



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down

at 7.00 pm on Tuesday January 5th 2010

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

Present: Councillors Paul James (Chairman), Lisa Scott, Graham Terry, Michael Lunn and David Walker. Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

222. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – No public questions however at item 228 members of the public will be given time to make their comments on the planning application at Five Chimneys Farm.
223. **PCSO KATIE BREEDS** – Report received from Katie in her absence. On 8th December a premises on the Main Road was broken into and a number of items of jewellery were stolen. House to house enquiries have proved negative. They have received a number of calls regarding suspicious people/vehicles and there were a number of collisions following the spell of bad weather. *Clerk to contact Katie to see if she can attend the February meeting and the Parish Assembly.* **Clerk**
224. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – received from Cllrs Norman Buck, Tony Reid and Ken Ogden. A discussion took place regarding the present terrible state of the roads
225. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – personal interest received from PJ, LS, GT, ML and DW on Five Chimneys Farm.
226. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – minutes of the meeting held on 1st December were agreed and signed as a true copy apart from recording that the following payments were made using the listed powers:
Phill Signs fingerpost £350.00, £175 to be invoiced to ESCC – Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.72
Still Diggin lay piping and backfill ditch at cycle track £300 – Public Health Act 1936 s.260
Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down 50% cost of nitesafe lighting £208 – Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3
Geof Bedford notice board £270 – Local Government Act 1894 s.8(1)(i)
Also point 212 amended as the £1000 for the website wasn't due to come out of the 2010-11 precept.
227. **MATTERS ARISING (from prev. meeting):**
- i. Gate post loose at playing field – gate post has now been replaced, invoice received.
 - ii. Parking at the school – *c/f as no meeting been held.* **PJ**
 - iii. Community Led Plans database training – *c/f* **ML**
 - iv. Clerks Report: update passed to councillors with agenda
 - a. Flytipping – WDC have been informed of the content of the letter from the fly tip, enforcement section have informed Clerk that they will be taking action however they have requested that in future the public don't remove items that are tipped as it's a crime scene and they will need to be used as evidence.
 - b. Letter was sent to the Variety Club congratulating them on the pantomime.
 - c. Location of fencing in Waste Wood reported to WDC who will investigate.
 - d. Kerbing on the A272 from Wheelers Lane to Greenacres - ESCC have advised that they have already assessed bids for work for 2010/11, the earliest the kerbing can be considered is April 2011. They will continue to monitor the situation.
 - e. Clerk contacted Highways to request they clear the drains/gulleys at the top of Hut Lane, all of School Lane and at the junction of Stocklands Lane and Waghorns Lane
 - f. Letter was sent to Richard Boswell thanking him for the work he has done and that the PC look forward to working with him on the new Village Hall. Updated precept and reserve figures were sent to councillors.
 - g. Letter was sent to Amanda Hodge Head of Housing, requesting agreement be drawn up regarding the entrance to the playing field from the flats and that they pay the legal costs. *Clerk to ensure response is received.* **Clerk**
 - h. Wobbly gravestone reported to Mike Ford.
 - i. Following a chaser letter, waste figures were received for the larger area, not specific to Hadlow Down, they have been forwarded to ML
 - j. Letter was sent to school governors advising due to financial restraints ESCC are not able to extend the lay-by
 - k. Clerk contacted Highways regarding the flooding east of Wilderness Lane. Highways have confirmed that they have now visited the site to clear 2 soakaway's in Wilderness Wood.
 - l. Invites have been sent out regarding the visit to the Houses of Parliament.
 - m. A letter was sent to the Rights of Way team requesting they reconsider their decision not to shut the green lane in Stocklands Lane. *Clerk to send further letter to them to include details of their previous correspondence regarding the lane.* **Clerk**
 - n. Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and disciplinary and grievance procedure, *both c/f* **Clerk**
 - o. Invoice was sent to ESCC for £175 for 50% of guidepost costs, payment has now been received from them.
 - p. Overhanging tree in Wilderness Lane reported to Highways also edge of road worn away and breaking up below Cobwebs, they have investigated and feel that the tree is high enough to be safe, there is a good road width however no-one was available to speak to when they visited. Clerk has requested that they visit again and speak to developers and has also advised them that lorries are hitting the tree so action needs to be taken.
 - q. The insurance company have confirmed that whilst Peter Gillies is 'employed' by the Parish Council to do work on the play area he will be covered under their public liability insurance.
 - r. Letter was sent to WDC to see if it would be possible to cut the number of bin collections and if they can also help with

