



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday January 6th 2009

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

Present: Councillors Paul James (Chairman), Lucy McConachie, David Walker, Graham Terry, Tony Bonnicks and Michael Lunn. Also in attendance were Bob Taylor, Gemma Forshaw and Os Kamil from WDC Affordable Housing, Nick Allen and Eddie Westfield and Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

4. **PRESENTATION BY BOB TAYLOR, GEMMA FORSHAW AND OS KAMIL FROM WDC** – Presentation given to the Parish Council on rural affordable housing and specifically on the needs within Hadlow Down. Os to liaise with the Rector regarding the possibility of affordable housing on the previously nominated church land. There is a need for affordable housing in Hadlow Down. Bob would be keen to learn of any other possible sites in the village.

Bob, Os and Gemma left the meeting at 7:45

3. **WEBSITE – NICK ALLEN – WHAT CAN BE DONE AND COSTINGS** – Eddie Westfield advised that he had updated the front page of www.hadlowdown.com website. Hadlow Down Parish Council can have their own pages that only they can update without being able to update other website pages. Nick felt that the Parish Council will need a disclaimer on the Forum, he also felt that the site was suitable for what was required. *Eddie will provide training to the Clerk.* Nick agreed to be available if required. **HSW**

Eddie and Nick left at 7:55

1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – nothing raised
2. **PCSO KATIE BREEDS** – no report received in her absence. *Graham to update Clerk with the name of the PCSO who is covering for Katie* **GT**
5. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – received from Councillors Norman Buck, Tony Reid, Ken Ogden and Colin James
6. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – None received.
7. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on 2nd December were agreed and signed as a true copy apart from it was felt that 7iii should indicate that the report related to flooding on Five Chimneys Lane. A Planning meeting was also held on 16th December the minutes of which were agreed and signed as a true copy.
8. **MATTERS ARISING (from prev. mtg):**
- i. Article in Parish Magazine re littering – Michael gave the Councillors a copy of his article, following a few minor alterations. *Clerk to forward for publication in the Parish Magazine.* **HSW**
 - ii. Bollards outside New Inn – David has visited the site and requested that a further bollard be placed near Foinavon, *Clerk to contact Highways to request.* **HSW**
 - iii. Councillor visit to St Mark's School – *Paul and Graham visiting on 14th Jan.* **PJ/GT**
 - iv. Stile on Hall Lane – *carried forward to next meeting* **PJ**
 - v. Clerks Report:
 - a. Dog Kennel Lane hedgecutting - actioned.
 - b. Clearing gulleys in Dog Kennel Lane and top of Wheelers' Lane – *Clerk awaiting response from Highways.* **HSW**
 - c. Green Lane – Dog Kennel Lane gates still in place, also at northern end where it was half pulled open now fine
 - d. Bridle Path Brick Kiln Lane – ESCC spoke to one of the owners who advised that they would put in posts rather than gates, however as gates still in place, *Clerk to report to ESCC* **HSW**
 - e. Report from Michael re Five Chimneys Lane – Report was sent to ESCC, they have confirmed that the pipe is collapsed and misplaced and will be closing the road week commencing 19th Jan. for at least a week to work on it.
 - f. A272 footpaths – *Clerk awaiting response from Highways.* **HSW**
 - g. Sign posts – ESCC have agreed to a black and white sign for the Village Hall however difficulty on where to post it. Suggested that street name sign saying 'Hut Lane leading to Village Hall' be placed in front of the electricity boxes on the New Inn side. *Clerk to contact ESCC* **HSW**
 - h. Huggets Furnace Public Footpath – Letter been sent to Graham Kean objecting to the new proposals for the diversion of the public footpath and agreeing with The Ramblers' Association letter.

