



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday February 5th 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), Damon Wellman (DW), Michael Lunn (ML) and Clare Emsden (CE). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells (HSW).
Apologies received from Cllr. Tony Reid (TR)(ESCC).

273. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Janet Tourell (JT), chair of the Village Hall committee, asked when the drainage work was being undertaken in Hut Lane. She was advised that it should commence this week, however it is weather dependant.

A resident commented on application 279i WD/2013/0140/LDE.

Cllr. Ken Ogden (KO)(WDC) joined the meeting at 7:05pm

Standing orders were suspended

A Councillor asked about the residents objections to the application.

Standing orders were reinstated

274. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: apologies received from Cllr. Graham Terry (GT) these were accepted.

275. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - the following interests were declared by Councillors:

CE disclosable pecuniary interest in point 279iv; SR personal interest in point 279iv; ML disclosable pecuniary interest in point 284.

276. CRIME REPORT – in his absence PCSO David Davies reported that there had been a number of burglaries in the Uckfield area, people were reminded to lock property and buildings at night. There is still a risk of oil theft.

No problems in Hadlow Down in the last month.

277. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 8th January 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record. The Clerk advised that Cllr. Norman Buck (NB) had sent his apologies for the January meeting however these weren't received till after the meeting.

278. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

- i. *NJ will forward the article regarding car sharing to the Clerk who will liaise with the editor of the website.* NJ/Clerk
- ii. DW produced an article on the precept which had gone in the newsletter.
- iii. Risk assessment of the trees at the Playing Field – to forward report to the Clerk – c/f GT
- iv. Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points and included:
 - a. PCSO David Davies has confirmed that he is willing to have a street meeting in School Lane with the Parish Council (PC), once the outcome of the extension of the double yellow lines is known.
 - b. The Clerk wrote to the solicitor regarding his charge for the work on registering the Village Hall land, this has now been substantially reduced.
 - c. Affected residents have been informed of the commencement of the Hut Lane drainage work.
 - d. The new bus timetable will commence on 25th February.
 - e. The Highways Steward has arranged for the bollards in Stocklands Lane to be removed and for the gulleys outside Nashes Farm and Five Chimneys Farm to be cleared.
 - f. The emergency officer at WDC has confirmed that they are still doing the radio checks, in the long term they probably won't continue with the radios however no decision has been made on this yet.

- g. Highways have identified that there is a minor problem with one of the pipes on the drainage in Stocklands Lane, the structures team will add the head wall to their routine inspections.
- h. The Clerk has continued to liaise with ESCC Highways team regarding the application to extend the double yellow lines in School Lane. *She will see if they have managed to speak to the objector and will ask for the date when the application will be discussed at a meeting with the lead member.*

Clerk

279. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/0140/LDE UNITS 1 / 2 COLES HALL FARM, FIVE ASHES TN20 6JH** – Use of buildings for B8 storage – a discussion was held on this application. It was highlighted that there isn't permission for unit 2a to be an office, *Clerk to highlight with planning enforcement.*

Clerk

'The Parish Council discussed the application for a Certificate of Lawful Development and oppose this application for the following reasons: we understand that there has not been 10 years of the existing use of the building; we believe that it is misleading quoting this address as Coles Hall Farm as we understand it should be Coles Hall Barns; we have concerns that unit 1b is currently being used for more industrial activity, including as a workshop (for which we believe it doesn't have permission), than that indicated in the application. (5/0)

Standing orders suspended

KO advised that any objectors need to prove their statements of objection and that past Councillors can comment on the validity of applications. *NJ to see if a previous Councillor wishes to comment.* **NJ**

- ii. **WD/2012/2311/F SECRET GARDEN, WILDERNESS LANE TN22 4HT** – Erect small span steel farm building to replace existing dilapidated building – The Parish Council supports this application. (5/0)
- iii. **WD/2012/2477/F HUGGETTS FURNACE FARM, HASTINGFORD LANE, TN22 4DY** – Re-development of existing swimming pool. Minor modification within existing location boundary. Addition of spa/Jacuzzi – The Parish Council supports this application. (5/0)

CE left the meeting

- iv. **WD/2012/2271/O FIVE CHIMNEYS EGGS, CURTAINS HILL, TN22 4DU** – Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling to replace existing mobile home. Minor resiting of proposed dwelling.- The Parish Council object to the application on the following grounds: unnecessary development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; a four bedroom house is considered to be too large for the site and for its intended use. (0/4)

CE rejoined the meeting

- v. **WD/2013/0173/LB WAGHORNS, WAGHORNS LANE TN22 3EB** – Single storey kitchen extension/utility and cloakroom and first floor shower room.