the cost of these.

s. The seat for School Lane has been ordered and should be delivered middle to end of January

228. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

WD/2009/2515/MAJ – FARM BUILDINGS, FIVE CHIMNEYS FARM, CURTAINS HILL, HADLOW DOWN TN22 4DU –

Erection of an agricultural building for free range hens. 3 letters of objection have been received for this application. Not all of the near neighbours received notification of the application, only the adjoining properties. *Clerk to raise with Cllr. Ken Ogden.* **Clerk**

The PC held a discussion over the application, the public were then invited to make their comments on it. Andy Samuel from Samuel & Son advised that the egg industry is about to go through a mini boom and that this application would result in over industrialisation to the detriment of the area. Highways will be affected with approx 80-90 lorries moving from the site after the units have been mucked out, there would also be feed deliveries etc. From 1st January 2010 NVZ regulations will come into force and it is felt that the farm would fail these. Also from 1st January 2011 there will need to be intensive soil management of each field and the nitrogen levels should now be looked at on these fields. The impact on amenities should also be considered. An agricultural site would become an industrial site. GT disagreed that an agricultural site could be industrial. ML advised that the High Weald Unit wouldn't agree with intensive farming on the land.

Response made to WDC that "The Parish Council strongly objects to this application. We are firstly concerned about the over intensification of the site in a High Weald area of outstanding natural beauty, which goes against the aims and objectives of the High Weald Management Plan.

We are concerned that this over intensification of the development could lead to the following:

Additional vehicle movements and heavy lorries entering and exiting the site.

The visual impact from all sides, particularly from the south, which has a negative impact on the AONB.

The intensification of having a large number of birds on site to the detriment of the flora and fauna and the potential run-off of heavy, possibly polluted, rainwater into ancient woodland.

We are also concerned as to the impact to local residents from the odour when the units are mucked out".

WD/2009/2557/F & WD/2009/2558/LB – SHEPHERDS HILL HOUSE, BUXTED, TN22 4PX – Proposed orangery with basement consisting of wine cellar, utility room and pool plant room. The Parish Council support this application.

WD/2009/2253/F Fir Tree Cottage, Wilderness Lane on agenda for WDC planning sub committee meeting 14th January.

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:

WD/2009/1456/F – FIVE BADGERS, STONEHURST LANE, FIVE ASHES, MAYFIELD TN20 6LL – Vary conditions 1 and 2 of WD/2006/1215/FR granted on appeal on 11 July 2007 to renew consent for the stationing of two caravans on the land in use for the keeping of horses – approved for a period of four years

WD/2009/2067/F – RIVERSIDE HOUSE, RIVERSIDE, BLACKBOYS, TN22 4EY – Machinery, trailers and log store building

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION:

None received.

Correspondence received from WDC regarding Fir Tree Cottage, Wilderness Lane advising that the window in the south elevation was formally granted in March 2009. *Clerk to send letter to Head of Planning requesting a legal review of the decision as it went against the original Design and Access Statement* **Clerk**

GT advised that on a field next to Stonehurst Lane there are a large number of bird hatches, *ML to investigate.* **ML**

229. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLRs. KEN OGDEN AND NORMAN BUCKWDC – Nothing received in their absence.

