



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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

*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), Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY), Nathan James (NJ) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Ken Ogden (WDC).

- 270. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** - Janet Tourell (JT) (Chair of the Village Hall committee) advised that they have had problems with the power cutting out for the Village Hall and asked if anyone else was having problems. No problems were highlighted by councillors.
- 271. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies had been given by Cllrs. Michael Lunn (ML), Graham Terry (GT) and Damon Wellman (DW), these were accepted.
- 272. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – CE declared disclosable pecuniary interests in items 279iv and 276a. SR declared a personal interest in item 279iv. JMY declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 276c.iii. NJ declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 279v.
- 273. CRIME REPORT** – PCSO David Davies advised that suspicious vehicles and people had been reported to the police, although nothing had developed from this. They have a new sergeant, Kara Tomlin. Due to the loss of 2 police vehicles the PCSOs shift pattern has now changed. He highlighted that there had been thefts from outbuildings in the surrounding area including of petrol and power tools. The Chair asked about speed checks and it was confirmed that 1 had recently been undertaken and that the results indicated that according to their policy there wasn't a speeding problem. They will undertake another speed check. He confirmed that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams are changing.
- 274. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were agreed and signed as true records, although some comments had been received on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December minutes. One Councillor felt that minute item 251i. did not convey his main concern over noise from a music festival being held at Tinkers Park. The Clerk updated the Parish Council (PC) on the comments sent to her by a Parish Councillor following on from item 240. For further clarification the PC asked that these comments be put in plain English by the Councillor concerned and be added to the minutes.  
[Following Cllr Galley's comments, Cllr Lunn spoke to the Head of Planning and Environmental Services at WDC to clarify Cllr Galley's comments. It was confirmed to Cllr Lunn that the planning approval of the Network Rail station car park was reliant on better enforcement of WDC run Luxford Field Car park, namely that short stay car parking was not being used by commuters for all day car parking. There was no formal agreement (or legal requirement) between Network Rail car park and WDC in the removal of High Street car parking as part of the planning approval process.]  
RG advised that planning permission for the parking was granted with the plan that more cars would park at the station car park rather than at Luxford Field car park. He confirmed that in a fortnight they will be considering a new parking order for Wealden, RG gave details of his recommendations for Uckfield.

The Chair brought the following agenda item forward:

- 277. REPORT FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC** - RG had sent his monthly report to councillors. The Chair advised that there were still problems with broadband and that resident's standard broadband has now slowed. 2 residents had contacted their service provider to be upgraded to superfast broadband and were informed that it wasn't yet available. RG will raise these concerns. He has suggested that a leaflet be produced for residents explaining what action they need to take.  
Councillors raised about the problem with potholes in Pound Green Lane. It was also highlighted that

the Chief Executive of ESCC had confirmed that the gullies on the A272 would be cleared before Christmas, however they haven't now been done for over 6 months. The flooding at the top of Tinkers Lane and at Mayfield Flats was also highlighted. RG confirmed that he would write to Roger Williams at ESCC regarding these issues.

RG asked for the PC's view on a second runway at Gatwick. He is convinced that the flight path has been narrowed. A Councillor advised that the consultation regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> runway doesn't mention about the narrowing of the flight path, this was discussed in Gatwick's previous consultation. If a second runway is built the parish councillor advised that the flight path would need to be narrowed and in the future the aircraft movement would double. *It was agreed that the Clerk would copy RG in on the PC's response to the consultation.*

Clerk

**275. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**

- i. Filter cover for pipe at Hut Lane drainage – NJ confirmed that this would be cleared out in the next few days. NJ
- ii. Natural England's volunteer team's contact details – KO had forwarded the team's contact details, however they do charge for the work.
- iii. Site visit to Dog Kennel and Criers Lanes – c/f CE
- iv. Signatory for the bank account – c/f DW
- v. Update from the Aviation Action Group meeting – to email to Councillors – c/f DW
- vi. Playing Field drainage grant – to write to Sport England – the Clerk confirmed that ML had sent the letter, however as far as she was aware a response hadn't been received. ML
- vii. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
  - a. Response from Rupert Clubb to the PC's comments on the Uckfield Highway Improvement Scheme had been copied to Councillors.
  - b. Flooding on Main Road at the top of Tinkers Lane has been reported to Highways, they have referred investigation of the drain to their jetting team as a high priority. Gully problems in Tinkers Lane have been reported to Highways.

