



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday December 1st 2009
Note – this is a draft copy to be agreed and amended, if necessary, at the next Council Meeting

Present: Councillors Paul James (Chairman), Lisa Scott, Graham Terry, Michael Lunn, Colin James, David Walker, Lucy McConachie, Tony Reid (ESCC) and Ken Ogden (WDC). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

- 198. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – A member of the public gave the Parish Council (PC) paperwork that was found in items that were tipped in Wheelers Lane. *Clerk to contact WDC.* **Clerk**
ML proposed that the PC send a vote of congratulations to the Variety Club for a wonderful pantomime. *Clerk to organise*
Clerk
- 199. PCSO KATIE BREEDS** – No report received from Katie in her absence. GT advised that recently a car had overturned in Stockhurst Lane and that there had been an injury outside the school. Katie has been provided with a bicycle and will be using this to cycle to the village.
- 200. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – none received.
- 201. DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – received from CJ & LS, prejudicial interest for the village hall.
- 202. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November were agreed and signed as a true copy. ML advised that the article that appeared in the Parish Magazine regarding the telephone box was very good.
- 203. MATTERS ARISING (from prev. mtg):**
- i. Website – ML sent his photo to GT soon after the last meeting, GT passed it onto the website editor. Still waiting for it to be posted.
 - ii Fingerpost on A272 pointing down Five Chimneys Lane – village maintenance team will be righting it this week and then checking for any damage
 - iii. Wealden Community Grant Scheme – LS & CJ advised that it didn't look like we would qualify for this. The scheme would go on for about a year and money wouldn't be received till April, they therefore arranged for the insulation to be done now.
 - iv. Clerks Report: update passed to councillors with agenda
 - a. Fenced off area in Waste Wood – if the fencing was over 2m high planning permission would have been needed, planning enforcement needed the exact location of the site, clerk did request for this information but no response was received. DW confirmed location, *Clerk to get back in contact with enforcement.* **Clerk**
 - b. Letter was sent to Head of Planning regarding the window in the south elevation in Fir Tree Cottage, no response yet received, *Clerk to chase.* **Clerk**
 - c. Letter was sent to Doug Moss to thank him for listening to PC's and wider communities comments on the Tinkers Park application and for the conditions that were added.
 - d. Results of PC poll regarding the 'Main Road' name sent to WDC, they have since requested the names and addresses of those who voted as it is likely to go to court. Councillors expressed concern that it had got to this stage and over the costs involved. ML felt that it had all been handled badly by the officer at WDC.
 - e. Confirmation was sent to WDC to confirm that the PC are willing to be part of the trial for electronic planning and asking what would happen about the electronic equipment that would be required.
 - f. Invitation has been sent to Sandra Richards from Uckfield CAB requesting if she would speak at the Parish Assembly
 - g. Water on A272 near St Mark's Church, Clerk contacted SE Water they are unable to locate our query, DW has confirmed that there isn't a problem at present and hasn't been one for a while.
 - h. Highways have been contacted regarding the kerbing east from Wheelers Lane to Greenacres requesting that they replace it, no response as yet, *Clerk to chase.* **Clerk**
- 204. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
- WITHDRAWN – WD/2009/1965/LB – HASTINGFORD HOUSE, HASTINGFORD LANE** – Proposed repairs to roof. Correspondence was received regarding Fir Tree Cottage planning application, however this was received after the PC made a response to the application.
- GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:**
- WD/2009/1686/MAJ – TINKERS PARK** – Proposed renovation and improvement to existing buildings plus additional landscaping and additional ancillary buildings to form a steam heritage site.
- WD/2009/1944/F – WARREN FARM, SHEPHERDS HILL** – Erection of two stables and adjoining tack room.
- REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION:**
- WD/2009/1782/F – WOODLANDS FARM** – Single storey side extension and two storey rear extension.
KO confirmed that he hadn't yet received a response from planning regarding the window in Fir Tree Cottage, *he will chase.* **KO**
DW advised that he had been informed by KO that with regard to the application at Five Badgers in Stonehurst Lane, WDC do not have sites available at present so they would not be able to move people on until one is available.

