



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 3rd February 2015.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY), Nathan James (NJ), Graham Terry (GT), Damon Wellman (DW) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.
Apologies were received from Cllr. Roy Galley (ESCC).

293. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – nothing raised

294. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – none received.

295. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none received.

296. OPERATION CRACKDOWN PRESENTATION given by Jim Stobart, Road Safety/ASD Co-ordinator.

Cllr. Clare Emsden (CE) joined the meeting at 7:05pm.

Cllr. Michael Lunn (ML) joined the meeting at 7:06pm

Cllr. Ken Ogden (KO) (WDC) joined the meeting at 7:12pm

To report unsocial driving or abandoned vehicles ring 01243642222 or on their website at:

<http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>. Data on accidents can be found at:

<http://dashboard.sussexsrp.org.uk/>. A questions and answers session followed.

297. CRIME REPORT – PCSO David Davies in his absence has advised that nothing of concern has happened in the area in the last month. A Councillor advised that a car had been broken into in School Lane on 2nd February.

298. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 13th January 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

299. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

i. NJ confirmed that he had cleared out the filter cover for the drainage pipe in Hut Lane. He was thanked for his work on this.

ii. *CE confirmed that she is organizing a date with a resident to visit Dog Kennel Lane and Criers Lane, she would like to combine this with meeting up with a resident who has written to the Parish Council (PC) complaining about the state of the road in Criers Lane.* **CE**

It was felt that the jet patching hadn't improved the road surface and that the patching had come back out of the potholes. A Councillor has spoken to the Highways steward about the road and is awaiting a response from him.

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the May Gurney representative regarding the road surface in Criers Lane and Pound Green, if he isn't able to help SR will write to the Head of Highways. SR to take photographs of the problems in Criers Lane. **Clerk/SR**

iii. Signatory for the bank account, DW confirmed that the signed papers were handed into the bank, *the Clerk will contact them..* **Clerk**

iv. DW advised that he had not issued a summary of the Aviation Action group meeting as there had been further developments since then.

v. Wealden Conservation sites – no further action to be taken.

vi. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent the PCs response to the Long Term Aviation Capacity consultation. JMY and DW have agreed to attend the meeting with Gatwick representatives in April. Another PC has suggested that a representative from each local PC attend a meeting prior to the Gatwick meeting, this was agreed by the PC.

vii. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:

- a. The Clerk has visited East Sussex Record Office and has liaised with church representatives over the ownership of the burial ground driveway and parking area. She is awaiting a letter from a previous churchwarden and will then write to the Land Registry for advice on the way forward.
- b. The website and Parish Magazine have been updated with JMY's details. CE advised that there was an error in the Parish Magazine, *the Clerk will arrange for this to be corrected.* **Clerk**
- c. There has been a delay in getting all of the work done on the fingerposts, the PC will be invoiced for the work that has been completed by the end of February. *Clerk to diarise for CE and NJ to undertake the quarterly review of fingerposts in the Spring.* **Clerk**

300. PLANNING:

a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

WD/2015/0009/FR – HASTINGFORD HOUSE, HASTINGFORD LANE TN22 4DY – Retention of tree house.

The Chair opened the meeting for KO to make a comment.

KO advised that he had received some complaints about the tree house. The PC have not received any complaints.

The Parish Council support the application.

b. WITHDRAWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

WD/2014/2423/FR – LAND AT HADLOW OAST FARM, CURTAINS HILL – Retrospective application for replacement gate access from field to A272. *It was agreed that the Clerk would contact planning before the next meeting to see if a further application has been submitted.* **Clerk**

c. APPROVED APPLICATIONS:

WD/2014/2524/F – 3 SCHOOL LANE COTTAGES, SCHOOL LANE – Single storey side extension.

