



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday December 4th 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), Nathan James (NJ), Clare Emsden (CE) and Damon Wellman (DW). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells (HSW).
Apologies received from Cllr. Tony Reid (ESCC).

226. PUBLIC QUESTIONS: Janet Tourell (JT) confirmed that she hadn't received the estimate from Monks, the Clerk offered to chase them. JT advised that the only major item highlighted was the distribution board and that the external cable was not reported as a major issue.
Anne Yarrow raised that the church was trying to update the Hadlow Down welcome leaflet, they would like assistance with this and financial help with the small amount of costs involved. The leaflet will be distributed with the Parish Magazine to current residents and in the future to new residents.

Cllr. Ken Ogden (KO) joined the meeting at 7:10pm

227. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: none received

228. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – no declarations of interest were received. It was resolved to grant all Councillors, present at the meeting, dispensation to both speak and vote on the 2013/14 precept at both this and any other meeting where it is discussed

229. CRIME REPORT – nothing received in PCSO Davies' absence. The police website only shows crimes from October, these were reported at the last meeting.

230. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 20th November 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record apart from point 212v should have shown SR/Clerk having the action point and not NJ, minutes amended.

231. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

- i. Bus Shelter – lawful development forms –c/f ML
- ii. Emergency planning –contact details for previous co-ordinator – c/f ML
- iii. Car sharing – NJ confirmed that he had spoken to Eddie Westfield (EW) and that the Clerk had sent him information regarding car insurance, *he will email the internet link to EW. NJ to also do an article for the website.* NJ
- iv. The Clerk had been given a copy of the kitchen key for the Village Hall
- v. Clerks Report: was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points and included:
 - a. Bridlepath report to be taken into consideration when ESCC look at their Rights of Way work for 2013-14.
 - b. Highways have inspected the bollard area outside the New Inn and outside The Grange and will tarmac these on 5th December. A Councillor queried why ESCC were paying for the work when it is known who damaged both sets of bollards. *The Clerk will speak to the Highways steward to clarify what happens in these situations.* Clerk

232. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2012/2242/LDE – THE OASTS, BROADREED FARM, CRIERS LANE TN20 6LG** – four bay garage and store – The Parish Council agree with the information on the application (5/0)
- ii. **WD/2012/2277/LB – HASTINGFORD COTTAGE, HASTINGFORD LANE TN22 4DY** – re-roof the cottage to include internal insulation – The Parish Council agree with the application (5/0).

APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2012/2132/F – LITTLE MANOR** – single storey kitchen extension

PLANNING MATTERS:

i. The Clerk updated the Parish Council (PC) on Cherry Tree Cottage, the sheds on the site relate to an approved planning application.

233. PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION – the Clerk confirmed that she had received an order confirming the diversion of part of footpath no.33. A member questioned whether the improvements that were needed and were highlighted by the PC have been made. *The Clerk will contact the Rights of Way Team to request work be undertaken on this section.* **Clerk**

234. REPORT FROM CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC: KO advised that in future Grade 2 applications will only have 1 application rather than 2. The Wealden Plan has been approved, he would have preferred for a nitrogen plan to be agreed however there is £100,000 available to study nitrogen content and its impact on the forest, this leaves a possible opening for affordable housing, new Village Halls etc. The issue is being discussed on radio 4 on 5th December. KO updated the PC on the council tax base, concern was expressed by a Councillor on the tight timescales and that a referendum may be required if the precept increases by more than 2%.

The Chair confirmed that representatives of the PC and the Community Centre committee are meeting with WDC in December, *SR to confirm date and time of meeting to KO in order that he can attend.* **SR**

Standing orders suspended

JT queried the date of the meeting.

Standing orders reinstated.

244. HUT LANE DRAINAGE – CE confirmed that there is a meeting on 13th December with representatives from ESCC Highways and Southern Water regarding the Hut Lane drainage. SR and CE will take notes of the meeting.

Standing orders suspended

JT asked that it be raised with Southern Water that there is occasionally a strong smell of sewerage, mainly after the weekend, this isn't coming from the Village Hall.

Standing orders reinstated

KO left the meeting

235. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for November 2012 was agreed and signed.

236. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

ii. Bike track – GT advised that a member of the Playing Field committee has offered to flatten the bike jumps, the Parish Council agreed to pay for the diesel costs involved in the work. Warning signs about not using the bike track have been posted up and the Clerk advised that the bike track signs will need to be removed once the work has been completed, *GT advised that he will ensure this is done.* **GT**

iii. Electrical quotes for VH – see point 226.

iv. The Parish Council agreed to the updated Financial Regulations subject to the amendments that were agreed.

v. The Parish Council agreed to appoint John Roberts to do the internal audit for the 2012/13 end of year

237. CHURCH VILLAGE DIRECTORY – a discussion was held on the directory and it was felt that it was good for it to be updated. SR offered to assist with updating those articles she could, CE to also assist. It was agreed that the costs would be discussed when further details are available, these may need to be paid under power given in the Local Government Act 1972 s.137

238. COUNCIL TAX BASE – a discussion was held on information that was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting, on the changes to the council tax base. A written request signed by 3 Councillors requested that the decision made regarding the precept at the November meeting, be revisited at a future meeting once all the relevant information has been received from WDC. It was felt that villagers should be aware that the Parish Council want to keep the precept at the same level as the last 2 years, however due to government changes that will affect the council tax base, there may need to be an increase.

