



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday August 6th, 2013.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Graham Terry (GT), Nathan James (NJ), Damon Wellman (DW), Clare Emsden (CE) and Ken Ogden (KO)(WDC).

Apologies were received from Cllr. Roy Galley (RG)(WDC)

87. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Janet Tourell (JT), Chair of the Village Hall committee advised that she would be stepping down at the end of the year, or earlier, if no-one else comes forward to take on the Treasurer's role. They have advertised for help but have received no response. Other groups including the Parish Magazine and the Playing Field committee also need new people. Lisa Scott and herself have put a lot of work into improving the Village Hall and it would be a shame if it had to shut due to a lack of volunteers. If it was closed it would also have an impact on being able to get a new Community Centre. If no-one comes forward the building would need to be taken over by the Parish Council (PC) and JT suggested that they close it so people are then aware of what they are missing.

A member of the public raised that younger people are needed to come forward to manage the hall.

It was expressed that there was a lack of appreciation from the village for the work the volunteers have put into the hall. JT has applied for a grant for new chairs and refurbishment of the toilets. She is willing to continue on the committee if someone can take over the treasurer role.

To be discussed at the next PC meeting. JT thanked NJ and DW for their work on the electricity cable.

88. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – none received.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none received.

90. CRIME REPORT AND OPERATION CREOSOTE – PCSO David Davies sent his apologies, he has reported that there isn't much happening in the village however there has been break-ins into outbuildings in the area, where they are generally after gardening machinery and electrical tools. The police offer a property marking service for these items that people don't store in their house. *The Clerk will contact the PCSO to arrange a date for the marking to be undertaken and will contact the Playing Field committee to check that this can be done at the entrance to the Playing Field.*

Clerk

91. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 2nd July 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

92. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

i. Inspection of bus shelter – DW confirmed that he had inspected the bus shelter and was pleased with the work that had been done. Concern was expressed that as the wood was light that any graffiti would stand out, it was hoped that this wouldn't be an issue and it would be addressed if it did happen. The recent risk assessment had highlighted concern over the hedge overhanging the bin and that it would dissuade people from using it, *DW to rectify the problem.*

DW

ii. Deer signs – CE confirmed that she had toured the A272 with a representative from Highways and they had installed new deer signs. She thanked the Highways representative for his efforts with this.

iii. Speed measurements since the introduction of the new roundels in School Lane – CE has requested a revision of the scoring for School Lane. *She will ask for new measurements of the speed to see if it has reduced following the improvements to speed signage.*

CE

iv. Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
a. WDC have been instructed to install a new dog bin near the Village Hall. Laminated signs have been

created to be displayed in the vicinity.

- b. It has been confirmed that there is no process by which deer culling on private land needs to be reported.
- c. The police have requested that they be advised of any residents tampering with speed signs in order that they can take the matter further.
- d. Highways previously advised that it wasn't cost effective to do a road closure in order to do the work on the road erosion in Wilderness Lane, however as the road needs to be closed for some drainage work they will rectify the erosion problems at the same time.

93a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/1360/LB – HARTS COTTAGE, STONEHURST LANE, TN20 6LL** – Replacement of existing outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation – The Parish Council approve the application (3/2).
- ii. **WD/2013/1341/LDE – GATEHOUSE FARM, STOCKLANDS LANE TN22 4EA** – Use of building for C3.A use – From substantial local knowledge the Parish Council believe that the main building hasn't been lived in and therefore the criteria for lawful development has not been met. There has been no evidence of residence with cars, hanging washing etc. (5/0).

b. REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/1026/F – OAKLANDS, STONEHURST LANE, TN22 4ED** – Proposed two storey side and rear extensions, proposed dormer windows and repitching of existing lean-to roofs.

c. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/1198/F – SOUTH VIEW, WILDERNESS LANE, TN22 4HX** – Re-modelling and extension to dwelling.
- ii. **WD/2013/1015/F – ANNES, WILDERNESS LANE TN22 4HU** – New vehicle entrance and drive to link to approved parking area (WD/2012/1143/F). Blocking the garage front door opening and providing similar size opening to rear of garage.
- iii. **WD/2013/1144/F – 7 SCHOOL LANE COTTAGES, TN22 4JD** – Single storey side extension.
- iv. **WD/2013/0844/F – HASTINGFORD FISHERY, HASTINGFORD LANE TN22 4DY** – Extension to fishing lodge.
- v. **WD/2013/0812/F – LITTLE FOXES FARM, STONEHURST LANE TN20 6LL** – Repositioning of garage.
- vi. **WD/2013/0190/F – SHEPHERDS HILL HOUSE, SHEPHERDS HILL TN22 4PX** – Extension to existing garage to provide ancillary accommodation

94. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC

In his absence RG had sent his August report which related to WDC items.

