



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday July 1st 2008

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

Present: Cllrs Paul James (Chairman), Colin James, Graham Terry, Tony Bonnicks and Michael Lunn. Also in attendance were Joan Wiltshire (Courier) and Jean Holmwood (Clerk).

1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** Joan said that she was sad to hear that the Clerk had resigned, and thanked her for all the support she had given the village on top of her official duties. Fiona seconded her comments. The Clerk asked Fiona if the work on the gulleys had begun at Five Chimneys – nothing had happened. Some of the potholes had been repaired but others had appeared since. The Clerk will chase ESCC.
2. **PCSO Tam Bennett:** Tam reported the following: - Report of vermin shooting on a local farm. A non injury rtc in Wilderness Lane. Fuel taken from lorries. A riderless horse found – the rider had fallen. A lady in School Lane had problems with a window cleaner who asked for more money than had previously been agreed. She cancelled the contract but the man came again. She called the company again and the matter has now been reported to Trading Standards. Tam also reported that they had been actively involved with Speedwatch. A useful meeting had been held the evening before with the NHW community panel. They will be held twice yearly. Graham had also attended.
3. **APOLOGIES** had been received from Cllr. David Walker (reason recorded), Cllr. Tony Reid and Cllr. Norman Buck.
4. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Paul declared interest in the planning application for Wildings Wood, Riverside.
5. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on June 3rd were agreed and signed as a true record. (Previously circulated).
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - i. A letter had been received from ESCC confirming the details of the sites of the new speed limits. The Council are still not happy with the starting position of the 30mph limit near Wilderness Wood, and asked the Clerk to find out any statistics from Wilderness Wood, that may prove facts of traffic. The Clerk will also respond to ESCC.
 - ii. Details had been discussed at the March meeting of training through AiRS for a Youth Council, now that Tony had been appointed as YC liaison, the Clerk was asked to contact AiRS to see what they can offer.
 - iii. ESCC had responded to our request for the verges at Tinkers Park to be cut prior to the summer meeting. They had asked us to remind them a few weeks before the event. The Clerk has diaried the reminder. However it was agreed to advise the Tinkers Park Committee of the result and to ask them to undertake the cut back if ESCC do not do so.
 - iv. ESCC had written to say that they were making contact with a new supplier of bollards in August so would be advising us later of a possible date for the bollards to be installed.
 - v. ESCC had contacted re the bollards on the eastern end of Main Road. They had offered to cut back the sides of the verge. The Clerk had advised the caller of our request to Andy Brooke to visit the village and meet with Councillors. Nothing had been heard so she will contact Andy Brooke again.
7. **PLANNING MEETINGS**

A planning meeting was held on June 17th. Minutes have been circulated to Councillors, and posted on the village notice boards.

APPLICATIONS:

WD/2008/1327/F Brick Kiln Farm, Brick Kiln Lane: Alteration and extension to existing dwelling to form link to and convert disused barns. (Originally on the agenda for 170608 but deferred for a site meeting)

Note: The Clerk had previously checked with WDC (at Colin's suggestion) as to whether the above premises was a listed building, as there had been no LB application. WDC admitted that they had overlooked the matter and we should have received an LB application. It was agreed that the comments would be returned with a second copy relating to WD/2008/1328/LB. *Our Council has some concerns regarding the overall eventual size of the property, its close proximity to existing farm buildings and the disturbance of the historical layout of the existing dwelling. We can see the value of the conversion of the outbuildings if it is to preserve the historical courtyard appearance of the site.*

WD/2008/1477/LB Granary Cottage, Huggetts Furnace Farm, Hastingford Lane: Paint brickwork to extension and ground floor walls to west and south elevations. *We have no objections to this listed building application.*

WD/2008/1607/FR Wildings Wood, Riverside, Blackboys: Rebuild existing annexe building as all previously approved under WD/2007/1390/F. *We fully support this application.*
8. **REPORT FROM CLLR. TONY REID, EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL:** No report in Cllr. Reid's absence.
9. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)**