239. NEWSLETTER – the following topics were agreed for the February newsletter:

Ashdown Forest 7km zone – GT to write article and add map

Precept – DW

Police liaison and attendance at PC meetings – SR, Clerk to obtain photograph and contact details.

Bridleways and Footpaths – CE

Youth Shelter – NJ

All articles to be brought to the 8th January meeting, GT agreed to edit the newsletter.

ALL

A Councillor raised that a footpath is being used by horseriders, *CE to investigate.*

CE

240. ACCESS ONTO THE PLAYING FIELD – it was questioned whether there had previously been an agreement between the housing association and the PC over access onto the Playing Field, *Clerk to investigate.* **Clerk**
The Clerk updated the PC on the legal position regarding private access, it was agreed that the Clerk would

draft a letter to be discussed at the next meeting.

Clerk

- 241. DEER** - it was felt that there were more deer on the roads especially at dusk and early in the morning and they normally weren't alone. *It was agreed for GT to do an article for the newsletter.* **GT**
- 242. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – meeting to be held with WDC. SR updated the PC on the conversation she had with the Buxted PC Clerk regarding their plans for a new village hall.
- 243. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID** – SR informed the PC on the Community Right to Bid part of the Localism Act, a discussion was held on the village assets and whether it was felt any of these should be registered. 3 Councillors felt that nothing should be registered, 2 were undecided.

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

Cllr. Nathan James – Youth and Emergency Planning – NJ advised that EW will be showing him how to use the emergency radio, WDC are to make a decision as to whether they will continue to use the radios. He advised that a young girl had recently been hit by a car wing mirror as she was walking along Main Road, *NJ to email the Clerk with the date and site of the incident in order that she can report it to the ESCC Highways Safety Manager.*

Clerk/NJ

Cllr. Clare Emsden – Highways – CE updated the PC on ESCC's speed recording in School Lane, a discussion was held on what action could be taken to reduce the speed of traffic, *CE to contact Highways to see what they suggest.*

CE

Cllr. Graham Terry – Village Hall and Playing Field – GT advised that he had been given a folder of paperwork from a villager relating to the Village Hall and Playing Field. *The Clerk will copy some to the solicitor who is handling the Village Hall land registration, Clerk to also acknowledge receipt of the paperwork to the villager.*

Clerk

Cllr. Sandra Richards – SR advised that the waste contract at WDC will be changing and people will, in the future, have 2 bins, 1 for all their recycling including glass and 1 for all other rubbish, in April the contractor will change.

246. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. Hours agreed and signed
- ii. The Clerk advised that the football and pool tables were very rickety and that Colin James has agreed to collect them and decide whether they should be kept. The PC agreed that the bibs and other small items could be given to the school and that the Clerk could offer the table tennis table for sale and agree the selling price.
- iii. The Clerk updated the PC on the process following the objection to the double yellow lines extension in School Lane. *She will contact ESCC later in the month for an update and the date of the planning meeting.*
- iv. The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by a church warden regarding ownership of the burial ground drive and parking area and regarding the access rights over these. She has investigated and undertaken a Land Registry search. The PC own the drive from the pillars to the new burial ground, *she will speak to a villager who was a Councillor at the time the work was undertaken on the drive* and she has recommended that the church see what paperwork Diocesan House has. To discuss further at the next meeting.
- v. The Clerk advised that NJ had measured the area to the south of the village hall to a point in line with the middle of the westerly and easterly hedges this came to 2.4ms, the trustees of the hall were updated on the measurement. Since then GT has been given a plan which shows a measurement of 11ft (approx.. 3.35m), the Clerk has updated the solicitor and will send him a copy of the plan, he will then write to the Land Registry.
- vi. The Clerk advised the PC that the Rotherfield PC Clerk had a meeting with ESCC regarding their fingerpost contract, there should be some money available. She is awaiting a copy of the minutes of the meeting and will update further when these are received.

Clerk

Clerk

247. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: The following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £747.02 includes £6.00 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £127.02.
- ii. Simon Fitt £200.00 burial ground maintenance.
- iii. Viking £79.16 stationery
- iv. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £75.00 play area maintenance
- v. Friends of East Sussex Record Office £24.00
- vi. BT £157.50, telephone and internet paid by direct debit. Arlington PC will be invoiced £54.76 for their share of the invoice, also credits of £39.06 will be added to the next bill from BT.

248. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. Permitted development consultation – the Chair updated the PC on the consultation, as it mainly

relates to areas not protected by an AONB it was agreed not to respond.

249. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

- i. English Rural Housing Association's Annual Report 2012

250. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

- i. East Sussex Cultural Strategy consultation – no response to be made.
- ii. ESCC Permits consultation – no response to be made.

DW agreed to do the risk assessments in December and report back at the January meeting.

Cllrs. advised the Clerk when they could attend the WDC Parish Training.

DW

The meeting closed at 9:10pm

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be
on 8th January 2013 at 7pm.**