



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday January 8th 2013.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Graham Terry (GT), Nathan James (NJ) and Clare Emsden (CE).
Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells (HSW).
Apologies received from Cllrs. Tony Reid (ESCC) and Ken Ogden (WDC).

- 251. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Janet Tourell (JT) chair of the Village Hall committee, raised that the vegetation on the land to the south of the Village Hall needed cutting to take the road back to its original size. It was confirmed that a villager had offered to undertake the work, JT to liaise with him. It was highlighted that the erosion of the edge of the road surface in Wilderness Lane has got worse, *Clerk to contact Highways to see what action is being taken and who is responsible for this area of the road.* **Clerk**
JT thanked the PC for the work on the drainage in Hut Lane.
- 252. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies were received from Cllr. Michael Lunn (ML) these were accepted. Cllr. Damon Wellman had also apologized that he would be late for the meeting.
- 253. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION** – no declarations of interest declared for items on the agenda. ML had written to the Clerk requesting for dispensation to discuss and agree the 2013/14 precept at this and future meetings, agreed by all.
- 254. CRIME REPORT** – the Clerk has written to PCSO Davies regarding the street meeting advertised on the police website at St Marks Field on 12th January at 9am and has requested that in future the Parish Council (PC) be informed of any meetings. CE agreed to also attend the meeting. PCSO Davies has advised that there is nothing to report on crime in Hadlow Down. A Councillor highlighted the theft of oil in the area.
- 255. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 4th December 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 256. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. Bus Shelter – lawful development forms. *The Clerk will contact ML regarding the forms.* **Clerk**
 - ii. Emergency planning –c/f [see point 272]. **ML**
- DW joined the meeting at 7:15pm
- iii. Car sharing – NJ advised that he has emailed the editor of the website and is awaiting a response from him, the Clerk confirmed that he has recently had a problem with his emails so there could be a delay. **NJ**
 - iv. It was confirmed that the bike track signage has now been removed.
 - v. Newsletter articles were produced by NJ and CE. DW and SR to send articles to GT by the required date.
 - vi. CE confirmed that she had investigated the path that runs from Hall Lane to Waghorns Lane, it is clearly marked as a footpath, however it has been used by horseriders for a large number of years. A Councillor highlighted that the horses had damaged the surface of the path which makes it very difficult for pedestrians to use. 1 Councillor felt it should only be used as a footpath, 4 Councillors felt that horseriders should continue to be able to use it due to the historical usage.
 - vii. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the ESCC Highways Safety Manager following NJ's report regarding the incident where a pedestrian was hit by a car wing mirror. She has also highlighted that other villagers have had 'near misses' in the same area between Old Boot Cottage and Bracherlands on Main Road. It was raised that this is where the speed limit changes. *Clerk to ensure that it appears*

on the next SLR agenda.

Clerk

- viii. The Clerk confirmed that Highways had reviewed the speed recording in School Lane and feel that, along with the improvements to the speed signage, that the speed results are satisfactory. It was agreed that when the outcome of the extension of the double yellow lines in School Lane is known, that the PC would update residents of School Lane at a joint police street meeting, on the PC's work to reduce traffic speed and congestion in School Lane.
- ix. Clerks Report: was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points and included:
- a. Highways have confirmed that they will be paying for the work on the damaged bollards outside the New Inn.

257. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2012/2092/LB & 2091/F – THE OASTS, BROADREED FARM TN20 6LG** – Single-storey rear addition to utility.
- ii. **WD/2012/2151/FA – TINKERS PARK, MAIN ROAD TN22 4HS** – Minor material amendment to WD/2009/1686/MAJ (proposed renovation and improvement of existing buildings plus additional landscaping and additional ancillary buildings to form steam heritage site.
- iii. **WD/2012/2277/LB – HASTINGFORD COTTAGE, HASTINGFORD LANE** – Re-roof the cottage to include internal insulation.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2012/2180/LDE – UNITS 1/ 2 COLES HALL FARM, FIVE ASHES** – use of buildings for B8 storage

258. REPORT FROM CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC – KO has confirmed that he is regularly raising about the new Community Centre at WDC and hopes that there will be some development in the next few weeks.

259. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for December 2012 agreed and signed.

260. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

- i. Electrical quotes for VH – the Clerk confirmed that Monks have advised that they will issue an electrical certificate once the new circuit board is installed. A discussion was held on the quotes and the work required.

Standing orders suspended

JT confirmed that Monks were unable to check the external cable when they visited the site.

Standing orders reinstated

The PC agreed to Monks' quote (5/0), invoice to be paid by the PC.

- ii. Quarterly financial reporting – the Clerk advised that the solicitor handling the registration of the Village Hall land has provided her with a list of his costs to date, *it was agreed that she would request a full breakdown of his hours and look back on previous communications regarding the cost.* She has already queried the hourly rate being charged and requested that the work be completed by the end of the financial year.

Clerk

The Clerk will also contact ML regarding the new lease for the entrance to the playing field. Clerk

- iii. The precept for 2013/14 was discussed, it was decided to agree the figure after point 263.

261. ACCESS ONTO THE PLAYING FIELD – a discussion was held on the draft letter and agreement produced by the Clerk for those with private access onto the playing field. It was agreed (4/1) for *the Clerk to send these out and for her to write to the Housing Officer in order that their tenants could also be sent a copy.*

Clerk

262. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – GT and SR updated the PC on the meeting with WDC where it was felt there was a way forward for the new Community Centre, however there were limitations on what could be done with the Village Hall land. At the Community Centre committee meeting on 7th Jan. ML had updated them on a meeting he had with the leader of WDC. The committee are aiming to produce some plans for the public by June and then present them to WDC by the end of September with a petition. Concern was expressed that the circumstances had changed, it was confirmed that decisions regarding the centre had been delegated to the committee by the PC. The Clerk confirmed that as the PC own the land they would need to view the plans and confirm that they agreed with them. She also highlighted that if the PC had to apply for a Public Loans Board loan to fund the project and this resulted in the precept increasing by 2% or more, that there may then need to be a referendum in the village to approve the precept increase. GT confirmed that the committee were aiming to obtain all the funding themselves.

It was proposed at the committee meeting, due to current planning restrictions, that the old Village Hall be boarded up, once the new Centre has been built, until it can be effectively disposed of.

GT confirmed that the playing field is currently too wet to undertake the geotech survey.

263. HUT LANE DRAINAGE – SR updated the PC on a meeting that was held with Southern Water and ESCC, and

on her discussions with WDC over the conditions they set for the Standen Mews development that haven't been discharged. SR has written to WDC regarding this matter and will ensure that she receives a response from them.

A discussion was held on the quotes and the work involved, it was agreed that the work needs to include ducting for an electrical cable.

Standing orders suspended

JT agreed to see if a villager was qualified to install the external electrical cable in the ducting or if he could recommend someone else.

Standing orders reinstated

The PC agreed to go with the Agrifactors' quote (5/0). *Clerk to confirm quote price still valid and start date and to produce a letter for local residents advising of possible disruption.* **Clerk**

NJ agreed to oversee the work

260. iii. It was agreed that the cost for the drainage work in Hut Lane would be taken from reserves. The precept of £25,242 + grant of £1285 totalling £26,527 was agreed (5/0) providing that WDC at their meeting on 9th January made no changes to the figures. If they did a further PC meeting would be held before the end of January. *GT to put article in the newsletter.* **GT**

264. **RISK ASSESSMENTS** – DW advised that there were no issues highlighted from the risk assessments, however he did raise that there was quite a lot of dog mess in the closed burial ground.

265. **BURIAL GROUND AND CHURCH ACCESS** – the Clerk showed the PC the land registry maps she has for the entrance to the burial ground, it is unclear from these who the area before the brick pillars belongs to. She has also spoken to previous PC members who have been unable to definitely confirm. It was agreed to see how successful the church warden was in obtaining information from Diocesan House.

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

Cllr. Graham Terry – Playing Field and Burial Ground – GT encouraged people to buy tickets for the Bollywood evening on 19th January. A working party is due to be held at the Playing Field, they don't yet have a new chair. It has been recommended that the Playing Field and Village Fair committees join together and that the Village Hall committee possibly join with them at a later date. All committees are suffering from a lack of new members.

