



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 4th February 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), Graham Terry (GT), Damon Wellman (DW), Roy Galley (RG) (ESCC) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.
Apologies received from Cllr. Ken Ogden (KO) (WDC).

- 247. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Comments were made about the state of rural lanes and the standard of work undertaken by Highways department, the Chair asked that the Clerk be copied in on any concerns that villagers raise with Highways department.
A member of the public asked when broadband was being updated, the Chair confirmed that it was being launched in the village on 11th April and that the optic cable is being run this week. [Launch date has since been changed to 3rd April].
Concern was raised about speeding along the A272, the Clerk confirmed that the PC have raised this with the police. The police encourage speedwatch in order to help reduce speeding and the Chair confirmed that the PC would support it, if there were enough volunteers. CE had also raised speeding at the meeting with the Sussex Police Commissioner.
- 248. PRESENTATION BY DAN MORRISH OF THEIR PLANS FOR WILDERNESS WOOD** – Dan Morrish (DM) and Emily Charkin (EC) undertook a presentation on their plans for Wilderness Wood.
Cllr. Nathan James (NJ) joined the meeting at 7:10pm
They are hoping to change the café into a village canteen and are looking for volunteers from the village to help out in order to keep it open. They would like to build possibly 10 log cabins for people to stay in and are applying for 4 apprentice schemes which will involve 3-4 people staying on site for 8-9 months. They need a covered workspace for 10-20 people and the obvious place for them, for this, would be the site of the pergola. They would like to submit an application for a permanent site rather than a temporary structure or alternatively have a building that would accommodate approximately 30 children. They aren't planning on having more than 6 'social' events i.e. weddings during the year, as contained in the current permission. For the Wood to be a success they need the support of the village and would like people to approach them with ideas.
The session was opened up to the public. DM confirmed that they were aware of the previous issues of noise from the site, they have spoken to Wealden District Council (WDC) and the cabins must be linked to the main use for the site. They are looking at constructing an earth shelter instead of the pergola, which would reduce the noise levels. They confirmed that the Ashdown Forest Habitat zone does affect their application however they are looking at reducing the number of paying visitors to the site. Some members of the public expressed their support for the project. DM & EC are planning on sending their planning application to WDC in 3-4 months' time and would like villagers to send their comments to them prior to this time. They will also have an Open Day at the Wood where they will show the plans. The Parish Council (PC) confirmed that they would like to see the draft plans before they are submitted to WDC.
- 249. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from ML, these were agreed.
- 250. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – no declarations of interest were declared.
- 251. POLICE REPORT**– in his absence PCSO Davies had advised that there had been 4 reports of suspect vehicles or people in the last month, although nothing came of these. There was also 2 road traffic collisions and 1 theft of electric fencing.

252. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 7th and 14th January 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.

253. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

- i. Green Lane 24 – CE confirmed that the Rights of Way team will be working on the surface in the summer, they will draw up a specification for the work, *CE to request that the PC see a copy of the specification, before the work commences.* CE
- ii. Hall Lane surface – NJ confirmed that planings would be put in the holes. NJ and GT to liaise. NJ
- iii. Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
 - a. Letter of complaint has been sent to UK Power Networks.
 - b. The Playing Field committee have confirmed that the 3 month timescale for getting work done at the play area does not relate to items from the 2013 RoSPA report.
 - c. WDC will be doing a presentation on their Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan at the March PC meeting.
 - d. The problems with the gullies in Waghorns Lane and Five Chimneys Lane have been reported to Highways.

254a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2014/0137/F – LAND AT STONEHURST LANE TN20 6LJ** – Construction of sand school and fencing – The Parish Council support the application (5/0).

b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/2416/F – FIVE CHIMNEYS OAST, CURTAINS HILL** – Change of use of part of stable block to self contained residential accommodation.
- ii. **WD/2013/2447/F – WILDINGS WOOD, RIVERSIDE** – Extension to cottage
- iii. **WD/2013/2434/F – OAKLANDS, STONEHURST LANE** – Demolition of existing extensions and replacement with a two-storey side extension, part two-storey/part single-storey rear extension and detached double garage with home office above.
- iv. **WD/2013/2332/F – LAND AT HOPE FARM, BRICK KILN LANE** – Replacement of equestrian barn.