230. BANK RECONCILIATION: – Bank reconciliation for 24th December 09 agreed and signed as correct.

231. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

i. Payment of £61.30 ratified, payable to Peter Gillies for George Rose and C Brewer invoices for playing field.

ii. Precept request signed for £21,222.00

iii. BT direct debit form signed. BT previously billed the PC for £452.41, the Clerk disputed the one off charge of £344.28. BT agreed that this would be waived. The Clerk has twice requested a new bill which still hasn't been received. She has emailed the internal auditor who has advised that this should be reported to the PC and recorded in the minutes and that advising BT twice regarding the bill should be sufficient. *Clerk to type up explanation to be signed by Chair.* **Clerk**

iv. Grit boxes – DW advised that a parishioner spoke to him regarding having a grit box on Tinkers Lane at the junction of Nursery Lane as a number of cars have slipped here and gone into the hedge, he would be prepared to distribute the grit onto the road surface. He contacted ESCC who advised that the PC would need to provide the box. Discussion held regarding the provision of grit boxes and any insurance issues. *Clerk will add to agenda for SLR meeting.* **Clerk**

232. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: The following were agreed for payment:

i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £664.61 includes £18.80 for mileage, £141.72 training hours and £11.34 expenses. £460 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £ 204.61.

ii. Marmax Products, seat £599.15 to be paid under power given in the Parish Councils Act 1957 s.1

iii. Hire of Village Hall from October-December 09 £100

- iv. Village Hall – 50% contribution towards cavity wall insulation and electricity coin meters £590.00 to be paid under power given in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19. Comment was made about what a difference the cavity wall insulation had made to the temperature in the hall.
 - v. SLCC for Parish Councillors Guide 20th edition £14.75
 - vi. Barcombe Landscapes, work at burial ground £506.00
 - vii. HM Revenue and Customs £731.98
 - viii. BT - £94.23
- 233. PLAY AREA** – GT updated the PC on the work that is planned to be done on the play area. ESCC are now not paying so much of the consultancy fees. It was questioned whether Wilderness Wood would sponsor any of the work however it was advised that the committee would try and purchase a lot of the items from them and anticipate getting a good price. PC felt that the plans were very good and a professional job was being done. Clerk advised that Peter Gillies contacted her regarding donating some of the committee’s money to the Parish Council in order that the tax can be reclaimed, the Clerk has spoken to the auditor and confirmed to Peter that this would not be possible.
- 234. ADOPTION OF LOCAL RED TELEPHONE KIOSK** – Response received from BT advising that if the kiosk isn’t adopted it will remain in service as at present, however it may be removed in the future. They will continue to monitor its usage. *Clerk to contact English Heritage regarding the possibility of them listing the kiosk.* **Clerk**
- 235. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE** – Chair proposed to adopt the Complaints Procedure, GT seconded, all agreed.
- 236. THE PLANNING PORTAL** – offer of free website resource, *Clerk to find out more information on this as to whether it is suitable for the PC.* **Clerk**
- 237. WAYS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE** – Parish and town councils – Act on CO2 booklet from defra – *passed to ML to consider whether the PC needs to take action on this.* **ML**
- 238. RISK ASSESSMENT** – nothing to report
- 239. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
- i. Neighbourhood Watch, Emergency Planning, New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee – Cllr. Graham Terry – nothing to report.
 - ii. Youth – Cllr. Lisa Scott – *will put an article in the Parish Magazine suggesting that people contact her regarding what can be done for the youth of the village.* **LS**
 - iii. Community Strategies, Sustainable Development and Environment Matters – Cllr. Michael Lunn – hopes to present the Community Plan at the February meeting, he has also got population data and will forward all of this to the Councillors. *Clerk to diarise to update the PC annually with no. of electors and properties in Hadlow Down.* **Clerk**
 - iv. Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths – Cllr. David Walker – advised that Highways haven’t cleared the drain opposite Lynx House in School Lane. Also in Stocklands Lane the gully by the exit of the green lane is blocked. *Clerk to report to Highways.* **Clerk**
 - v. Tree Warden - Jo Dummer (former Councillor) - spent some time with 3 children from St Mark’s School collecting, testing and potting up beech, oak and chestnut in the hope that some can be planted next year. During National Tree Week she helped to escort all the reception children to their Meadow in Waste Wood and they planted a rowan. She also planted a yew in the meadow with 2 children from the village in line with the BBC Tree o’clock, the children received a certificate from the BBC.
 - vi. Burial Ground – Cllr. Paul James – confirmed that Barcombe Landscapes had done the work at the burial ground. *Clerk to put the kerbing to the east of Wheelers Lane on the agenda for the SLR meeting.* **Clerk**
- 240. CLERK’S MATTERS:**
- i. Hours checked agreed and signed.
 - ii. WDC have confirmed that there are no longer Tree Protection Orders in Waste Wood, however the trees are still covered by the Forestry Act. They have visited all owners of land and the Forestry Commission are in contact with the owners who also have management plans for their land. TPOs are still an option if WDC are not happy with the work being done at the wood. The Clerk received notification of an application to reduce an oak at Lazy Acres.
 - iii. Visit to Houses of Parliament – *Clerk to write to attendees with final details.* **Clerk**
 - iv. Precept – *Clerk to write article to appear in Parish Magazine and on the website regarding the precept rise.* **Clerk**
 - v. A response was received from Highways regarding the request for deer warning signs on the A272, they could not identify game trails where deer have habitually crossed the road. *Clerk to contact officer at Highways and invite her to visit the two sites with a Councillor.* **Clerk**
 - vi. Sussex Police have advised that Buxted PC is fully satisfied with their support for their Speedwatch.
 - vii. WDC have written to all residents of Main Road affected by the proposed naming of the A272 from Hadlow Down Church to the junction with the A267, requesting their views on this matter.
 - viii. Website – Clerk updated the PC on correspondence that has been held between SALC and a resident.
 - ix. Deer Control – see 240v
- 241. TRAINING & CONFERENCES**
- i. Wealden View Big Event 2010 – passed to GT **GT**
- 242. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE.**
- i. Review of supported local bus services – passed to LM prior to meeting – c/f **LM**
- 243. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION**
- i. Wealden View

