implications.
 - b. Invoice for the Village Hall sign has been sent to the insurance company of the car involved in the accident.
- 137. PLANNING MATTERS:**
- i. **WD/2011/1386/F - OAKWAYS, WHEELERS LANE, TN22 4HR** – Proposed 20M x 60M outdoor horse schooling area – The Parish Council support this application.
 - ii. **WD/2011/1497/F - LITTLE MANOR LODGE, TN22 4HH** – Replacement garage – The Parish Council support this application.
- PLANNING MATTERS:**
- i. RH updated the PC on formal notices that have been issued by WDC regarding alleged breaches of

planning control at land west of Scocus Barns.

- 138. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC and CLLR. NORMAN BUCK WDC** – TR advised that consultation is being undertaken over business rates being retained by local government. ESCC will suffer a reduction in income from central government. He confirmed that he won't be standing for re-election in 2013. In the meantime he will be looking at how ESCC can support local businesses and what problems businesses encounter. Evidence will be collected up to Christmas and then recommendations produced in March. TR confirmed that WDC will be involved in looking at planning issues for businesses. A discussion was held over how the PC may be affected by changes to planning rules. NB apologized that he hadn't been able to attend meetings recently, he is aiming to attend each meeting in future and is available for assistance over the telephone.

The state of side roads for cyclists was highlighted to TR. *Clerk to add to agenda for SLR meeting and write to Highways.*

Clerk

Councillors commented on how well the resurfaced Main Road looks, concern was however expressed that some lorry drivers ignored the road closure signs. *Clerk to add to agenda for SLR meeting.* Clerk NB expressed concern that there are 3 different speed limits through the village, TR advised that Highways would have been following national policy guidelines, localism may alter this in the future. *20mph speed limit outside the school to also be added to SLR agenda.*

Clerk

- 139. BANK RECONCILIATION:** – dated 26th July 2011 agreed and signed.

140. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

- i. The PC agreed to a donation of £25 towards the postal and stationery costs for Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- ii. The Clerk updated the PC on ESCC's comments regarding payment for the replacement arm at the junction of the 2 Wilderness Lane's. It was agreed that the PC would pay the full cost. *Clerk to add to agenda to be discussed at SLR meeting.*
- iii. £369.60 has been received for VAT repayment
- iv. The Clerk has liaised with the contractor over the quality of the work at the play area and burial ground. The burial ground now looks good and the play area is being monitored. Any extra work will be agreed with the Clerk prior to it being undertaken. At contract renewal GT will accompany applicants to explain the PC's requirements.

Clerk

- 141. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed by all and cheques signed:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £740.52 includes £13.50 for mileage, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £120.52.
- ii. Playsafety Ltd £121.20 – annual play area safety inspection and risk assessment
- iii. Wealden District Council £66.96 dog bin emptying

- 142. NEW COMMUNITY HALL** – GT advised that he has written to the committee tendering his resignation once the survey has been undertaken. He explained his reasons for making this decision. The committee are expecting to meet with planning at the end of August and an article has gone in the Parish Magazine regarding the survey. GT explained how the committee came to their decision over what would go in the survey. The PC felt that they could not agree at the 18th July meeting to give a grant to pay for the planning consultation until the survey had been undertaken. They did not see this as a lack of support for the committee. *GT to organize a meeting between the committee and the Parish Council, Clerk to minute the meeting.*

Clerk

143. QUALITY COUNCIL –

Cllr. Michael Lunn (ML) joined the meeting at 8:25pm

It was agreed that the PC need to produce a quarterly newsletter. *SR and GT to liaise and bring recommendations to the September meeting.*

GT/SR

Responsibility for the different areas were allocated:

Clerk: Electoral mandate; qualifications; meetings; terms and conditions and accounts.

SR: Communications.

ML: Annual report.

GT: Accounts and promoting local democracy and citizenship

DW: Code of conduct; terms and conditions and other

RH: Training

All to complete as much as they can by the next meeting.

ALL

The Clerk confirmed that other clerks have advised that it takes between 21-50 hours to complete the folder, depending on how much is already in place.