**276. PLANNING:**

Cllr. Emsden left the meeting for the following item.

**a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. WD/2014/2540/RM – FIVE CHIMNEYS EGGS, CURTAINS HILL – Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling to replace existing mobile home – The Parish Council have no objections to this application. (3/0)

Cllr. Emsden rejoined the meeting.

**b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. WD/2014/2041/F – Springbank Cottage, Heathfield Road – Demolition of existing mobile home & construction of a new workshop/office and additional sleeping space.
- ii. WD/2014/2185/F – Jasons Keep, Five Ashes – Proposed first floor side extension above existing single storey living room. Change roofs on existing rear extensions from flat to pitched. Change flat roof porch to mono pitch.
- iii. WD/2014/2063/F – Riverside House, Riverside – Entrance gates.
- iv. WD/2014/2155/F – Thistledown, Wilderness Lane – Build conservatory to rear elevation.

**c. PLANNING MATTERS:**

- i. SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces) applications – the Clerk advised that the Village Hall committee have agreed for the Village Hall land to be a SANGS windfall. Cllr. Ogden (WDC) has advised that the windfall would come under the Uckfield SANGS which have been delayed, the PC's letter to WDC regarding the windfall will therefore need to be postponed. The Clerk advised that she had received correspondence from an Uckfield Town Councillor regarding a discussion held by the PC, she has referred them to the PC minutes on the village website.
- ii. Wealden Conservation areas – the Clerk advised that WDC are re-appraising their existing Conservation areas and are considering whether any other areas in the District merit designation. *SR agreed to speak to a resident about the potential of a Conservation site in Hadlow Down.* SR

Cllr. Michaelson-Yeates left the meeting for the following item:

- iii. Land at Gatehouse Farm enforcement notice - the Clerk updated the PC on the enforcement notice that WDC have issued for a breach of planning control.  
A Councillor asked about the use of motorbikes at Five Chimneys Farm, *the Clerk will ask planning enforcement for an update.* Clerk

Cllr. Michaelson-Yeates rejoined the meeting.

**278. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for December 2014 was agreed and signed by the Chair and by a non-signatory

as part of the quarterly controls. It was agreed that the Clerk would get the reconciliation signed by a further signatory in the next few days.

**279. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :**

- i. Quarterly finance report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. No questions were raised, to be discussed further at item 292.
- ii. Assets register was signed.
- iii. Precept 2015/16 – The Clerk updated the PC on the number of quotes that had been received for the architect's costs for the new Community Centre. A discussion was held on the reserves figures. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the chair of the Hadlow Down Community Centre committee (HDCC) advising that the PC required a 3<sup>rd</sup>, and if possible, a 4<sup>th</sup> quote before they could make a decision about the contribution they would make towards the costs.  
The PC authorised a budget requirement of £28,562 and a precept of £27,663.

**277. REPORT FROM CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC** – in his absence KO had advised that a meeting was being held at Uckfield Civic Centre on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. regarding the proposed pavement changes in Uckfield, NJ agreed to attend. [it was later confirmed that this was a Chamber of Commerce meeting that was only open to members].

**279. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :**

Cllr. Emsden left the meeting for the following item:

- iv. A donation to CAB for the twitter presentation they had given to the Clerk was agreed.

Cllr. Emsden rejoined the meeting.

Cllr. James left the meeting for the following item:

- v. Fencing work around drainage cover in Hut Lane – Councillors had been sent details of the quotes prior to the meeting, the Parish Council agreed on the contractor.

Cllr. James rejoined the meeting.