255. **REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLRs. KEN OGDEN WDC** – RG advised that they will be meeting on 11th February to discuss the proposal to increase ESCC's budget by 1.95%. The meeting with the Sussex Police Commissioner was very positive. If information can be provided on when there are the most problems with speeding, then the police can attend at that time. A lot of recent Highways issues, especially in Hadlow Down, have been highlighted to RG. The PC raised their concerns over the standard of work undertaken by Highways department and over the problems with self-certification. It was highlighted to RG that 2 drains had been uncovered in Main Road that were overgrown and hadn't been cleansed, 5 have already been highlighted to Highways in Waghorns Lane. RG confirmed that extra money will go into work on potholes. It was proposed and agreed that the Head of Highways be invited to attend a meeting with the PC and the public, *Clerk to organize.* Clerk

With regard to the work in Wilderness Lane the PC requested details of the works order, whether it was followed, the cost of the work and whether the work undertaken equated to 4 days work.

RG advised that he was informed that the contractor would take the risings away from the gullies at Curtains Hill.

KO in his absence reported that WDC are currently reviewing working format as to whether they continue with a cabinet or more involvement from members. The Judicial Review is currently being held at the High Court. 400 bins are being missed each week which is considered to be a fair number.

256. **HIGHWAYS:**

- i. Highways Community Self-Serve report – it was agreed to invite Roger Williams to attend a meeting to give a presentation on the Community Self-Serve report and also answer questions on Highways matters. *CE and SR to write a list of items to discuss with Roger Williams.* SR/CE
- ii. The Chair advised that the drainage team are currently working near Civers, the PC will need to see the report following the investigations. The driver involved in the 1st accident in January submitted a Freedom of Information request to ESCC on the drainage of the area. The response to this advises that the risk assessment confirmed that there was no immediate danger when the accident occurred.
- iii. The Clerk had received correspondence from a resident regarding drainage on the A272, *she will respond to the resident advising that we will update her on the results of Highway's investigations.* It has been suggested within Highways that the gullies be converted into tray covers. Clerk
- iv. Roadworks in Wilderness Lane – discussed at points 255 and 256i. The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Highways about the work undertaken and the Reactive Manager and his colleague will be visiting the site this week to inspect the work.

- v. Meeting with Highways Steward – the Clerk updated the PC on the meeting she and CE had with the Highways Steward. The road between Fordingbrook Hill and Jarvis Brook is due to be redressed in April/May 2014 and at the same time Hastingford Road, which is in a worse state with be patched. The Steward has listed Hastingford Lane as affected by the heavy rainfall in case there is extra money for these roads. The refuse from the gulleys should be placed on the down-side and 2ms away from the gully, also cuttings aren't being cleared away when the hedges are cut.
- vi. Bollards at the junction of School Lane and Main Road – the Highways Steward has pushed the kerbing back so that it is 450mm from the road. The Highways Steward can reinstall the bollards however they were originally removed as they kept on being knocked down. To be discussed at the next SLR meeting as to what other options are available.
- vii. Agenda items and attendance at the SLR meeting - c/f to the March PC meeting.

257. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for 24th January 2014 agreed and signed.

258. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

- i. The payments of £80 for AJW Ground Maintenance Services for play area maintenance and £30 for Friends of East Sussex Record Office for the visit to the Keep that were signed at the January meeting were ratified at this meeting.
- ii. The Precept of £27887 was agreed and signed.
- iii. To agree the purchase of a new plaque for the oak tree at the burial ground – c/f to the March meeting.
- iv. WDC Community Dividend – Cllrs. Norman Buck and Ken Ogden have £4000 to give as grants to local projects in consultation with their Parish Councils, this is due to the penalties incurred by the waste bin contractor.

The Chair opened the meeting to Janet Tourell, Village Hall Chair to comment, she confirmed that for they had some money from the lottery for the work on the toilets and were waiting to see if they'd been awarded another grant. They also want to do insulation work. The Clerk highlighted the request for funding for fencing around the play area. *It was agreed that the Chair would contact KO to discuss the grant and would liaise with village groups.* The grants would need spending by the end of December.

SR

259. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – GT confirmed that the committee had sent their application to the Charity Commission, the Lawful Development applications had been completed for the Pavilion and the Village Hall, it was agreed for the Clerk to sign these and a cheque was raised for £192.50 for the fees, to be ratified at the next meeting. It was confirmed that a lot of the Business Plan had been completed.

260. PLAYING FIELD

- iii. NJ passed to the Clerk a copy of the Playing Field Committee's accounts for 2013. NJ confirmed that he would now be undertaking the weekly inspection at the play area and would keep a signed record of this. Lucy McConachie also undertakes a monthly safety inspection.
- i. Following the receipt of guidance from the insurance company, the committee would like to put a 3ft high rounded top palisade fence around the play area. NJ gave information on the 3 quotes he had received. A discussion was held on the quotes and the need for a fence. It was agreed that the *Clerk would speak to the Chair of the committee to ask them to contact the insurance company to clarify the necessity for fencing.*
- ii. Path to the pavilion – NJ advised that the committee would like the PC's permission to put a path to the pavilion, this would be topped with planings. The PC agreed to this proposal (5/0).
- iv. Councillors had been sent a copy of the report from the PF committee in response to the RoSPA inspection, together with the update regarding the tree swing. All Councillors were happy with the work that had been undertaken and the report was signed off.