- i. **Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths:** In David's absence Paul said he had received a complaint about the encroachment of the hedges on the Main Road from Wheelers Lane to School Lane. The Clerk will contact ESCC and ask them to deal but to ensure that the matter cleared is taken away rather than being allowed to wash down again. Again the Council would ask Andy Brooke to have a site meeting to view the problem. Michael advised that local residents had cleared the overgrown grass at the exit of Five Chimneys onto the Main Road, as ESCC had not dealt in time. It was agreed to let ESCC know when contacting about the other matters and that it is already growing again.
The school signs in School Lane are obliterated by foliage. It is asked that if the hedges cannot be cut back regularly, that the school signs could be re-sited.
The exit from Dog Kennel Lane is becoming impossible because of the vegetation growing out from the verge and hedges. It needs cutting back urgently for safety reasons. The Clerk will ask ESCC if it can be dealt with as a matter of urgency and can be done so annually, as the PC has to chase up residents annually.
 - ii. Graham reported from the **NHW** seminar the previous day. The Police are appointing a manager to try to bring organisations together. It was announced that all crime in Wealden had dropped in the past 12 months.
Emergency Planning Group: Eddie had sent an article to the Parish Magazine.
New Village Hall: Still waiting for more responses from the questionnaire.
Playing Field Committee: No meeting. The Fayre had once again been a great success. The Council asked for its CONGRATULATIONS to be passed on to the organisers. Graham also reported that the cricket pitch was being well used.
 - iii. **Burial Ground:** Tony had nothing to report however the Clerk had recently visited the burial ground to find 3 "builder's type" vehicles blocking the access. She had checked at the school who had no knowledge. It was suggested and agreed that a sign be purchased stating "no overnight parking, vehicles parked at owners risk and please keep access clear at all times". The Clerk will obtain prices.
Youth Council: the Clerk had forwarded information to Tony with regards the formation of a Youth Council.
 - iv. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Colin reported that as the new Village Hall would probably not be built for at least 5 years the VH committee are making a list of things that need doing and costing them. He will report back. They had revised charges and had a big clean up a few weeks ago. They are planning a big paint with the Variety Club providing the labour if the paint is supplied. A carpet has also been offered for the committee room. It was asked if the "Payback" team could be contacted to clear up the outside of the building. The Clerk will deal.
Wealden Association of Local Councils: Colin reported that Kelvin Williams (WDC Planning) had been invited to a future meeting.
Safer Wealden Partnership: Nothing to report.
 - v. **Village Action Plan:** Michael said that he had looked at the Village Action Plan and realised that it needs updating. Paul said that it had complied at the time it was undertaken and a lot had been achieved, like the emergency plan, broadband and speed limit changes.
Easylink. A brief discussion was held about local bus services. It was agreed to look further into the matter.
Sustainable Development and Environment Matters. Michael had contacted ESCC and WDC and was advised that there was a comprehensive extension planned to current services. They are favouring a similar system to that in Forest Row, or another option is scaled down collections. They are looking at waste management contracts. Paul said that the recycling centre at Wilderness Wood was extensively used. Graham commented that he had heard that ESCC were going to dump tons of hardcore or similar in Byway 22. It seemed the wrong thing to do. Surely it will sink and does not seem to be right for horses. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the new person at ESCC to ask what their planned course of action is.
 - vi. **Tree Warden - Jo Dummer (ex Councillor).** Nothing reported.
- 10. BANK RECONCILIATION** – No report as statement not received.
- 11. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:** The final accounts for 2007-2008 were presented by the Clerk for approval. They had previously been presented at the recent finance meeting. The ear-marked reserves had been changed as recommended by the finance group. The accounts were approved by all present and signed by the Chairman. They will now be sent off to the external auditors and the Notice of Audit will be posted on Friday 4th of July.
- 12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed for payment and cheques signed. (BT noted).
- i. Jean Holmwood. Salary £540.40 and expenses £413.02 = total £953.42. (Note – the Clerk's expenses include £384.12 which was the cost of advertising the Clerk's position in the Friday-Ad. Authorised by the Chairman)
 - ii. SALC – New Councillors Packs. £105.75
 - iii. Inland Revenue £612.32.
 - iv. John Roberts. £71 for internal audit.
 - v. BT – the quarterly account has been received from BT totalling £65.01. This will be collected by direct debit on or after July 6th.
 - vi. Viking - £69.76. Stationery.
- 13. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerk had not undertaken any extra hours.