Standing orders suspended

KO advised that a recent similar application in Buxted was approved by the inspector at appeal

Standing orders reinstated

The Parish Council support the application. (3/2)

LAWFUL USE DECISION:

- i. **WD/2012/2242/LDE THE OASTS, BROADREED FARM, CRIERS LANE** – Four bay garage and store.

280. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC – TR has advised that ESCC has been granted over £2 million by central government for highway works.

It was highlighted that TR will be resigning as an ESCC Councillor at the May election, it was agreed that the PC would like to express their thanks to him for the work he has done for the village.

KO thanked everyone who attended the meeting at WDC regarding the new Community Centre. KO and ML attended the WDC Scrutiny Committee and challenged them on some of the actions taken by the district council.

ML advised that District Councillors have called for an Economic and Community Development Impact Study of the 7km Ashdown Forest zone. KO advised that results are needed by March on two sites available for dog walking. They have both pushed for community centres and the amount of floor space allowed and over the redevelopment of old hall sites. The Chair advised that Cllr Roy Galley (WDC) had rung her about having a meeting regarding the new Community Centre, *she will contact Bob Lake so he can also attend.*

SR

281. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for January 2013 agreed and signed.

282. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS: –

- i. Prior to the meetings the Councillors had been sent details of the quotes for the printing of the Hadlow Down leaflet. The PC agreed to give a donation of £100 towards the cost of these, payable under the power given in the Local Government Act 1972 s.142 (2a).
- ii. The Clerk updated the PC on the increase in WDC's bin emptying charges

- iii. The PC agreed to share the cost of the LCR subscription with Arlington PC
- iv. Only 1 quote received so far for the external cabling costs for the Village Hall, awaiting 2 more. *DW to also obtain a quote for cabling costs.* **DW**

Standing orders suspended

JT agreed to send DW information on the cabling requirements.

Standing orders reinstated.

283. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – the Clerk advised that due to the state of the playing field it wasn't possible to do the Geotech survey yet, this meant that it was unlikely that the soil from Uckfield would be used, as the timescales were too tight. A Councillor suggested that the playing field be mole ploughed and backfilled with sand, to be raised at the next Community Centre meeting. The Clerk updated the PC on the comments made by WDC at the recent Parish Training, where they confirmed that Hadlow Down would get a new Community Centre however the size of it and the use for the current hall could be a problem.

ML left the meeting.

284. PRIVATE ACCESS ONTO THE PLAYING FIELD – the Clerk updated the PC on a phone call she received from a resident regarding the letter she had sent out relating to private access onto the playing field. A discussion was held on this matter. It was agreed that the Clerk's role is to advise the Council and to act in its interests. *Clerk to respond to the resident.* **Clerk**

ML rejoined the meeting

285. PARISH ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL MEETING – the Clerk raised that it had been commented to her that the PC should use a sound system to ensure everyone could hear at the Parish Assembly. It was agreed that instead the set up would be altered to ensure that the public were closer to the speakers and that apart from the guest speaker, everyone else would only speak for a short amount of time. *SR to talk to a Governor about the talk from the school.* **SR**

The Clerk will find out if the PCSO, District and County Councillors are able to attend. **Clerk**

It had been highlighted that rather than using Rotherfield St Martin as speakers at the Parish Assembly that representatives of the TN22 club should do a presentation as they provide a similar service and are based in the village. Special motion signed by Councillors who agreed to change the speaker. *Clerk to write to Rotherfield St Martin speaker cancelling the booking.* **Clerk**

286. EMERGENCY PLANNING – NJ advised that the disc and file were not available. *SR to see if there is any information remaining on her computer.* **SR**

NJ to liaise with GT about organizing an emergency planning meeting. **NJ**

287. GAS LEAK FROM FRANCE – the PC were updated on the recent gas leak from France and on the difficulty in obtaining information. It was agreed that the Emergency Planning committee meeting would discuss how to disseminate information to residents should a similar situation occur in the future. It was suggested that the editor of the website may be able to email information to his contact list.