- 301. REPORT FROM CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC –** KO advised that he had questioned WDC over an incorrect minute. On Saturday 7th February there is a meeting at Uckfield Civic Centre about the plans for parking in Uckfield. The dustcart workforce have complained about their conditions of work. He has asked questions about payment for the nitrogen testing at Ashdown Forest and he confirmed that so far £100,000 has been paid to Ecus for monitoring and testing and that in total £1 million has been set aside for the testing. KO gave the Clerk a list of the donations that have been made from his and Cllr. Buck's share of the Community Dividend Fund. KO updated the meeting on WDC's response to the Long Term Aviation Capacity consultation.

- 302. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for January 2015 was agreed and signed.

303. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :

- i. Financial Regulations – c/f to the next meeting. It was agreed that in future they would be reviewed every 2 years.
- ii. Request for grant from HDCC – the Clerk advised that she had received a third quote for the design work for the new Community Centre, she has written to the Chair of the Committee with some questions about this and asking if the further quote will be sent, she has not so far received a response and it was therefore decided to c/f this item to the next meeting. It was agreed that the *Clerk would contact the Chair of HDCC for a response to her email.* **Clerk**
The Chair updated the PC on the VAT rules regarding the PC's contribution to the design work.
- iii. Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel report on Parish Councillor Allowances – the Clerk updated the PC on the new allowances. Notice to be put on the noticeboards.

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

- i. Cllr. Graham Terry advised that a spring clean of the Village Hall is being undertaken on 20th Feb 2pm – 5pm and 21st Feb 10am – 1pm, any help would be gratefully received. On 27th February at 7:30pm there will be the combined AGMs of the Village Fayre, Village Hall, Playing Field and HDCC committees which he encouraged Councillors to attend. He had attended the Police Local Action Team meeting and there were 2 speed reduction initiatives that he would like to discuss at the next PC meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting to KO to comment on this item.

KO advised that in Maresfield they are changing the speed in the 40mph areas to 30mph and in the 30mph areas to 20mph. It is costing £5000 per sign. Cameras being linked to automatic number plate reduction was also discussed.

- ii. Cllr. Nathan James advised that the Playing Field Committee are in discussion with Buxted Cricket Club regarding the occasional use of the Playing Field and about them helping with maintenance costs. He had received reports from villagers regarding ice and the gritters and highlighted particular concern on the A272 at the top of Tinkers Lane and at the brow of the hill opposite the entrance to Little England Farm.
- iii. Cllr. Michael Lunn updated the PC on the Wealden District Association of Local Councils (WDALC) meeting. The police are restructuring over the next 5 years and frontline services will be cut, they will be looking at a different way of policing over the next few years. There was also a presentation at the

meeting on road safety across WDC.

ML confirmed that the development of SANGS at Walshes Manor, Crowborough has been approved and the one at Ridgewood in Uckfield is due to be discussed. The Chair asked when the PC should put in their application for the Village Hall to be a SANGS windfall. ML and KO both confirmed that they are continuing to push for this at WDC and the Head of Planning has confirmed that it will be included in the SANGS windfalls for Ridgewood.

- iv. Cllr. Clare Emsden reported that the two gullies at the bottom of Waghorns Lane are still blocked. The Clerk has asked Highways to arrange for them to be unblocked. The Clerk has been informed that at the top of Tinkers Lane, on Main Road, that the camber of the road is causing a problem with flooding however if this was changed more water would then travel down Tinkers Lane. They will continue to work on the flooding problem there. *The Clerk will contact Highways regarding the gully opposite Tinkers Lane.* **Clerk**

With regard to the problem in Wilderness Lane, in about 2-3 weeks' time, Highways will try and find the pipe that has been highlighted to them and if they locate it they will rod it out.

At Mayfield Flats there are some broken drains which as they are broken at the bottom, the jetter cannot clear them out, Highways will undertake some work on these however no date has been given. They are also looking to take action against the landowner who has been discharging from his land.

The Clerk will contact Highways regarding the outstanding gulley clearing on the A272. **Clerk**

The Clerk has contacted Highways requesting an update on all outstanding highways issues.