Clerk

261. EMERGENCY PLAN – NJ updated the PC on the recent meeting. A meeting of the Emergency Plan Committee and villagers interested in being involved, will be held on 18th February at 7pm. *NJ to email invite to Councillors*

NJ

The Clerk highlighted that if the committee were covering items other than major emergencies they will need to ensure that all age groups were insured under the PC's insurance, *Clerk to contact the insurance company.*

Clerk

SR to resend link to NJ from their recent meeting.

SR

262. PARISH ASSEMBLY – Councillors advised the Clerk of new residents to whom she can send a personal invite to the Parish Assembly.

Clerk

263. COMMUNITY PLAN:

- i. The Community Plan Working Party had agreed for the PC to meet with organisations in the village every 2 years. It was agreed that the PC would meet with Wilderness Wood first when they look at their draft plans, *NJ and GT will contact St Mark's School to propose that they visit the school.*

NJ/GT

Later on the group will write to Tinkers Park to see when would be appropriate to meet with them.

ii. DW has agreed to take over responsibility for Planning and SR for the Community Plan.

264. RISK ASSESSMENTS – NJ updated the meeting on the risk assessments, *he will bring the completed paperwork to the next meeting.* He will sweep out the bus shelter and confirmed that the noticeboard is solid. **NJ**

265. DRIVEWAY FOR BURIAL GROUND – the clerk had received confirmation from The Hyde Group that it would appear that the PC owned the driveway and parking area at the Burial Ground, however having checked the information from the Land Registry this does not appear to confirm their comments, *she is trying to liaise with the Hyde Group to clarify.* **Clerk**

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

i. Cllr. Graham Terry thanked DW for clearing up the tree at the burial ground. DW agreed to cut down the tree that is leaning over the path. He confirmed that the contractors have cleared up the leaves and the edge of the path.

On 11th April [later confirmed that it will be on 3rd April] there will be a major presentation at the Village Hall on broadband and fibre optics, tea and cake will be served and there will be the opportunity for residents to sign-up for 40mw broadband. GT confirmed that he is only in agreement with the launch if everyone in the village can get this speed. *GT to put an article in the Parish Magazine when the date of the launch has been confirmed.* **Clerk**

ii. Cllr. Damon Wellman updated the PC on the WDC Planning Training and Parish Planning Panel that he had attended. These covered fracking, solar farms, traveler sites, dog control order, site visiting policy, appeals and flood risk management.

iii. Cllr. Nathan James advised that National Power networks have confirmed that they will have more people working tonight to deal with any problems caused by the storm. There have been a number of complaints about blocked gullies and he proposed and it was agreed that DW and NJ check the drains in Hut Lane a couple of times a year.

iv. Cllr. Clare Emsden advised that she had attended a meeting with the Sussex Police Commissioner and had raised about speeding motorbikes, oil and metal thefts and sheep worrying. She also met up with the Highways Steward along with the Clerk.

267. CLERK'S MATTERS:

i. Hours agreed and signed

ii. The Clerk advised that she has booked a free 15 minutes session with the solicitor at the Clerks Networking Day and asked for items to be raised with him. To be discussed at point 272.

iii. Update on superfast broadband – already discussed at point 266i. The Clerk confirmed that the first of the green street cabinets are going up in Mayfield, Heathfield, Hadlow Down and Burwash.

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

i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £732.86 includes £20.00 mileage and expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £112.86.

ii. Wealden District Council £356.40 dog and litter bin emptying

iii. Friends of East Sussex Record Office £10.00 visit to The Keep paid under the power given in Local Government Act 1972 s.137

iv. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £80.00 maintenance of the play area – not raised.

It was proposed and agreed that Damon Wellman be added as a signatory, the *Clerk will confirm whether co-opted members can be signatories.* **Clerk**

269. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

i. Conservation Volunteers commemorating the centenary of World War I – it was felt that there wasn't anywhere that the trees could be planted.

270. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

i. East Sussex Seniors' Association newsletter.

ii. Grey Matters newsletter

271. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

i. SLR meeting

ii. Outcome of Emergency Plan meeting

iii. Community Plan meeting update

iv. Presentation from Highways department – at a separate meeting

272. ENTRANCE TO PLAYING FIELD LEASE – discussed in closed session

The meeting closed at 9:45pm