205. **REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC** – TR advised that he had a cabinet briefing and that ESCC were looking at a 3% council tax rise. They expect that government grants will decrease however demand for services is going up by 5.5 – 6% per annum. At the regional housing and regeneration committee meeting they were informed that it is very difficult to deliver affordable housing, they need to find sites that the local community will support. Chair advised that the PC want affordable housing but don't have any sites. Chair expressed concern over blocked drains and gulleys, always the same ones each year. *Clerk to report to Highways*

Clerk

KO advised that at the Tinkers Park planning meeting he spoke to both those representing Tinkers Park and those objecting. He supported the application for educational reasons. The housing needs survey is due out this weekend, it shows that demand for affordable housing is high.

KO also advised that money is available through Wealden Community Grants. A recent European Directive means that it will be difficult to build houses near Ashdown Forest, if there is a cat in a house it may affect the local wildlife.

It used to be that when big housing estates were built 30% of the properties had to be affordable or low cost housing, due to challenges in the courts etc. this has now dropped to 17%

DW asked TR how the drop in interest rates was affecting ESCC, TR advised that it meant that there was less to reinvest as the council isn't earning so much.

206. **BANK RECONCILIATION:** – Bank reconciliation for 26th November 09 agreed and signed as correct.

207. **OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –**

- i Speedwatch – the police have advised that it is best not to buy our own SID at this stage. It will therefore need to be booked in advance, collected in the morning and returned that night. KO confirmed that it can be booked for the whole weekend. At present there is only 1 site in the 40mph where Speedwatch can be undertaken. It has therefore been decided to start it in April 2010 when the 30mph limit will have been there for 12 months and Speedwatch can therefore be done from a few sites. Quotes for reflective jackets vary from £7.43 to £43.13. Chair felt that as there is an election due, the policy may change regarding Speedwatch so it is best not to spend on it at present. ML advised that he felt the PC need to support this initiative, speeding came high as a concern at the Community Strategy meetings and there are volunteers willing to do Speedwatch. If the expectations of the community are raised that something will be done and there is a volunteer keen to organise it, it should be supported. It is also a shame if it can't presently be done in the 30mph area. CJ felt that it was up to the police to deal with speeding issues and that a poll should be taken within the village to see if people wanted Speedwatch. PC confirmed that Peter Gornall will be supported by them in his efforts. Clerk has already written to Uckfield Police confirming that Peter is the Speedwatch Co-ordinator and that the PC approve of the Hadlow Down Community Speedwatch. TR was advised that it would be good if the speed outside the school, and all schools in the county, was reduced to 20mph.
- ii Payment of £466.54 for Chandlers for playing field ratified
- iii. Payment of £380.25 payable to Peter Gillies for Parker Steel invoice for playing field ratified
- iv. PC agreed for clerk to purchase Parish Councillor's Guide new edition for £12.75

208. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed for payment:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £672.33 includes £18.40 for mileage, £115.48 training hours and £37.41 expenses. £460 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £212.33
- ii. LexisNexis £48.24 Local Council Administration book
- iii. Phill Signs £350.00 Finger post - £175 will then be claimed back from ESCC
- iv. Still Diggin £300 to lay piping and backfill ditch adjacent to cycle track
- v. Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down - £208 - 50% cost of nitesafe lights at St Mark's Church
- vi. Geof Bedford - £270 – noticeboard
- vii. Viking Direct - £77.14 - stationery

209. **PLAY AREA** – GT reported that the weather has caused delays to the work.

210. **ADOPTION OF LOCAL RED TELEPHONE KIOSK** – Clerk has written to BT to see if, as we are a small parish, we would be able to receive financial help from them for the ongoing cost, if the telephone box was adopted. Clerk placed an article in the Parish Magazine explaining why the Parish Council weren't adopting the box. No response was received from villagers to the Clerk's original article about adopting the box, although suggestions for its use were received via the website.

