



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 December 3rd 2013.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Nathan James (NJ) Clare Emsden (CE), Damon Wellman (DW), Michael Lunn (ML) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.
Apologies were received from Cllr. Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC).

192. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – none received

193. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Graham Terry (GT).

194. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – SR and CE declared a personal interest in point 206 regarding the CAB.

195. CRIME REPORT AND MEETING WITH THE POLICE COMMISSIONER – PCSO David Davies in his absence had reported the theft of cables from generators, the Chair updated the Parish Council (PC) on this. DW and CE will attend a meeting in January with the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. The Clerk informed the PC of the agenda items, *she will write to RG to request that the theft of cables, tractors, 4x4s and heating oil also appear on the agenda.* **Clerk**

196. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 5th November 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

197. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

- i. Emergency plan – it was agreed that a meeting would be held on a Saturday morning.
- ii. Green Lane 24 – CE confirmed that the closure has been extended and the work may not be undertaken till 2014/15 due to a lack of funds. New metal barriers have been ordered that will still allow pedestrians to use the path. *CE will write to the Rights of Way team advising them of the PC's dissatisfaction and that they would like the work to be done in the 2013/14 financial year, RG to be copied in on the letter.* **CE**
- iii. NJ confirmed that he has raised with the Playing Field committee the issue with the wobbly log at the play area, they will rectify the problem.
- iv. The minutes of the Parish Planning Panel meeting were circulated to all Councillors.
- v. Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
 - a. The Clerk wrote to Highways regarding clearing of the gullies, these should all be done in December.
 - b. Highways will be writing to the owners of the land adjacent to Waghorns Lane and School Lane where the hedgerow needs to be cut back.
A Councillor highlighted that a hedge also needs cutting back in Five Chimneys Lane, *the Clerk will write to the landowner.* **Clerk**

198a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/2348/FA – FIVE BADGERS, STONEHURST LANE** – Variation of condition no.s 1 and 2 of WD/2009/Change of use of land for stationing of two caravans for residential occupation by gypsy-traveller family - The Parish Council agree to an extension of two years for the siting of the 2 caravans on the site, in order to allow time for the Wealden District Council Site Allocations document to be issued and for the applicants to seek alternative accommodation. Only Mr E. J. Moore, his wife and dependant children should be allowed to occupy this site in these two years. (5/0)

b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/2022/F – HARTS COTTAGE, STONEHURST LANE** – Replacement of existing outbuilding to

provide ancillary accommodation.

