



MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in the committee room at Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Monday 15th 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), Michael Lunn (ML), Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY), Nathan James (NJ) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells. Apologies were received from Cllr. Ken Ogden (WDC).

255. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – a member of the public highlighted the information being quoted in one of the political party's local election leaflet.

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

257. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none received.

258. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: the following payment was agreed and the cheque was signed:

- i. Compact Cutting £336.00, play area maintenance £168, burial ground maintenance £168.00.

The Chair of the Parish Council (PC) thanked the chairs of the Playing Field, Community Centre and Village Hall Committees for attending the meeting and invited them to be involved in the discussions regarding items 259 – 266.

259. CONTEXT AND INTRODUCTION – Fiona Shafer (FS) thanked the PC for holding the meeting and advised that the 3 committees wanted to increase communication between them and the PC and that the village meeting had identified that communication probably wasn't as good as it could have been.

260. VILLAGE HALL – Janet Tourell (JT) thanked the PC for their support. She confirmed that a new hall is required. They have considered enlarging the current hall, however due to lack of parking and Highway's concerns over access from the A272, this wasn't considered a suitable option. A condition survey was undertaken a few years ago however the cost of improvements, the required adoption of Hut Lane and the purchase of land required for extra parking, is too high for it to be feasible. JT went through the grants they have received and the work they have needed to do to the village hall, she also advised of their financial position and that the current hall isn't big enough for all groups. She reminded the PC that a new community hall appears on the Community Plan.

Councillors asked JT questions about the lifespan of the current building. It was confirmed that it wasn't fit for purpose and that they are starting to have problems with the roof.

The Chair thanked the committee and especially JT for all their hard work in keeping the hall running.

261. PLAYING FIELD – Fiona Shafer advised that they hoped that the drainage work would start in April and that they now have all of the funding for the project apart from £324. Bob Lake (BL) was thanked for his efforts in obtaining the funding. The cricket won't be affected by the work till September and they can hopefully reschedule their matches or play them elsewhere. The committee are hoping that the work will be finished by the autumn. A councillor asked about the charge on the land that had been requested by Sport England for the grant funding and that the PC were still awaiting the wording for this. It was agreed that BL would send the Sport England contact details to ML in order that *ML can write to them regarding the required wording.*

ML

The Chair allowed a member of the public to ask how the drainage work will impact on the Village Fayre. FS confirmed that she had spoken to the chair of the organizing committee and she detailed the other venues that are being considered.

The Chair thanked FS for her work with the committee and congratulated them on the funding they have obtained.

262. COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT – Bob Lake advised that his comments are the views of the Hadlow Down

Community Centre committee (HDCC). They feel worried and frustrated that they haven't been kept in the loop regarding the lease with the St Mark's School House Trust for the land at the entrance to the Playing Field. They aren't going to push ahead with the new community centre (CC) until the matter of the lease is resolved. The Chair advised that the Trustees asked for the discussions regarding the land to be kept confidential and that the PC have asked on a couple of occasions to be released from this however the Trustees have continued to want it to remain confidential. *She will speak to them to see if some information can be released.*

SR

A councillor confirmed that he has requested that when the situation is resolved that the closed session minutes be put in the public domain.

BL confirmed that the disposal of the village hall (VH) will be a decision for the PC and the VH committee and the disposal of the pavilion will be a decision for the PC and the playing field committee. The only option for the pavilion is demolition.

BL updated the meeting on the HDCC finances and confirmed that the committee need guidance from the PC regarding the disposal of the VH and whether the PC would pay for its demolition.

A councillor updated the meeting on the situation regarding the building of the new hall in Buxted and WDC's requirements regarding the old Reading Room.

BL confirmed that the committee were considering applying to the PC for a grant for 2015/16 however they were advised that they wouldn't get this unless the appendices for the Business Plan had been completed. He has obtained costings from architects and would like the PC to contribute on a pro-rata basis towards these costs. He expressed concern that the PC is not supporting the new CC and questioned whether councillor's personal views were conflicting with their views as councillors. He asked for the PC's support. The Chair confirmed that in the PC's minutes and from votes taken it can be seen that they support a new CC.

A member of the public confirmed that a few years ago the PC had passed a resolution supporting the new CC.

The Chair confirmed that the main item required from the appendices relates to the financing of the project. If the PC is going to need to fund some of the project they will need to be aware of this at an early stage. BL advised that this had never been communicated to them and that they need to do the design to be able to know what the costs would be however, they need some funding in order to do the design.