211. **DEER CONTROL** – ML advised that there has recently been a fatality at Easons Green following an accident involving a deer. He has spoken to the Ashdown Forest Rangers who advised that they are dealing with 1 deer collision each day, there used to be 2000 deer in their area, this figure has now increased to 4000. Large estates also now have a lot more deer. ML asked what ESCC are doing about the problem as it is a wider issue. TR advised that deer are a wild animal, at the Ashdown Forest board meeting they are currently looking at seriously considering deer management. An initiative is starting where the focus will be on private landowners and whether they are willing to manage their deer. With deer there is a risk for road users and damage to the environment. The figures quoted are that over 10 years 140 deer can become 800.

ML informed the meeting that the Rangers keep a good record of deer injuries and fatalities and that it would be good if there was better liaison between the police and ESCC. ML asked that TR keep the PC informed of any developments.

TR and KO left the meeting 8:45

- 212. PRECEPT** – Clerk had already provided Councillors with updated figures following on from the November meeting and has confirmed that four months worth of precept need to stay in reserves. Chair advised that the following approximate amounts would be needed for the new village hall:
 £2500 for initial drawings and surveys to get to the pre-planning stage
 £2500 to be at the stage to go for planning application
 £2500 to get to building regulations stage
 It was raised that £1000 could be saved from the precept if the PC used the present website, a couple of Councillors have spoken to the owner of the site and it is possible for the PC to have their own webpage and domain. It was proposed that the £1000 be moved out of the precept. DW felt that the PC should know who the editor is of the present website and that he felt that the front page of the website is currently being used as a voice for a couple of people. A discussion was held regarding this website, and concern was expressed about editorial comments. It was suggested that a meeting be held between the owner of the site, the editor and the PC, although there is no urgency for this to happen. A long discussion was held regarding the amount the precept was to be set at. Original possible precept figure of £30772 (71% increase) reduced to £21,222 (18% increase), this will mean that the initial drawings and surveys for the new village hall can be paid for. On a band D household this would mean an increase of £8.34 for the year. *Clerk to write to WDC regarding the dog and litter bin costs to see if they can help with these and/or if they can be reduced.* £1500 to be transferred from reserves to cover £500 of the new Village Hall costs and £1000 for the work on the present Village Hall. *Clerk to forward updated figures to Councillors and write to Richard Boswell to thank him for the work he's so far done.* **Clerk**
 PC ratified the precept for £21,222.
- 213. WEBSITE** – discussed at point 212
- 214. PLAYING FIELD ENTRANCES** – Chair had a meeting with David Gibson from WDC and with residents from the flats in School Lane. The PC have no objection to an entrance from the flats to the playing field, however it needs to be secure. The PC need to be able to retain the right to close the entrance if necessary, the residents have agreed to reinstate the hedge and put a padlock on the entrance. *Clerk to write to the Head of Housing requesting that an agreement be drawn up and that WDC pay any legal costs* **Clerk**
- 215. RISK ASSESSMENT** – quarterly assessments received from LS and LM. Following items raised:
 Gate post at Playing Field loose, *GT to discuss with Peter Gillies.* **GT**
 Ditch filling completed at Playing Field.
 Seat outside the school due to be replaced
 Leaning fingerpost on A272 pointing down Five Chimneys Lane (ESCC aware and taking action).
 Grave stone unstable, *Clerk to report to churchwarden* **Clerk**
- 216. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
- i. Neighbourhood Watch, Emergency Planning, New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee – Cllr. Graham Terry – nothing to report
 - ii. Village Hall Management Committee, Wealden Association of Local Councils and Safer Wealden Partnership – Cllr. Colin James raised about the parking issue at the Village Hall, it would help if, on the south side, cars were able to park facing the Village Hall. Chair advised that it was unlikely that the hedgerow could be removed.
 - iii. Youth – Cllr. Lisa Scott – nothing to report.
 - iv. Easylink – Cllr. Lucy McConachie – Wealdlink received the s.106 money and will therefore be introducing a £1 flat rate to Crowborough.
 - v. Community Strategies, Sustainable Development and Environment Matters – Cllr. Michael Lunn – progressing on writing up the Community Strategy, looking at a deadline of the New Year. Will be possible to view it both on the website and through the Parish Magazine. *Clerk to chase Cllr. Tidy for figures on the amount of waste we're generating.* **Clerk**
 - vi. Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths – Cllr. David Walker – updated PC on the Housing Summit, Trees in the Planning Process meeting and WDC Conference. He was informed of progress with recycling, the Local Development Framework and about Walk with Wealden, they are looking at getting schools and the public involved. After the SLR meeting DW had a discussion with ESCC about extending the lay-by in School Lane, there is however no money available to do this. *Clerk to write to School Governors advising that due to budgetary restraints unable to extend the lay-by at present.* **Clerk**
 Chair raised about the issue of flooding at the top of the east end of Wilderness Lane which is then spreading onto the A272 and breaking up the road surface. *Clerk to raise with Highways.* **Clerk**
 - vii. Burial Ground – Cllr. Paul James – nothing to report
 - viii. Tree Warden - Jo Dummer (former Councillor) - forwarded details of lectures on the River Ouse, passed to DW to contact JD if he will be attending.
- 217. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. Hours checked agreed and signed.
 - ii. Agreed for John Roberts to continue as internal auditor.
 - iii. Visit to Houses of Parliament – *Clerk to send out invites.* **Clerk**
 - iv. Stocklands Lane – correspondence received regarding flooding, Clerk has reported to Highways who will be closing the lane prior to Christmas and resolving the problem. It was also raised whether the green lane at Stocklands Lane will be shut for the winter, Clerk has contacted Rights of Way team who have informed her that it will stay open however they will monitor the situation. Due to the amount of money that has been spent on this green lane and the excellent condition it was in after the work was done, the PC do not feel that it is right that it stays