KO advised that WDC were trying to sort out the problems that had been encountered with the new waste collections and that people were not able to get through to them on the telephones. The waste problems were especially difficult for frailer people in the area. He has highlighted issues over the accuracy of WDC minutes and has called in a notary to examine some minutes that weren't produced for 2.5 months, he expressed concern that it would appear that the Council is run by the officers rather than the elected members.

95. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for 26th July 2013 agreed and signed. The Clerk updated the PC on the reasons for the 2 outstanding cheques.

96. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

- i. The payments of £200 for Simon Fitt, £240 for Compact Cutting and £170 for Printmonger Media that were signed at the June meeting, were ratified at this meeting..
- ii. The Clerk updated the PC on the quote she had received for the hedging at the burial ground, it was felt that this was too expensive and *GT offered to undertake the hard cut of the hedge.* **GT**
- iii. The Clerk advised that the National Salary Award for 2013/14 was 1% backdated to 1st April 2013 and that it will be paid next month. There hasn't been an award for a few years.
- iv. The Clerk updated the PC on the problems she has had with the bank regarding the youth club account, she is awaiting advice from the auditor.
- v. The Clerk updated the PC on the cabling costs offered by Monks, NJ and DW agreed to these costs and Monks provided the cabling. NJ and DW installed the cabling and Monks have connected it. NJ and DW were thanked for their work on this.

97. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – The Chair updated the meeting on the last Community Centre committee meeting. The ground survey has been undertaken which confirmed the problems with drainage of rainwater. Richard Boswell will be reviewing the existing plans and providing a quote for what further work is required for them to be at the level to submit for planning. It has been suggested that the work is done

in 2 stages. The first stage would be to rebuild the Sports Pavilion which would be sited on the Playing Field land, the second stage would be the building of the main hall which would be on the St Mark's School House land. A draft Business Plan is being put together and they are looking at their charity status, it will possibly be a Charity Incorporated Organisation. They are trying to obtain a grant to sort out the drainage and were made aware at the committee meeting that the PC will need to agree the plans prior to them being submitted to WDC.

- 98. PARKING IN HUT LANE** – concern has been expressed that the planting of the hedges in Hut Lane has reduced the number of parking spaces. The person who planted them has been asked to move them back which he hasn't.

The Chair opened the meeting up to the public.

A discussion was held about the appearance of the planted area and about manorial waste. It was agreed that *the Clerk would write to the resident who planted the hedges to advise that this & the cutting of the grass does not give them a claim to the land, letter to be copied to the Land Registry.* **Clerk**

It was felt that as the land is unregistered that the PC and Village Hall committee can't do anything about the reduction in parking due to the planting of the hedges.

- 99. COMMUNITY PLAN** – it was agreed that a meeting would be held to discuss priorities and progress with the plan prior to the precept meeting in October. *SR to organize.* **SR**

- 100. PUBLIC SHELTER** – *NJ advised that he is trying to meet with Andrew from Wilderness Wood to request that drawings be done for the shelter.* **NJ**

- 101. PUBLICITY** – it was proposed that a sandwich board be placed at the top of Hut Lane to advertise the PC meeting on the morning of the meeting. *NJ to obtain details of suppliers for the boards.* **NJ**

A discussion was held on the use of social media, it was decided not to pursue this at present.

- 102. POLICE STATIONS** – a discussion was held on the proposed closure of local police stations and the re-providing of them in other buildings. It was believed that police cars would still be based in Uckfield. *It was agreed that GT would respond advising that the PC is disappointed that police stations will be closing.* **GT**
SR to advise the editor of the Parish Magazine of the correct details for the PCSO. **SR**

- 103. RISK ASSESSMENTS** – CE reported on the outcome of the quarterly assessments. The bus shelter was also assessed and *GT will be adding this to the assessment sheets.* **GT**

The Clerk will contact the Rights of Way team regarding the rails by the gate from the Burial Ground to Main Road. **Clerk**

GT confirmed that the items raised relating to vegetation at the burial ground and the items for the play area are due to be actioned. **GT**

- 104. PLOT LAND OFF OF SCHOOL LANE** – the Chair had been contacted as 2 horses were put on the plot-land next to School Lane, these were reported to the RSPCA due to the condition they were in. It was proposed that the PC maintain the land with a view to taking it over in the future. A Councillor updated the PC on the history of the land, it was agreed that the PC did not have a valid claim to this land. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the owner of the hedgerow on the corner of the plotland that runs along Waghorns Lane and School Lane requesting that the hedge be cut back in line with ESCC guidelines.