- ii. **WD/2013/1982/F – THE NEW HOUSE, SCHOOL LANE** – Proposed granny annexe.
 - iii. **WD/2013/1878/F – THE OAST HOUSE, DUDES LAND FARM** – Single storey extension to an existing detached double garage and studio to form guest accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling.
 - iv. **WD/2013/1981/F – SHEPHERDS HILL HOUSE, SHEPHERDS HILL** – Extension to existing garage to provide ancillary accommodation.
- 199. REPORT FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY ESCC** – in his absence RG had reported that a detailed assessment was being made on what speed control measures could be introduced on the A267 from the junction with the A272 towards Heathfield.
- 200. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for November 2013 was agreed and signed.
- 201. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS** –
- i. The payment of £71.28 for Wealden District Council for dog bin emptying that was signed at the 5th November meeting. was ratified at this meeting.
 - ii. The PC ratified the decision made by ML and NJ for the payment of £53 for emergency computer work.
 - iii. The PC agreed the appointment of a new internal auditor for the 2013/14 accounts.
 - iv. The Clerk advised that legislation is currently going through to remove the requirement for 2 cheque signatories for PC payments. Guidance will then be issued on making electronic payments.
 - v. The PC agreed the changes to the Financial Regulations.
- 202. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – it was confirmed that the Community Centre Committee were no longer applying for a grant from the Parish Council for 2014/15.
- 203. VILLAGE HALL LAND AND HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS** – the Clerk advised that she had spoken to the Solicitor who had reviewed the historical documentation recently given to the PC. He thinks that the Deed of Gift was never signed however he felt that the PC could update the registration for the land to absolute by using the Abstract and the Conveyance. It was agreed that *the Clerk would apply for Absolute Title.* **Clerk**
- 204. COMMUNITY PLAN** – a meeting was arranged to discuss the Community Plan.
- 205. HIGHWAYS** – the Clerk informed the meeting that the Head of Highways had advised that the PC would in future have to pay for the work previously undertaken by the Village Maintenance Team. He will also be presenting a paper in January looking at matched funding with Town and Parish Councils, however it isn't known what items this relates to. The Clerk has added a contingency into the 2014/15 precept for Highways work. There is the possibility of clusters of towns and parishes working together, consideration will need to be given to public liability insurance and traffic management. It was agreed that the PC will continue to ask Highways to undertake work and may join with other local councils to object to the extra work and cost for the PC.
- Concern was raised that roads are being gritted despite the temperature not being that low, the *Clerk will write to Highways.* **Clerk**
- 206. PRECEPT** – a discussion was held on the updated precept, as decisions are still awaited from central government the Parish Council will decide the precept at the January meeting.
- 207. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
- i. Cllr. Damon Wellman asked when Hastingford Lane was due to be resurfaced. The Clerk has written to Highways requesting when a decision will be made regarding resurfacing in 2014/15 and when the PC will be advised of a date for the resurfacing of this lane. She has also asked for the same information for Brick Kiln Lane.
- DW highlighted a sunken hydrant on Main Road and that the telegraph pole east of Tinkers Lane obstructs visibility when pulling out of the lane. *Clerk to report to Highways and add the telegraph pole onto the next SLR agenda.* **Clerk**
- ii. Cllr. Nathan James highlighted that the speed sign had still not been replaced to the east of Wilderness Wood, the Clerk has written to Highways requesting a date from the Minor Works Team for when this will be replaced.
- NJ advised that there had been an incident with rook scarers being let off near the New Inn, this had been dealt with.
- A resident had contacted NJ regarding the drainage in Hut Lane, he has investigated and when he has some planings or tarmac he will lay them to help ensure the water goes down the drainage pipes.
- iii. Cllr. Clare Emsden had attended the CAB AGM and updated the PC on this.
- 208. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed
 - ii. DW and SR had undertaken the Clerk's annual review, SR updated the PC on this.
 - iii. The Clerk updated the PC on the Clerks Networking Day. It was agreed that A4 laminated posters would be produced advertising the event, a personal invite would be sent to new villagers, Councillors and the

Clerk would have name badges and 2 Councillors would be allocated to meet and greet. The Clerk also updated the PC on the pensions presentation, she is waiting for a response from SALC regarding a query she has raised on this.

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

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £791.01 includes £22.95 mileage and £55.00 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £171.01.
- ii. Wealden District Council £249.48 litter bin emptying.
- iii. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £80.00 play area maintenance.
- iv. Compact Cutting £120.00 grass cutting at the playing field
- v. BT £142.35 telephone and internet, Arlington Parish Council will be invoiced for £58.21 of this cost. already paid by direct debit.

One further cheque for £100 for Hadlow Down Village Hall for hire of the hall was also signed and will be ratified at the January meeting.

210. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. Consultation regarding VAT – it was decided that the *Clerk would respond supporting option 2 which could potentially enable tax refunds on extension and alteration work to village halls and other supplies.* **Clerk**
- ii. East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy Consultation – concern was expressed that the proposals would result in more flytipping and that it could take longer to travel between the tips than what was quoted in the consultation. *The Clerk will respond.* **Clerk**

211. CORRESPONDENCE NOT REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. Correspondence regarding drainage in Hut Lane – discussed at point 207ii.

212. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA :

- i. Planning meeting to be held on 12th December.
- ii. Emergency Plan
- iii. Action dates for items raised at the SLR meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8:34pm