- open, Clerk to write to ESCC to express PC's view and request they reconsider. **Clerk**
- v. Minutes from WDALC regarding police support – Clerk has written to the secretary for WDALC to advise that PCs cannot increase their precepts to cover 'community safety costs' should the police have shortfalls. They still need to justify their precept to the electorate.
 - vi. Correspondence received regarding parking in School Lane – Clerk was contacted regarding problems with the footpath outside Fir Tree Cottage and the New House being used as an extension to the road surface. Clerk has responded advising what action has been taken over extending the lay-by and the double yellow lines. GT asked whether the PC would enter into negotiations with the owner of the land opposite the school to see if it can be used for parking. *PJ will liaise with the school.* **PJ**
 - vii. Business Link – not relevant
 - viii. Freedom of Information request received from Burleys, amenity horticulturists regarding Grounds Maintenance Contracts, information has been sent off to them.
 - ix. Rights of Way report – no planned works at present. Bye way 22 resurfacing has been completed and bye way 24 has been closed until 29th November 2009.
 - x. Signs at Kit Wilson due to go up either side of the centre to slow traffic down. They reported rubbish in a stream to the clerk, however if it isn't going to cause flooding it isn't the Environment Agency's responsibility, it is the responsibility of the person whose land the stream backs onto to remove and dispose of the rubbish. Clerk has also contacted Highways regarding overhanging shrubbery blocking the path outside Middle Manor.

218. TRAINING & CONFERENCES:

- i. Clerk updated the PC on the recent SLCC conference. *She will contact WDC regarding the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to see what proposals communities can put forward and what is available for them.* **Clerk**
Point was raised at the conference that s.106 money should be spread across the district rather than centred on where the development is. *Clerk will ensure that the PC have a disciplinary and grievance procedure.* **Clerk**
- ii. DW updated on the Planning and Trees meeting and WDC District Conference at point 216vi.
- iii. GT advised that the AiRS/SALC conference gave information on village halls
- iv. Community Led Plans Database Training – passed to ML **ML**

219. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE.

- i. Local Transport Plan 3 – LM advised that this had already been actioned
- ii. Walk Wealden – the Clerk will forward information to the school as she receives it.

220. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

- i. Weald Forest Ridge Landscaping Partnership Scheme Progress in Pictures
- ii. Rural Services network & community
- iv. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service – In Partnership
- v. Buxted Community Voice

221. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

- i. Invoice for work on village hall to be paid
- ii. Welcome leaflet for new residents

Meeting closed 9:55pm

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL be on Tuesday 5th January 2009 at 7pm.

Signed.....

Date.....