- 105. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE TASKS** – the Clerk updated the PC on the problems she has been having with Highways department. They have now produced a list of work for the village totalling 97 hours. She has requested confirmation that all the work will be done and dates for when it will be actioned. The Clerk asked that she be informed of any overhanging hedges and any edge of carriageway potholes. Highways have highlighted a significant drainage issue on the A272 that requires a larger investigation and repair project. The Clerk advised that some Councils are paying a contractor to cut their verges and receive the fee from Highways of what they would have paid for the work to be done. She has requested an urgent cut of the verge either end of Five Chimneys Lane and at the top of Waghorns Lane.

A Councillor highlighted a pothole by the village sign heading east into the village, *Clerk to report.* **Clerk**

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

Cllr. Graham Terry followed on from the comments made by JT at point 87 regarding the village hall and expressed concern that there wasn't anyone offering to assist with the running of the hall. He confirmed that there was some remuneration available.

Cllr. Nathan James commented on the problems with the emptying of rubbish bins. He advised that there will be a firework and bonfire event on 1st November, with hopefully a torchlight procession. It was raised that some villages had stopped doing torchlight processions due to problems caused by some members of the public. NJ confirmed that the event wouldn't be advertised outside of the village and that the person organizing the fireworks had insurance.

Cllr. Damon Wellman highlighted that there had been a number of sightings of adders and that a dog had been bitten by one. *DW to produce an article for the Parish Magazine.*

DW

Cllr. Clare Emsden asked about the deer management meeting. *NJ will try and get more information about it.*

NJ

107. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. Hours agreed and signed
- ii. As part of her objectives the Clerk has produced a spreadsheet recording the documents the PC have for their assets and where these are located. *She will be contacting Diocesan House regarding the ownership of the driveway for the church and burial ground.*
- iii. Individual Electoral Registration is due to go live on 1st July 2014 when people will no longer be registered by their household but will be registered individually in order to try and prevent electoral fraud and the perception of it.
- iv. The Clerk highlighted the 100th anniversary of World War I in 2014, it was felt that other organisations in the village would be commemorating the anniversary.
- v. The Chair had received correspondence regarding noise from an event in June, this was discussed and has been raised with the organizer of the event.
- vi. The Clerk updated the PC on the Wealden Clerks meeting. She is awaiting confirmation from a District Councillor as to why the development boundary was removed for Hadlow Down, although one WDC Officer had expressed caution that having a development boundary could result in a lot of houses being built in the village. The Clerk confirmed that there would still be restrictions due to the Ashdown Forest 7km zone and the AONB. The WDC officers had advised that if the headroom increases, and following the nitrogen testing, that Uckfield and Crowborough may get more houses and the surgery at Buxted may be allowed to be converted for residential use.

Clerk

108. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £747.67 includes £9 mileage, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £127.67.
 - ii. Suffolk Acre Services Ltd £13.85 additional insurance for bus shelter.
 - iii. Wilderness Wood £260.00 bus shelter - paid under the power given in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 s.4).
 - iv. SLCC Enterprises Ltd £63.00 book
 - v. Southern Testing Laboratories Ltd £655.39 geotech survey – paid under the power given in the Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10
 - vi. Wealden District Council £320.76 litter and dog bin emptying
 - vii. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £112.50 play area maintenance
 - viii. Hadlow Down Village Hall £100 use of hall
- Two further payments of £99.60 to Playsafety Ltd for the play area annual inspection and £80 to AJW Grounds Maintenance Services were also signed and will be ratified at the next meeting.

109. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. WDC Car Park review – response to be sent advising that there is a lack of parking in Buxted and Uckfield and it is felt that this won't be resolved with the new Network Rail car park in Uckfield.
- ii. ESCC bus service consultation – no response made.
- iii. East Sussex, South Down and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan – no response made.
- iv. NALC future strategy consultation no response made.
- v. ESCC consultations on Mount Denys Hastings and Adult Social Care Day Services for Older People – no response made.
- vi. WDC Dog Control Order consultation – no response made.

110. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

- i. Greymatters

111. TRAINING:

- i. Planning training – Clerk to arrange date in September.

112. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA: Items for the SLR agenda; waste collection; Community Plan and Village Hall.

The following item was discussed in closed session.

113. ENTRANCE TO PLAYING FIELD LEASE – the Clerk updated the PC on the current position regarding a new lease, everyone was in agreement with what was currently being proposed.

The meeting closed at 9:05pm