



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in the committee room at Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd December 2014.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Clare Emsden (CE), Damon Wellman (DW), Graham Terry (GT), Ken Ogden (WDC) (KO) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

232. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – none received.

233. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – apologies had been received from Cllr. Nathan James (NJ), these were accepted.

234. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – SR and CE declared a personal interest in item 242iii regarding the CAB.

235. CRIME REPORT – PCSO Davies has advised that there has been a theft from a vehicle and a lame wallaby has been spotted in the area.

236. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR – Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JML) had applied to the Parish Council (PC) to be co-opted. His information had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC) joined the meeting at 7:05pm.

The PC all agreed to the co-option and JML signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the other Councillors. It was agreed for GT to act as his mentor.

237. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 4th and 21st November 2014 were agreed and signed as true records. It was highlighted that the day for the minutes of 21st November appeared incorrectly in the Parish Magazine.

238. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

i. Clear out filter cover for pipe at Hut Lane drainage – c/f

NJ

ii. DW handed the clerk his gully review. *The Clerk will liaise with Highways.*

Clerk

iii. A letter was sent Rupert Clubb regarding the Uckfield Highways changes.

iv. Twitter training – c/f. A Councillor asked why this was being undertaken to which the Chair responded.

SR

v. The Chair had raised the issue of Broadband speeds with BT, they have advised that it is a problem with people's ISP (internet service provider) and that individuals need to raise it with their ISP. All the examples the Chair had related to different ISPs. Councillors commented that broadband had been unreliable and that speeds were beginning to be affected on the Buxted exchange.

vi. Natural England's volunteer team's contact details - KO confirmed that he was waiting for them to respond to him.

KO

vii. Article regarding winter emergencies – this was too late to appear in the Parish Magazine for December. The Clerk has been sent a number of leaflets and posters regarding winter emergencies.

viii. Site visit to Dog Kennel Lane and Criers Lane. *CE confirmed that she hoped to have undertaken the visit before the January meeting.* The hedging highlighted in Criers Lane has been cut and the gullies in Dog Kennel Lane have been referred to ESCC Internal Drainage Team for action.

CE

ix. The Chair confirmed that she had received a response from the ESCC Chief Executive. She also received a visit from a May Gurney representative regarding the problems the PC have highlighted. Waghorns Lane gullies have now been cleared, he has investigated the problems in Wilderness Lane, some work has been undertaken with the drainage at the Waghorns/Brick Kiln Lane junction and the hedge has been cut in Waghorns Lane. A Councillor highlighted the problem with flooding on Main Road at the junction with Tinkers Lane, the Clerk has already highlighted this to Highways. When it happens again *DW will advise the Clerk in order that she can contact the May Gurney*

representative.

DW/Clerk

- x. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
 - a. The school have agreed to design posters encouraging people to pick up their dog's faeces. WDC have also given some signs which will be put up at the recreation ground, in Wilderness Lane and in Hall Lane.
 - b. The Rights of Way team have liaised with the landowner regarding the Japanese Knotweed and he is eradicating it.
 - c. ESCC have confirmed that they will pay 50% of the fingerpost cost.
 - d. The Chair of the Playing Field committee has confirmed that she expects that the committee will approach the PC to pay for the grass cutting included in the feasibility study.

239. PLANNING:

a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2014/2423/FR – LAND AT HADLOW OAST FARM, CURTAINS HILL TN22 4DU** – Retrospective application for replacement gate access from field to A272 – The Parish Council do not support the application as there is no record of there having been a previous gate and there is no break in the white line to indicate that there had previously been an access here. The Parish Council feel that the position of the access is dangerous, especially as whilst the site is visited, a vehicle has been parked on the A272 Main Road, which is an unrestricted fast part of this road and where there is restricted visibility due to the gradient of the road. 3 against/2 abstentions
- ii. **WD/2014/2041/F – SPRINGBANK COTTAGE, HEATHFIELD ROAD, FIVE ASHES TN20 6JJ** – Demolition of existing mobile home and construction of a new workshop/office and additional sleeping space – The Parish Council have not been able to undertake a site visit, however from the information available they believe that the application would result in overdevelopment of the site due to the increased size of the replacement building. 1 for/3 against/1 abstention

b. REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2014/1633/O – LAND AT OSP 1212, STONEHURST LANE** – Proposed single dwelling.

