



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday August 7th 2012.

*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), Michael Lunn (ML), Damon Wellman (DW) and Ken Ogden (KO)(WDC) Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells (HSW).

122. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Janet Tourell (JT) as Chair of the Village Hall committee advised that the drainage from Hut Lane was directly affecting the Village Hall, she felt that the Parish Council (PC) should lead on resolving the problem. It is now affecting parking and emergency vehicles cannot get down the lane, she suggested that a voluntary workforce help resolve the problem. She has asked David Walker to look into solutions..

Cllr. Nathan James (NJ) joined the meeting at 7:05pm

Hut Lane drainage to be discussed further at point 133.

Alison Heap introduced herself and advised that she is hoping to stand as ESCC Councillor when Cllr.

Tony Reid leaves prior to next year's election. She invited questions from members of the public and the PC.

123. REPORT FROM PCSO MARK CARTER – MC advised that there hadn't been a lot of activity in Hadlow Down, he highlighted the problem of stolen vehicles in the district which are being stripped down and then dumped. There has also been an increase in other than dwelling thefts i.e. scrap metal, mowers, garden equipment etc. Thieves are travelling from Kent and offending in Sussex. 1 local prolific offender is now in prison.

124. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – none received.

125. DECLARATION OF INTEREST - none received.

126. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 3rd July 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record.

127. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

- i. GT gave Councillors a draft of the work he has already undertaken on the annual report and asked for comments on the layout. He hopes it will be sent out with the September newsletter. *HSW to obtain quotes for printing.* **Clerk**
- ii. GT advised that he had done all the risk assessments and had also undertaken a review of the forms, he has requested that the Clerk diarise for him to do the assessments in April 2013 and review the forms again at that time.
The Clerk advised that she had been informed that the gate post at the bottom of the Green Lane in Dog Kennel Lane was laying on the ground, *she will report to the Rights of Way Team* **Clerk**
- iii. Register of interests - All received apart from ML's, Clerk to collect after the meeting.
- iv. Bridlepaths 36b and 25a- SR advised that she was contacted by a member of the High Weald Bridleways, they will walk the routes and see what can be done to improve their condition.
- v. Clerks Report: was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points and included:
 - a. Passenger Transport Services are writing to the parents of the pupils who have been getting off the bus at the top of School Lane to see if they would prefer them to be dropped off there or at the bus stop.
 - b. The Clerk met with the Solicitor today and went through the Chronological Statement, she will *add the accompanying paperwork to this and give him the final copy in September.* **Clerk**
 - c. *DW agreed to varnish the noticeboards, NJ to give him the keys.* **DW/NJ**
 - d. The Clerk had received responses from Charles Hendry MP and Bob Standley (WDC) to her letter

regarding the Ashdown Forest 7km zone of influence. ML confirmed that WDC are aware that there are issues over this and are looking at mitigation measures. A traffic survey would need to be undertaken of the present hall and of the new centre to see if the volume of traffic would be increased.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the inspector in response to point 144i.

Standing orders suspended

KO confirmed that the consultation ends on 16th August. He asked Roy Galley (WDC) why there wasn't more consultation and was informed that they couldn't afford more. *KO to send the Clerk a copy of a government paper regarding nitrogen levels.*

KO

WDC still haven't adopted the 7km zone, they are awaiting the inspector's report. It was agreed for ML and SR to draft letters to the inspector and to the local newspapers.

SR/ML

Standing orders reinstated.

e. Planning department have confirmed that the bus shelter would require a lawful development certificate, *DW is completing the forms.*

DW

f. The speed signage improvements in School Lane should be installed within the next 8 weeks. The speed survey in School Lane will be undertaken in September. It was thought that the zig zag lines outside the school had been painted. *SR to check if they have been extended.*

SR

g. WDC have confirmed that there is no breach of planning on the land below Standen Mews.

h. All verges on the A272 should have been cut by 25th July. It was agreed that *DW, HSW and SR would produce an article for the Parish Magazine and the website regarding hedges and verges.*

SR/DW/Clerk

i. Highways are obtaining quotes for a new post and speed signs for Wilderness Lane in order that they can no longer be turned round.

128. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

i. **WD/2012/1382/LB & 1381/F – THE OASTS, BROADREED FARM, CRIERS LANE** – Single storey rear addition to utility and two conservation rooflights – The Parish Council fully support the application. (5/0).

ii. **WD/2012/0554/FR – LAND TO WEST OF SCOCUS BARN, FIVE ASHES** – Siting of pig sty – for pig sty use. Siting of log store and caravan – for log and equipment storage. Siting of shipping container – for animal feed. – The Parish Council oppose this application as they feel that it is an inappropriate development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with no connection to established agricultural use. (0/5)

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:

i. **WD/2012/1144/LB & 1143/F– ANNES, WILDERNESS LANE** - Proposed ground and first floor rear extension together with other external alterations. New terrace to rear. Demolition of existing garage and the creation of a new gated driveway.

ii. **WD/2012/0986/FR – BEECH TREE COTTAGE, HALL LANE** – Proposed conservatory

iii. **WD/2012/1079/F – QUINCES, WILDERNESS LANE** – Two storey extension & new double garage.

129. REPORT FROM CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC – KO apologized that he had missed the recent meetings. WDC have now moved to Hailsham, officers are now having to hot desk. There is approximately 19 illegal caravan sites in Wealden however as there is insufficient affordable housing there is nowhere for them to go. WDC are encouraging PCs to develop Neighbourhood Plans. He confirmed that the number of planning applications has reduced and that applications are being refused due to the Ashdown Forest 7km zone. It was raised that information that has been sent out regarding the Council Tax changes has been confusing and that when WDC communicate with the PCs regarding this they should ensure it is in Plain English, KO confirmed that various complaints have been received and the notes will be rewritten.

130. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for 26 July 2012 agreed and signed.

131. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

i. Playing Field drainage – GT advised that the football club no longer use the Playing Field (PF) and there is a possibility that the cricket could leave as well due to the drainage problem. A geo-tech survey needs to be undertaken to see what can be done to improve the PF, to see whether it is feasible to build the Community Centre (CC) on it and whether laying the soil available from Uckfield on it will improve the drainage. The PF and CC committees have both agreed to pay a 1/3 each of the £2000 fee and would like the PC to pay the remaining 1/3. A Cllr. asked if the ditches have been re-dug recently, GT confirmed that the water was draining from them. The PF committee now have the expenditure for the grass cutting at the PF and the Pavilion will need repaneling. The Village Hall will also need quite a bit of expenditure, all groups are trying to fundraise and are aware they will need to approach the PC at the October precept meeting for funding in 2013/14.

GT confirmed that the PF committee have agreed to look at the ditches at the PF. The PC agreed to pay £666 towards the cost of the survey. *Clerk to contact Chair of CC committee to request a copy of the*

quote and details of the contractual agreement.

Clerk

The Clerk questioned whether Bob Lake had received a response from planning to the questions he raised with them over the possibility of the soil being moved from Uckfield to Hadlow Down and whether an exemption certificate was required from the environment agency.

- ii. Ideas for expenditure for 2012-13 – this has been discussed at other points on the agenda.
- iii. It was agreed to ratify the payment of £5 to the Land Registry for the search of the index map.
- iv. Markers for the Burial Ground – the Clerk updated the PC on the 2 quotes she had received. *GT to advise the Clerk of the number and details of the markers required.* The PC agreed to the quote of £15 per marker. **GT**

132. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – GT advised that at the recent meeting they had discussed the Geo-tech survey and the impact of the Ashdown Forest 7km zone. It was felt that the committee should still push forward.

133. HUT LANE DRAINAGE – the Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Paul James who together with Richard Boswell is undertaking a survey and review of the existing hall and also looking at what can be done with the drainage, they are costing options and will produce a report after 6-8 weeks. JT also contacted the Clerk and confirmed that the work on the kitchen at the VH was being funded by grants.

Standing orders suspended.

Questions were asked about the agreement over the building of Standen Mews and the drainage from there. *KO agreed to contact Building Control to investigate.*

KO

Concern was expressed that a number of people were looking into the problem and no-one was co-ordinating this. JT to send SR details of those people involved *and SR will organize a meeting to discuss and will report back at the next PC meeting.*

SR.

134. COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES – a Cllr. expressed frustration over the lack of response and ownership within Highways department at ESCC. SR agreed to take back highways, rights of ways, footpaths and SLR meetings for the next month. NJ agreed to take on youth and will consider Emergency Planning, *GT agreed to go through it with him.*

NJ/GT

135. YOUTH – It was suggested that a shelter be put up at the Playing Field that would be suitable for youth. *NJ to obtain quotes and liaise with the PF committee over where the shelter could be installed. To update the PC at the October precept meeting.*

NJ

It was highlighted that the youth could do with a bus service that runs at a more suitable time for them, *NJ to look into what destinations and timings would be appropriate for the youth and report back to the PC.*

NJ

137. PLAY AREA ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT – the annual report has been received, GT has reviewed and advised that there is nothing major in the report that needs actioning. The PF committee still need to fully review the report and will issue a response to this. A protruding bolt was highlighted behind the ball net however it was considered that as this was so high it wasn't a risk.

138. DISCIPLINE AND GRIEVANCE POLICY - approved by the PC.

139. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE - it was felt that the new policy wasn't as clear and specific as the previous one, agreed to keep the previous policy and not update.

140. BURIAL GROUND – the Clerk confirmed that the Burial Ground is registered in the Parish Council's name. She highlighted the PC's responsibility regarding the fence in the lower area, GT confirmed that this was in good condition.

141. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES): - Cllr. Graham Terry – Burial Ground – GT confirmed that he had met with the maintenance contractors at the Burial Ground and has asked them for a quote for a major cutback of the hedge on the right hand side. He was pleased with the work that had so far been undertaken.

SR advised that she had attended the WDALC meeting at which there had been a presentation on the Community Infrastructure Levy, a presentation on the police commissioner elections in November and a discussion on fingerposts.

142. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. Clerks hours were signed.
- ii. It was agreed to reduce the Clerks hours back to 67 per month wef 1st August, however with the option to do no more than 8 hours per month extra on Community Centre/VH work, should this be required.
- iii. It was agreed for the Clerk to register with Dropbox and continue to use the memory sticks.
- iv. Correspondence had previously been received regarding hedge cutting, *the Clerk will put an article in the Parish Magazine for September as the bird nesting season will have finished.* **Clerk**
- v. General Power of Competence – the Clerk confirmed that under the new rules the PC didn't qualify for using this power, this won't change until an election is held.
- vi. Fingerposts – the Clerk wrote to ESCC regarding the quality of the work undertaken on the 2 fingerposts, they are not prepared to pay any compensation. *Clerk to write to Highways requesting*

date for the remainder to be painted, Cllrs. will then ensure that the work is inspected and will report any problems .

Clerk

143. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: The following were agreed by all and cheques were signed:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £841.27 includes £13.50 for mileage and £20.35 for expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £221.27.
- ii. Compact Cutting £540.00 burial ground maintenance
- iii. Wealden District Council £316.80 - dog bin emptying £74.88, litter bin emptying £241.92
- iv. Graffiti Design £144.00 brass plaque, paid under power of Local Government Act 1972 s.137
- v. Propel Systems (UK) Ltd £216.00 website hosting and email, paid under power of Local Government Act 1972 s.111
- vi. Hadlow Down Village Hall £100.00 – hire of hall
- vii. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £50.00 – play area maintenance
- viii. Playsafety Ltd £97.20 – play area annual inspection

144. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. Consultation upon Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development – discussed at 127d response being made.
- ii. Consultation regarding extending the double yellow lines in School Lane – the PC discussed and agreed with the proposal for the extension of the double yellow lines in School Lane, *Clerk to respond. and request timescales.*
- iii. Consultation on the East Sussex Statement of Community Involvement – response already sent to the pre-consultation, no further response made.
- iv. Consultation on the East Sussex Local Validation List – no response made.
- v. NHS Shaping our Future consultation – no response made.

Clerk

145. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

- i. Focus on East Sussex 2012
- ii. AirS Annual report

146. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- i. Bus shelter – hoping to be installed in September.
- ii. Youth – bus service
- iii. Hut Lane drainage

The meeting closed at 9:11pm

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be
on 4th SEPTEMBER at 7pm.**