- i. Easylink – Renown bus timetable not due to be updated. CTLA are hoping to try and persuade ESCC that there is a better way to run the service and would like buses to run straight from Hadlow Down to Buxted and Uckfield. If there are any changes the Parish Council will be involved in the consultation process.
 - j. Article in Parish Magazine re Wealden and Lewes Handyperson Scheme – *carried forward to next meeting*
HSW
 - k. Letter to school endorsing project on Ancient Greeks - sent
 - l. Payback team – Clerk has written to them requesting that they undertake litter picking in the Hadlow Down area.
 - m. Footpath sign end of Hall Lane – to be put on list of work to be done, hopefully completed within a month.
 - n. Dog Kennel Lane ruts and mud – *Clerk awaiting response from Highways*
HSW
 - o. Drains and road damage on A272 by Waste Wood entrance – Graham received an email last week confirming that the work will be done this week.
 - p. Hedge cutting top of School Lane – *Clerk awaiting response from ESCC*
HSW
- No.s on minutes corrected, incorrect on agenda.

9. PLANNING MEETINGS:

Planning applications were heard at the meeting on 16th December. Minutes are circulated to Councillors, and posted on the village notice boards and can be provided to anyone who may be interested via the Clerk.

10. APPLICATIONS:

WD/2008/2967/F – OAKWAYS, WHEELERS LANE, TN22 4HR – Demolition of 3 wooden stables and erection of 4 replacement stables; plus foaling stable/tack room and rest room; hay barn and provision of new internal track – *Clerk to apply to WDC for 1 week extension and arrange site visit.*
HSW

WD/2008/2940/LB – LITTLE ENGLAND FARM, TN22 4EP – Proposed extension and refurbishment to main house. Proposed refurbishment and minor alterations to Oast House. Proposed change of use of existing dairy building into pool building and addition of biomass plant to existing car port - *Clerk to apply to WDC for 1 week extension and arrange site visit.*
HSW

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:

WD/2008/1886/F – LAND NORTH OF SOUTH VIEW, WILDERNESS LANE – Removal of mobile home and redundant rural buildings and the erection of a single-storey dwelling and garage

WD/2008/2671/F – COOPERS FARM, FIVE CHIMNEYS LANE – Erection of a temporary agricultural dwelling to support local entrant organic agricultural and sustainable enterprise

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION:

WD/2008/2586/F – HUGGETTS FURNACE FARMHOUSE, HASTINGFORD LANE – Single storey extension to form entrance porch and ground floor wc

WD/2008/2604/LB - HUGGETTS FURNACE FARMHOUSE, HASTINGFORD LANE – Single storey extension to form entrance porch and ground floor wc

11. REPORT FROM CLLR. TONY REID, EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL:

Nothing to report.

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

- i. Burial Ground, Youth Council (to be formed) – Cllr. Tony Bonnick. Nothing to report.
- ii. Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths – Cllr. David Walker. Flooding at top of Tinkers Lane on the eastern side, concerns in case it ices over, *Clerk to report to ESCC.*
HSW
Green Lane between Stockland Lane and School Lane, Graham has spoken to the contractors who have advised that Sussex fencing and gates will be placed at both ends. Gates will be locked until May although pedestrians will be able to use the lane. Horse riders will also be able to use the lane between May and October. *Clerk to speak to ESCC to request that they keep Parish Council informed and to confirm the information that the contractors gave to Graham.*
HSW
- iii. Neighbourhood Watch, Emergency Planning, New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee – Cllr. Graham Terry. Theft from Lodge Farm, Wilderness Lane at Christmas time during daytime hours. Thieves unbolted the winch off the back of a lorry and carried the heavy winch to their vehicle. Nothing was seen or heard. Owner offering a reward for return of the winch. NVHWP waiting for a response from a local landowner and from ESCC who they wrote to originally in October and have now been advised will get a response at the end of January.
- iv. Village Hall Management Committee Wealden Association of Local Councils and Safer Wealden Partnership – Cllr. Colin James. No report from Colin in his absence.
- v. Community Strategies, Sustainable Development and Environment Matters – Cllr. Michael Lunn. CS - Hopes to review in January. WDC Sustainable Energy and Affordable Warmth, Michael is part of the steering group as a representative of the Parish Council. Showed sustainable light to Councillors, possibility of it being used on the church footpath. *Michael to talk to church representatives.*
ML

vi. Easylink – Cllr. Lucy McConachie – review of supported local bus services (17.i) *Lucy to respond advising that the present bus service only allows for 1 hour in Uckfield. Should be available for access to the community rather than for financial viability.* LM

vii. Tree Warden - Jo Dummer (former Councillor) – nothing to report.