BL advised of the possible cost for the designs and that they would be looking at the PC contributing 50% of this. *BL agreed to send the PC details of the timescale and amounts of payments for the architects' work.* This will be needed before the 13th Jan PC meeting when the 2015/16 precept will be agreed. **BL** By 2016 the Playing Field should be earning an income as it will be able to be hired by football and cricket teams.

The PC agreed with everything the Chair had said. A councillor commented that they represented the villagers, some of which have concerns over money been spent on a new CC. BL highlighted that a new CC was 1 of the PC's priorities and that in the village survey nearly 70% of responders wanted a hall on a new site.

The Clerk advised that if the PC had to apply for a loan that they would need financial documentation from HDCC for the application. BL confirmed that this wouldn't be a problem.

A member of the public highlighted that the Business Plan wasn't yet on the HDCC website, *JT to investigate.*

JT

- 263. SUPPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL** – it was felt that quarterly meetings should be held between the PC and the committees' representatives. The Chair highlighted that due to the way PC's are governed, that the PC needed to have sufficient notice if they need to make any decisions as these would have to be made at a PC meeting.
- 264. FUTURE PLANS FOR THE COMMITTEES AND THE VILLAGE HALL AND LAND** – the Chair advised that there are a number of options regarding the VH, one is to see if the situation regarding the Ashdown Forest 7km zone changes, another is to pull it down. The Chair invited views from the PC, it was suggested to pull it down and make it into a green space, although it was highlighted that it would be expensive to demolish. The chair confirmed that the PC can't make a decision until the lease has been surrendered to them and therefore discussions with the VH committee can only be held at this stage. It was felt that planning advice should be obtained from WDC however a decision on the way forward wouldn't be made till later in 2015.
- A councillor highlighted that at the HDCC village meeting that it was discussed about meeting with the PC to identify options for the village hall and to then present these to the public.
- The Chair confirmed that the PC would discuss with the village if they wanted to get a loan for the building of the CC and they would also speak to the village regarding any plans they have for the village hall site.
- BL confirmed that HDCC will have a public meeting before they submit their planning application.

The Chair advised that it is possible that the VH could be a SANGS (suitable alternative natural green spaces) windfall linked to the SANGS in Crowborough and possibly to the one in Uckfield. She asked JT whether the VH committee would be in agreement with this. *JT will raise this with the VH / committee at their next meeting and will then update the PC.* JT

- 263. SUPPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL** – a Councillor questioned the number of meetings proposed between the PC and the chairs of the 3 committees. The Chair confirmed that any major decisions would be taken to a village meeting. It was agreed to have the next 2 meetings on a quarterly basis and to then review the frequency.
- 264. FUTURE PLANS FOR THE COMMITTEES AND THE VILLAGE HALL AND LAND** – The committees were asked if they were planning to amalgamate and it was confirmed that they weren't currently proposing to do this.
- 265. DRAINAGE WORK AND GRASS CUTTING AT THE PLAYING FIELD** – it was questioned whether the grass cutting contracts for the playing field and the play area should be combined and whether the playing field committee would like the PC to take over the organization for obtaining quotes for the playing field contract.
The Clerk questioned whether the Playing Field committee would still need a grant for the grasscutting in 2015 due to the drainage grant which covered grasscutting. BL confirmed that if the project is completed by August 2015 the grass cutting won't be required till the following year which would be covered within the Sport England grant. They will probably need a grant from us from 2017-18 onwards. In the future they hope to buy their own equipment and cut the grass themselves.
- 266. MUSIC LICENCE FOR EVENTS AT THE PLAYING FIELD** - the Clerk highlighted that hirers of the playing field should have a licence to play music. *She will send a copy of the documentation relating to this to FS.* Clerk
A councillor asked how the changes to the village website from 1st Jan. 2015 would affect communication. BL confirmed that they would increase their resolve to update the HDCC website and facebook page. JT confirmed that the VH is now on facebook.
- 267. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
a. **WD/2014/2524/F - 3 SCHOOL LANE COTTAGES , SCHOOL LANE, TN22 4JD** – Single storey side extension – the Parish Council fully support the application. (6/0)
- 268. PROPOSED SUBMISSION AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY LOCAL PLAN** – the response was agreed.
- 269. ENTRANCE TO THE PLAYING FIELD** – discussed in closed session.

The meeting closed at 9pm