- ii. Improving mental health services
- iii. LCR magazine
- iv. English Rural Housing annual report
- v. Charles Hendry's e-bulletin
- vi. Rural Services Network newsletter
- vii. Health Scrutiny in East Sussex
- viii. NALC (National Association of Local Councils) e-bulletins
- ix. Community Safety News – The Safer Wealden Partnership
- x. English Rural Housing Association Bulletin
- xi. Health Care leaflets

244. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

- i. The following cheques were signed and will be ratified at the next meeting:
 St Mark's Church £35, donation on Colin James' retirement, payable from Chairs Expenses
 Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council £15, Councillor's training evening for Cllr. Lisa Scott
 J. Pooley £75, to supply and erect a closing post for the gate at the entrance to the playing field
- ii. Colin James has resigned from the Parish Council, notices have been posted on notice boards and Clerk has requested forms to remove as a signatory for the bank account. Chair asked Colin what he would like as a leaving present, he has asked that a donation be made to St Mark's Church which he will match. PC passed their thanks onto CJ for all his hard work as a Councillor.
- iii. Chair asked that in future drinks be provided at the meetings as they now go on for so long. *Clerk to arrange* **Clerk**
- iv. Chris and Anne Yarrow are soon retiring from Wilderness Wood. *Clerk to write to them on behalf of the PC to thank them for all their hard work and all they have done for the village and to wish them a happy retirement.* **Clerk**
- v. GT advised that members of the New Village Hall committee will be meeting with Barbara Beetham from AiRS.
- vi. Clerk advised that Trudi at Kit Wilson reported flooding in Stonehurst Lane to ESCC.

Meeting closed 9:30pm

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL be on Tuesday 19th January 2010 at 7pm.

Signed.....

Date.....