The A272 will be closed for resurfacing work on 16/2 for 1 week. *The Clerk will advise DW of contact details to report any problems with the work.* Concern was expressed over the use of rural roads during the resurfacing. **Clerk**

- 305. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – SR confirmed that she had attended the recent HDCC meeting. The Clerk has looked into questions raised about VAT. There is zero VAT rating on new builds for village halls and the Clerk has suggested that HDCC take advice from AirS (Action in Rural Sussex).
- 306. EMERGENCY RADIO** – it was highlighted that the emergency radio had needed to be moved and that control checks were no longer being undertaken by WDC. It was agreed to keep it and store it in the emergency team's cupboard in the ladies toilet.
- 307. PARISH ASSEMBLY** – the PC identified new residents that they were aware of that could be sent a personal invite to the Parish Assembly. The Clerk will check that the Sussex Police Commissioner can still attend.
- 308. ELECTIONS** - the Clerk handed out details of key dates for the election process. One councillor advised that he will need to step down if he has to move away from the village.
- 309. RISK ASSESSMENTS** – the completed quarterly risk assessments were given to the Clerk, *she will contact the Playing Field committee about the rubber matting around the trees.* **Clerk**
- 310. HIGHWAYS** – GT advised that he had driven the Highways steward around the village and had highlighted problems, however no work has been done since then. He has contacted the steward requesting an update *and will follow up with him about the potholes in School Lane and Stocklands Lane.* **GT**
Potholes in Nursery Lane were highlighted, *the Clerk will contact Highways.* **Clerk**
- 311. BROADBAND** – an article went on the website and on Twitter asking villagers to contact SR with any problems they are having with broadband. It was agreed for *SR to write to Charles Hendry MP regarding the problems, NJ to check broadband speed and advise SR of figures.* **SR/NJ**
- 312. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- Hours agreed and signed. The Clerk confirmed how much time she had spent on Twitter in January.
 - Road sweeping – the Clerk confirmed that WDC mechanically sweep the main roads around Hadlow Down every 12 weeks and requested that Councillors inform her of any areas where they feel this isn't happening.
- 313. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:
- Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £905.42 includes £22.50 mileage, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £285.42.
 - The Society of Local Council Clerks £96.86 subscription.
 - Compact Cutting £288 hedgecutting and path clearing.
 - Wealden District Council £357.54 dog and litter bin emptying.
- 314. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
- ESCC Shaping the future of our countryside access survey – *the Clerk will respond advising that the PC don't want cutbacks.* **Clerk**
 - The Clerk advised that she had received correspondence from a resident complaining about Highway's gritting and the number of accidents that have occurred. The Clerk has liaised with Highways and has highlighted the A272 near Five Chimneys Lane and the A267 at Mayfield Flats. Highways have requested that the gritter drivers pay particular attention to wet patches on the A267 and A272 and

dispense a 'blast' of salt to known problem areas. Councillors also highlighted the A272 at the top of Tinkers Lane and opposite Little England Farm. *The Clerk will contact Highways and advise them that these other areas will also require a blast of salt.*

Clerk

- iii. School Lane gullies – the Clerk advised that Highways are due to do their routine drainage maintenance in School Lane in May, she had asked councillors if there was specific problems with particular gullies and *she will contact Highways regarding the one outside Old School House.*

Clerk

- iv. Correspondence regarding playing field drainage – GT advised that he had received a letter from a resident regarding the planned drainage work at the Playing Field, Bob Lake as Project Manager for the Playing Field committee has responded to the resident.

- v. SSALC training – the Clerk updated the PC and informed them when courses could be booked.

- vi. Correspondence had been received from a resident regarding a pedestrians crossing sign, it was agreed that the *Clerk contact Highways to see if one can be installed.*

Clerk

315. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- i. SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships) meeting – agenda items
- ii. Publication of revised proposed submission affordable housing delivery local plan and draft statement of community involvement representations. It was highlighted to KO that WDC should issue a summary in plain English for the documents that they produce and expect others to respond to.

- iii. Litter picking work-party

The Clerk will diarise the next fingerpost survey for April and will report the leaning give way sign at the Five Chimneys Lane junction and that the Rosers Common street name sign has been knocked.

Clerk

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

The meeting closed at 9:05pm