13. BANK RECONCILIATION: – The bank reconciliation up to 24th December was checked and signed as correct.

14. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

i. Sussex County Playing Fields Association requesting support – PFC not heard of them therefore donation not given.

15. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - The following were agreed by all and cheques raised:

i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £564.13 (includes £25.91 for extra hours and £67.37 for training in November) also £18.40 for mileage and expenses = total£582.53. £460 already paid by standing order therefore cheque raised for £122.53

ii. Inland Revenue £697.26 for period October – December 2008

iii. Viking Direct £70.25

iv. Toddler group hire of village hall 13 weeks @ £11..50 per week =£149.50 + report received

v. New Councillor Training £69.00 – payable to Catsfield Parish Council

vi. Madasafish £9.65 – already paid by direct debit

vii. BT £114.52 – already paid by direct debit

16. CLERK'S MATTERS:

i. Hours checked agreed and signed.

ii. Review of Finance reconciliations and other Finance matters – ignore as bank reconciliation at point 13.

iii. Meeting with Chief Constable – *Clerk to email SALC to request they raise rural crime and speeding enforcement in their meeting with the Chief Constable* HSW

Clerk to also write to ESCC Education Transport regarding school buses exceeding the speed limit through the village. HSW

iv. Courier reporting, Joan Wiltshire – Joan has advised that she is no longer writing for the Courier as they have stopped paying correspondents and instead want them to invest in 'new computer stuff'.

v. Letter received regarding vans broken into – Clerk updated Parish Council regarding theft from vans whilst the owners were working at a property in the village, always happened in broad daylight.

vi. Electrical work on village hall – Invoice for electrical work on Village Hall been received, comes to £1047.83, Councillors agreed to donate £500 under s.137 towards this bill. In future however the Parish Council would like to see any quotations for work prior to it being undertaken. *Cheque to be raised at meeting on 13th January.* HSW

vii. Precept return – carried forward to 13th Jan meeting

viii. Burial ground tender – passed to Paul to view, to be discussed at meeting on 13th January. *Clerk to email copy of tender letter to Tony* HSW

18. RISK ASSESSMENT – (Item brought forward) Paul reported that with regard to the land at the entrance to the Playing Field, which the council leases, that on the western side there is a 3ft sheer dip, next to the cycle track, it was suggested to either place a fence here or fill in the dip. Paul recommended that the cycle track be closed forthwith until work can be done .

Paul advised that there are no warning signs at the cycle track, possibly worth having a sign at the entrance to the Playing Field. Also as the gates are kept locked there needs to be a sign with a list of contact details in case emergency access is required.

Remnants of the bonfire remain on the car park.

Clerk to write to Playing Field Committee to highlight risks that have been identified. HSW

Michael to also undertake risk assessment of the actual playing field and decide whether cycle track should be taped off. ML

David left the meeting at 9:20

Paul then reported on the risk assessment he had undertaken at the Burial Ground, although the path was icy it was not felt worse than elsewhere. Gravestones were not considered to be a risk at this present time.

17. TRAINING:

SALC training courses - *Clerk to contact SALC for agenda for Chairmanship course* HSW

19. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE:

i. Review of supported local bus services – see 12vi.

ii. WDC Open Space Study – Graham to check information is correct HSW

iii. Communities in Control – Passed to Paul PJ

iv. LDF bridging template – updated for Hadlow Down, *clerk to send response tonight* HSW

20. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

All to be brought to meeting on 13th January

A discussion was held with Councillors regarding the cramped conditions in the meeting room especially when guests are attending and that the room is uncomfortably cold. It was felt that the room does not create a good impression to invited guests and visitors and is too small for presentations. It was decided that the council should look to using St Mark's School Hall instead.

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE
on Tuesday 3rd February 2008 at 7.00 P.M**

Meeting closed at 9:45pm

Signed..... Date.....