- vi. Ditching work – to be discussed at item 292.

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

- i. Cllr. Nathan James advised that he would be picking up on the Emergency Plan after the Christmas and New Year break. He confirmed that he hadn't been able to attend the last Playing Field Committee meeting.
- ii. Cllr. Clare Emsden advised that some ditch clearance work has been undertaken on footpath 27c near Waghorns Lane. The Clerk has reported the missing footpath sign at the bottom of footpath 29b.

**281. CAR PARK ON THE GLEBE LAND** – the Clerk reminded the PC of the church's plans for a car park on the glebe land. She advised the Parish Council that if they qualify for the General Power of Competence after the election, they will have greater powers regarding payments and will be able to contribute to anything that is legal. *The Clerk will apply for the burial ground driveway to be registered with the Land Registry.*

**Clerk**

**282. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – meeting is being held on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**283. COUNCILLORS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** – councillor's roles and responsibilities will also be reviewed at the annual meeting. A discussion was held on the Chair's thoughts regarding changes to the roles. It was agreed for JMY to take over as WDALC representative, *the Clerk will liaise with ML and arrange for the dates for meetings to be sent to JMY.*

**Clerk**

**284. SOCIAL MEDIA** – the Clerk updated the PC on the information she received from Crowborough Town Council on their use of twitter. She has received training and currently has 22 followers, although she felt that it was important to increase the number of followers in the village so that they can be kept updated on items such as highways issues and meeting information. The Clerk has put an item on the website and the Chair has done one for the Parish Magazine. During the trial period the Clerk is recording the amount of time she spends on twitter and the number of posts and retweets.

**285. PARKING ON THE PAVEMENT IN MAIN ROAD** – this wasn't considered to be a problem now, however it will continue to be reviewed.

**286. RISK ASSESSMENTS** – as the Clerk hadn't received the completed reports *JMY agreed to undertake further risk assessments, Clerk to forward sheets to him.*

**Clerk/JMY**

**287. HIGHWAYS** – update from the steward's visit – c/f

**288. CLERK'S MATTERS:**

- i. Hours were agreed and signed
- ii. The update from the Wealden Clerks meeting had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting. This had highlighted cuts being made at ESCC, WDC and in the police. It had updated councilors on the ESCC Community Self-Serve Scheme and on a presentation where PCs were encouraged to see whether services could be devolved to them.

**289. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed by the Chair, the

Clerk will get a further signatory to sign the cheques in the next few days:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £794.90 includes £20.70 mileage & £13.32 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £174.90.
- ii. Wellers Law Group LLP £500 legal advice.
- iii. Hadlow Down Village Hall £200 hire of hall.
- iv. HM Revenue and Customs £223.60 tax and national insurance.

**290. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:**

- i. Gatwick Airport engagement and long term aviation capacity consultation – a discussion was held on the consultation and the PC all agreed that they didn't approve of a second runway at Gatwick due to the increased volume of air traffic over the village. The PC agreed to accept Gatwick's invitation to be involved in meetings with them regarding Gatwick-related topics of interest to the PC. *JMY to draft a response to the consultation and forward it to the PC.* **JMY**
- ii. WDC 2015/16 budget and 2015-20 medium term financial strategy consultation – no response made.
- iii. WDC Draft Corporate Plan 2015-19 – no response made.
- iv. WDC Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment – WDC are calling for sites. It was agreed that the PC would suggest the Village Hall land site to WDC. The meeting was opened to Janet Tourell, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, who was in agreement with this decision.
- v. DCLG consultation on the Government's intentions to modernise parish poll regulations – the PC agreed the response, *the Clerk will send.* **Clerk**

**291. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**

- i. Emergency radio
- ii. Operation Crackdown presentation
- iii. Rights of Way survey

**292. ENTRANCE TO THE PLAYING FIELD – discussed in closed session**

**279. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**

- vi. It was agreed not to undertake the ditching work in Wilderness Lane.

**The meeting closed at 9:15pm**