GT confirmed that the Playing Field committee had undertaken a risk assessment of the trees at the Playing Field, *he will send the Clerk a copy of the report.* It was agreed that there should also be an inspection of the trees at the PC Burial Ground on an annual basis. **GT**

Cllr. Nathan James – Youth and Emergency Planning – NJ highlighted that a number of windscreen wipers had been stolen from cars parked in School Lane. *The Clerk will inform PCSO Davies.* **Clerk**

Cllr. Clare Emsden – Highways and Rights of Way – CE highlighted the 3 broken bollards near New Farm House in Stocklands Lane, *the Clerk will contact Highways to see if they can be removed.* **Clerk**

It was raised that the gulleys outside Nashes Farm and Five Chimneys Farm were getting blocked again as the gratings had been stolen. *Clerk to advise Highways Steward.* **Clerk**

The Penfolds vehicle in the layby outside Tinkers Park was raised, WDC are aware and are in contact with Penfolds and with a recycling company to remove the dumped tyres.

The Clerk advised that she has been in contact with Highways regarding the drainage problems in Stocklands Lane and is awaiting a response from them. With regard to the drain at the top of Tinkers Lane, 2 further gulleys have been found, these have been cleared out and a concrete envelope has been installed around them to ensure they aren't missed for future jettings. She has reported the blocked gully west of Hadlow House and this is due to be jetted in the next few weeks.

The new Police Commissioner has asked for the PC's priorities, *Clerk to respond advising they are speeding and burglaries, especially from garden areas.* **Clerk**

Cllr. Damon Wellman – Neighbourhood Watch and Safer Wealden Partnerships – DW highlighted the occurrence of burglaries from external buildings and grounds.

Cllr. Sandra Richards – Public Transport – SR went through the changes to the bus service, it is proposed, due to the lack of usage, to reduce the service to 2 per weekday and to add a stop at Dog Kennel Lane. The PC had no objection to the changes, *the Clerk will inform Passenger Transport Services.* **Clerk**

267. **CLERK'S MATTERS:**

- i. Hours agreed and signed
- ii. The Clerk has written offering the table tennis for sale, she is awaiting a response.
- iii. The Clerk has spoken to Highways who have written to the objector of the extension to the double yellow lines in School Lane, they haven't received a response and will try and visit him/her.
- iv. The Clerk signed up for Dropbox but has since found out that it isn't suitable as the Village Hall

doesn't have internet access. It could however be used for the internal audit.

- v. The Clerk advised that there had been no response to the public notice for the bus shelter.
- vi. The Clerk had received correspondence regarding rainwater in Dog Kennel Lane running from the Green Lane, she has contacted the Highways steward who has requested that the lane be added to the ditching list.
- vii. It was proposed that the Clerk have 1 review each September with the Chair and 1 other Councillor and a 6 monthly review each March with the Chair, agreed by all.

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

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £747.87 includes £5.25 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £127.87.
- ii. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £225.00 play area maintenance and hedge cutting
- iii. H.M. Revenue and Customs £79.18 tax and NI.
- iv. Simon Fitt £200 burial ground maintenance

271. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:

- i. The Clerk updated the PC on the SALC Training for 2013, GT to see if he can attend the Chair's Networking Day in SR's absence.
- ii. WDC coffee morning - no-one able to attend.

269. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. ESCC consultation on draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - no response made.
- ii. WDC consultation on 2013/14 budget and medium term financial strategy - response agreed.

270. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

- i. SALC interim winter and Christmas bulletins
- ii. Buxted Community Voice
- iii. WDC bulletin - already emailed to Councillors

272. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

- i. SR agreed to attend the next WDALC meeting.
- ii. The Clerk would aim to attend the next meeting regarding fingerposts.
- iii. *The Clerk will contact ML regarding the contact details for the previous Emergency Planning Councillor and will contact WDC to see if a decision has been made about the CB radios, she will update NJ. Clerk*
- iv. Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting

GT congratulated SR on her recent Community Volunteer Hero Award for her work with the CAB.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

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