The chair moved the following item forward and a member of the public was invited to join in the discussion.

251. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- i. Correspondence from the Friends of St Mark's School – the PC had received a letter from Lally Drake (LD), Co-Chairman of the Friends of St Mark's School regarding a major fundraiser they are hoping to put on at Tinkers Park. Due to licence restrictions the Clerk has already advised her that WDC would make any decision on a licence, and the PC were hoping to have information from WDC about extensions to licences, however the information isn't yet available. A Councillor asked why the Friends wanted the event held at Tinkers Park and updated on the current situation with events at the Park and on the planning conditions. The Chair confirmed that the opinions of one Councillor doesn't necessarily represent the PC's view as they hadn't discussed the matter, however they were conscious of the impact of events on close neighbours. LD updated the PC on what they were planning for the event and that they couldn't use the Playing Field due to the drainage work next year and the closeness of neighbours. A Councillor expressed concern that it could set a precedent for future events at Tinkers Park. It was agreed that LD would meet with a Councillor to discuss the way forward.

240. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC – Cllr. Roy Galley's monthly report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. RG advised that a petition has been received signed by 7000 Hastings residents regarding the proposed cuts in buses. He advised that it is proposed that the buses for Hadlow Down be reduced.

Cllr. Michael Lunn (ML) joined the meeting at 7:53pm.

Cllr. Ken Ogden advised that the planning officer has confirmed that this ward would be included in the Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGS) for the development at Crowborough and when SANGS come to Uckfield this ward may also be included. ML confirmed this was correct and that he has spoken to the portfolio holder who is working to resolve and clarify the situation regarding the lack of SANGS that is affecting Hadlow Down and surrounding area.

KO asked RG, through the Chair, whether an agreement was made with the railway company that 60 parking spaces be removed in Uckfield High Street. RG advised that there would be an increase of approximately 140 spaces at various places in Uckfield and that he is trying to get some more spaces in the High Street. He confirmed that the Head of Planning and Environmental Services at WDC has advised that the Network Rail spaces are reliant on a reduction in the High Street parking spaces.

KO updated the PC on a presentation he had received from South East Water, they are unable to extract from the water tables in Wealden due to the amount of iron. He was concerned that this would encourage fracking. He also highlighted that 20% of our water is recycled and felt that South East

Water should be consulted when there are any large developments.

241. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for November 2014 was agreed and signed.

242. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :

- i. New forms were signed to add DW as a signatory for the bank account. *DW to photocopy and take into the bank.* **DW**
- ii. 2014/15 budget – a discussion was held and it was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting.
- iii. Precept 2015/16 a discussion was held on the grant applications, these will be agreed at the January meeting although it was agreed that when the Clerk writes to the TN22 Club she will check whether they are also applying for grants from other local Town and Parish Councils. A Councillor expressed concern that the PC's costs will increase due to cuts being made by WDC and ESCC.
- iv. The payment of £24.00 to Friends of East Sussex Record Office that was signed at the last meeting was ratified at this meeting.
- v. Assets register – the Clerk advised that the assets register figure for the play area equipment was not the total cost of the work as this included items such as consultation fees. The assets register figure should relate to the purchase cost or proxy cost which can be based on the insurance value or £1 and that the value doesn't change unless items are removed or added.
- vi. Internal auditor – it was agreed to appoint Alison Hillman as the internal audit of the 2014/15 accounts.
- vii. Fencing work around drainage cover in Hut Lane – the Clerk hasn't received any response from her request to tender, *she will email Councillors for details of any other Contractors.* **Clerk**
- viii. Ditching work – only 2 quotes have been received, *the Chair will send the Clerk details of another possible contractor.* **SR/Clerk**
- ix. VAT repayment – the Clerk confirmed that the VAT repayment of £1332.26 had been received.

243. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – c/f till the next meeting as no update is available.

254. ENTRANCE TO THE PLAYING FIELD – discussed in closed session

The chair reintroduced the public questions session

232. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Anne Yarrow (AY) updated the PC on the church's plans for an informal temporary car park that would be used for busy church events and by the school. The car park will be on the glebe land and will take approximately 25-30 cars on a gravel or hard core surface. From speaking to WDC planners and

ESCC highways it was felt that the best access would be from St Marks' Field. Concern was expressed that a car-park would cause further drainage problems for the houses below St Mark's Field, however it was considered that the proposed car-park surface would allow water to drain away. To be added to the next agenda.

The Church will look at putting a request to the PC for a grant towards the cost of the car park. Once this is received the Clerk will see if the PC have a power to pay for a grant and will then bring the request to a PC meeting.

252. BURIAL GROUND DRIVEWAY REGISTRATION – the Chair went through the documentation the Clerk has located regarding the burial ground driveway and confirmed that the PC were intending to register the driveway in their name.

244. MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY CENTRE, VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEES – the Clerk went through the items she already has for the agenda of the meeting and is expecting the agenda items from the committee representatives.

245. SOCIAL MEDIA – c/f to the next meeting

246. RISK ASSESSMENTS – DW agreed to do the quarterly risk assessments.

247. PARKING ON THE PAVEMENT IN MAIN ROAD – c/f to the next meeting.

248. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):

- i. Cllr. Clare Emsden advised that Highways will repair the broken pipe in Brick Kiln Lane at the junction with Stocklands Lane on 22 December 2014. Highways currently fix emergency potholes within 24 hours to a week and ESCC are aiming to fix less dangerous ones within one month. Details of the A27 Feasibility Study outcomes can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/dft>. She has asked GT to produce a report of his meeting with the Highways steward.
The gullies are currently being assessed in Hadlow Down and those which are blocked will be cleared soon.
CE confirmed that she had attended the CAB AGM at which the PC were thanked for their grant.
- ii. Cllr. Michael Lunn attended the Uckfield Regeneration meeting as an observer and confirmed that the changes being made in Uckfield will have an impact on Hadlow Down residents. He will

- investigate further regarding the station car park resulting in the loss of some street parking.
- iii. Cllr. Damon Wellman advised that he had attended the WDC Planning Conference and had requested the plan of the areas covered by the Ashdown Forest 7km exclusion zone. He was informed that the plan won't be produced as the zone may alter in size. He confirmed that WDC are redoing the conservation areas within their district. To be discussed at the next PC meeting.

DW confirmed that planning enforcement are corresponding with the owner of the bike track at Five Chimneys Farm.

ML confirmed that WDC are taking planning enforcement action against the owners of Scocus Farm and are taking action to clear the site.

DW advised that he will send Councillors an update from the Aviation Action Group meeting. **DW**

- iv. Cllr Sandra Richards advised that the PC had been sent details of a discount sandbag purchase offer from WDC. It was decided not to purchase any.

249. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed

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

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £923.80 includes £18 mileage and £33.57 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £303.80.
- ii. Wellers Law Group LLP £276.00 legal advice.
- iii. Graham Long £74.40 mole catching.
- iv. Wealden District Council £314.52 Parish Conference (£60) and litter bin emptying (£254.52).
- v. BT £161.28 telephone and broadband use, paid by direct debit

251. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- ii. Grey Matters and East Sussex Seniors Association newsletter.
- iii. Correspondence regarding Hall Lane – the work on the potholes in Hall Lane has now been dealt with.

253. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- i. Publication of Proposed Submission Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan – the Clerk has complained to WDC that the final date for responses is prior to the next meeting, she is waiting for a response from them. Document to be sent to Councillors.

252. BURIAL GROUND DRIVEWAY REGISTRATION – 5 Councillors had written to the Clerk requesting that the decision made within the last 6 months be revisited. It was agreed that the *Clerk would try to register the driveway in the PC's name, using the documentation she has available.* **Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9:34pm