288. VILLAGE HALL LAND – the Clerk confirmed that the Village Hall land has been registered with a Freehold Possessory title using the original plan, rather than the amended one that was agreed by the trustees, despite the solicitor requesting that the amended plan be used. *The Clerk will check whether a new lease now needs to be agreed for the Village Hall.* **Clerk**

289. ICE ON FOOTPATHS – the Clerk had received correspondence from a resident regarding the ice on the footpath outside St Mark's School following the recent snow. This has been discussed in previous years, the PC do not have a power to pay for grit bins. It was thought that schools had been asked to clear the snow to ensure that the paths weren't icy, *Clerk to investigate.* **Clerk**

The Chair agreed to speak to the Headteacher, Clerk to respond to resident. **Clerk/SR**

Standing orders suspended.

KO advised that jumbo bags of salt were given to some villages, to be raised at the next SLR meeting.

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

Cllr. Nathan James – Youth and Emergency Planning – NJ advised that he had met with the contractor. He updated the PC on changes to the planned work, this will reduce the cost, he confirmed that the work would extend approximately 1m along the land to the south of the Village Hall. The Chair advised that a resident had felt that a ditch should be dug on the edge of this land to help with the drainage, however the quotes had already been received for the agreed work and it was felt important to get the work done as soon as possible due to the expected bad weather. *NJ to see if the contractors can do a small ditch along this area, without the cost increasing.* SR asked that she be informed when the work is commencing. **NJ**

Cllr. Damon Wellman – Neighbourhood Watch and Safer Wealden Partnerships – highlighted that there had been a recent accident at the crossroads at the bottom of School Lane. He also raised about the number of potholes in Hastingford Lane.

Other potholes were highlighted by Councillors including ones between Rosers Common and Shepherds

Hill. *The Clerk will highlight the potholes to the Highways Steward.*

Clerk

Cllr. Clare Emsden – Highways and Rights of Way – CE advised that she attended the Street Meeting with the police in St Mark's Field, unfortunately as the weather was very bad they didn't get to speak to many residents. Concern was expressed about speeding in School Lane and whether the layby opposite the school could be extended. PCSO Davies has offered to do other street meetings in the village.

Cllr. Sandra Richards – SR advised that she had attended the WDALC meeting and updated Councillors on this.

The Clerk advised that she had reported 2 blocked gulleys in School Lane to Highways department.

291. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed
- ii. The Clerk advised that she had accepted an offer for the sports tables, the payment would be paid into the Youth Club account.
- iii. The Clerk had been sent a copy of the WDC Local Development Framework Core Strategy Local Plan, this still needs to be adopted by the South Downs National Park Authority. *Clerk to request a copy of insert map 21 from WDC.* **Clerk**
- iv. The Clerk had attended the WDC Parish Training at which Cllr. Roy Galley (WDC) had advised that he would like to devolve the majority of decisions for small planning applications to Town and Parish Councils. If however a decision was made to reject an application which then went to appeal and costs were awarded, the PC would be liable for them. WDC are not offering extra funding to the PCs to do this work.

The Chair advised that producing a Neighbourhood Plan was being encouraged at the WDALC meeting.

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

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £752.42 includes £11 expenses and mileage, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £132.42.
- ii. Simon Fitt £200 burial ground maintenance.
- iii. Wellers Law Group LLP £1560.00 legal fees paid under the power given in Local Government Act 1972 s.111
- iv. Viking £120.79 stationery
- v. The Society of Local Council Clerks £88.45 subscription
- vi. Wealden District Council £316.80 of which £241.92 litter bin emptying and £74.88 dog bin emptying
- vii. GM Monk Electrical Contractors £297.60 electrical test and inspection paid under power given in Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
- viii. Hadlow Down Village Hall £100 rent of hall
- ix. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £75.00 maintenance of play area

293. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:

- i. The Clerk gave information on the planned Wealden Rural Links sessions
- ii. CPRE Sussex Spring Conference

294. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. Rotherfield St Martin presentation – no response required

295. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

- i. Grey Matters

296. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- i. ML and the Clerk to meet with Anne Yarrow to discuss a new lease for the entrance to the playing field. To then report to the PC for a decision to be made. **Clerk/ML**
- ii. WDC briefing on Strategic Sites Development Plan Document and draft Community Infrastructure Levy, as the development boundary has been removed it was felt it wasn't necessary to attend the briefing.

The meeting closed at 9pm

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be on 5th March 2013 at 7pm.