- 144. PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT** – GT went through the report and the issues that have been raised. *He will compile a response to those items that the report highlighted as low or medium risk.* Nothing was identified as a high risk. **GT**
- 145. SPEEDING WITHIN THE VILLAGE** – the Clerk updated the meeting on correspondence she has received and that there has recently been a fatality near The Toll. She is awaiting a response from other Clerks and from Highways department regarding electronic speed signage. School Lane is only allocated for Speedwatch, the community casualty reduction officer is seeing if it can be put forward for speed enforcement by the police, however due to the distance between the speed signs at the top of the junction and the national speed limit this may not be possible. The Clerk has been sent details of Speedwatch recordings. Concern was expressed over the lack of people willing to assist with Speedwatch. *Clerk to contact Village Maintenance Team to see if they can clear vegetation around signs, although landowners are also encouraged to cut vegetation back in order that the signs can be seen clearly.* **Clerk**
Clerk to add items to SLR agenda to discuss ideas to reduce speed within the village and the dangerous crossroads at Stocklands Lane and Five Chimneys Lane. **Clerk**
 DW left the meeting at 8:53
 A discussion was held over the problem of where the Air Ambulance would land if there is a major accident.
 DW rejoined the meeting at 8:54
Clerk to write to the Air Ambulance offering the PC's assistance over sites for landing. **Clerk**
Clerk to add item to the SLR agenda regarding the number of accidents near The Toll. **Clerk**
- 146. CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION** – it was confirmed that the Core Strategy got voted through at the WDC environment scrutiny meeting. There was healthy debate over village development boundaries. There will be further consultation over rural development.
- 147. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY** – response was agreed, *Clerk to complete.* **Clerk**
- 148. CHANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY** – as the Safer Wealden Partnership no longer exists, Cllr. Damon Wellman's responsibilities to be changed to Neighbourhood Policing Rural Panel and Joint Action Group along with Neighbourhood Watch.
- 149. STANDING ORDERS** – the PC ratified the new Standing Orders.
- 150. CLOSED BURIAL GROUNDS** – a discussion was held over the options available, it was decided that the PC wanted to go with the option for WDC to continue with the maintenance and for WDC not to charge villagers a special expense on their council tax or for the PC to take over the maintenance. *Clerk to write to WDC.* **Clerk**
- 151. COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES** – the Clerk advised the PC that they would need to be set up as employees on payroll in order to receive their allowance. WDC are disputing with the SLCC solicitor over the payment of allowances to co-opted members, Clerk awaiting outcome. All Cllrs. at the meeting decided not to take the allowance.
- 152. COMMUNITY PLAN** – communication has been received from ESCC regarding some of the items in the plan, *Clerk to chase AiRS for contact details .* **Clerk**
- 153. PARISH EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK** – RH updated the PC on the meeting she had with Eddie Westfield and about the proposal that all Parish Councillors be associate members of the Emergency Plan Team. She has responded to WDC regarding the emergency radio network and has requested costings from them. Emergency Plan team meeting to be held in August.
- 154. DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACON** – the Clerk updated the meeting on information she had received regarding the possibility of lighting a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was decided that this wasn't feasible.
- 155. DAYS OF MEETINGS** – a special motion had been received to change the day of the meetings to a Tuesday. The original decision to move to a Monday was made prior to Zumba being booked in the Main Hall. It was agreed that meetings would move to 7pm on the first Tuesday of a month with effect from Tuesday 6th September. There would also be occasional meetings on the 3rd Tuesday.
- 156. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
 Rights of Way, Highways, Footpaths & Wealdlink – Cllr. Sandra Richards – SR updated the PC on changes to the bus services. No. 319 has been replaced by the 248 Rider Service which runs Monday – Friday. The 196 Countryliner service will only run on a Monday. An article has been put on the website and in the Parish Magazine
- 157. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. Hours were checked agreed and signed.
 - ii. Eplanning to start on 30th August, no more paper plans will be sent after 26th August.

- iii. Agreed for initial precept meeting to be held in October, to be advertised in Parish Magazine and on the website. Precept figures to be presented to Parish Council in November and final decision to be made by Parish Council in December.
- iv. The Clerk has received a request for minutes to be emailed to residents, it was agreed that as the minutes appear on the website within 1 week of the meeting that this was not necessary.
- v. Volunteers needed to help with Digital Switchover – c/f
- vi. Neighbourhood Watch - update on the recent meeting has been sent to DWe and an article has appeared on the website. Clerk has written to ensure that the PC is invited to future meetings.
- vii. It was suggested that Parish Council emails have a disclaimer on them, *Clerk to design and forward to ML to review.* **Clerk/ML**
- viii. The Clerk updated the PC on a further deer accident near Hadlow House.

158. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:

- i. GT and SR to attend ESCC Economy, Transport and Environment meeting in Sep. 2011.
- ii. DW and ML to attend Wealden Parish Conference and the Localism Bill in Sep. 2011
- iii. *Clerk to see if DWe can attend the Speed Watch Seminar in Sep. 2011* **Clerk**
- iv. *Clerk to email details of Power of Wellbeing training to SR.* **Clerk**

159. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE:

- i. Review of polling stations – *ML to complete.* **ML**
- ii. Commission for Rural Communities survey – *ML to complete* **ML**

DW left the meeting at 9:30, GT took over as chair.

160. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

- i. Your County
- ii. Buxted Community Voice
- iii. NALC e-bulletin
- iv. The Bulletin – newsletter from English Rural Housing Association
- v. WDC Parish Bulletin
- vi. High Weald AONB Partnership's Annual Review

161. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

- i. Cost of producing newsletter

Meeting closed 9:40pm

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be a planning meeting on
MONDAY 15th August at 7pm**