- ii. Paul advised the Council of the Clerk's resignation and signed the letter. He said he would be sorry to see her leave. The position was being advertised in the Friday Ad and through SALC. SALC would be dealing with the interviews and all follow ups for an agreed fee of £250. It was decided to have a further discussion after a planning meeting that was agreed for Thursday 17th July. It would be a planning meeting, followed by a discussion on the Clerk's matters then a finance group meeting. This will include a discussion on archiving.
 - iii. Archiving. See previous item.
14. **TRAINING:** Nothing received
15. **OTHER MATTERS –**
- i. From Michael – Buxted Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting Order. Michael had forwarded papers through the Clerk to Councillors to read before the meeting. They referred to proposed plans for changes to parking restrictions in Buxted to try to alleviate the problems with parking for the railway station. It was agreed that the proposed changes are not solving the basic problem. It is disappointing that nothing had happened in Uckfield and it was also agreed that this proposal should not be brought in until Uckfield had been sorted, and the parking increased. There was concern as to who would "police" it. It was suggested that a survey would be a good idea to identify the needs from users. Councillors did not agree with the yellow lines, especially as they are extending far out of the area. Hadlow Down parishioners are keen to use the up to date facilities and are unable to do so.
It was also agreed to write to ESCC about the problems outside the school regarding safety and to request a site meeting.
 - ii. From Paul – children's letters from the school. The Clerk had made précis's of the children's letters which all Councillors have taken to peruse and comment. They will be discussed further at the next meeting.
16. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE.**
- i. Request from the V Hall committee to have a key to the notice board at the village hall. *Agreed. Paul has a spare key which he will pass on.*
 - ii. SALC – Information about the availability of the New Governance and Accountability for Local Councils. Hard copy available for £20 inc VAT and postage. *Agreed to purchase*
 - iii. AiRS Briefing re Youth Development Services. *Emailed to Tony.*
17. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – FOR FILING OR DISTRIBUTION**
- i. WDC – twice yearly benefit newsletter. To be held on file
 - ii. The South East Regional Sustainability Framework. Passed to Michael.
 - iii. Sussex Police – Wealden District Commanders message + message from the Chief Constable. Forwarded to Councillors by email.
 - iv. Explanation leaflet received to accompany the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Graham taken to peruse.
 - v. Letter from Kelvin Williams, WDC, giving advice re planning responses. Copied for all Councillors.
 - vi. ESCC Rights of Way – details of a Network Survey in the near future. Emailed to David.
 - vii. ESCC Rights of Way – details of the new North Wealden Rights of Way Officer. Emailed to David.
 - viii. WDC's Corporate Plan for 2008-11. Circulated to Councillors.
 - ix. Safer Communities Newsletter. Circulated to Councillors
 - x. Wealden Business Focus. Circulated to Councillors
 - xi. Regional Housing Strategy. Circulated to Councillors
18. **ITEMS RECEIVED AND AVAILABLE TO FORWARD OR VIEW.**
- i. "Age Well" leaflet from ESCC. Also available at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/agewell
 - ii. HOSC Newsletter.
 - iii. Details of the new Chief Executive for East Sussex Downs and Weald and Hastings and Rother PCT's.

It should be noted that the Council still has a vacancy for a new Councillor. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors for details.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday August 4th at 7.p.m. in the Village Hall