



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Monday July 4th 2011.

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

Present: Councillors David Walker (DW) (Chairman), Sandra Richards (SR), Damon Wellman (DWe), and Graham Terry (GT). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells. Apologies were received from Cllr. Tony Reid (ESCC).

- 88. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – The Clerk advised that she had been asked to pass on congratulations and thanks to Michael Lunn (ML) and all the other organizers involved in the recent school barn dance. A member of the public raised about the issues of speeding in School Lane, extending the double yellow lines at the top of the road and the problem with non-emergency ambulances parking on these. The Parish Council (PC) have got Highways to add extending the double yellow lines onto their waiting list. A discussion was held regarding the police's involvement in monitoring speeding and the lack of help within the village for speedwatch.

PCSO Mark Carter (MC) apologized for the delay in sending out invitations to the recent police street meeting and advised that speeding needs to be raised at the Joint Action Group meeting, *DWe attending the Neighbourhood Police Rural Panel meeting and will raise the issues of speeding and better signage.*

DWe

It was suggested having a 20mph sign near the school. A member of the public requested that a beware cyclists sign be placed near the Toll House as this is a dangerous part of the road for cyclists. MC will see if he can do a speedwatch leaflet drop in School Lane in order to get support for the scheme, although the main problem with speeding is late at night. The Clerk advised that she was disappointed that the extra speed checks she had been promised for the village hadn't materialized.

7.20 ML joined the meeting

A member of public suggested having larger speed signs, different positioning of them, an electronic speed sign and more signage in School Lane.

MC will look into the issue of the ambulance parking. *Clerk to write to the ambulance service.* **Clerk**

- 89. REPORT FROM PCSO MARK CARTER** – MC advised that between 24th May – 4th July there had been 1 report of speeding. He will find out if speed checks can be undertaken in School Lane. There have been opportunist thefts in the surrounding areas.
- 90. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Rona Hellewell (RH), also from ML to advise that he would be late for the meeting.
- 91. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – SR declared a personal interest and ML a prejudicial interest in point 111viii.
- 92. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 7th June 2011 were agreed and signed as true records, apart from at point 68 it should say Graham Terry and not GT and at point 73 the following was added “ML raised the issue of procedure for ESCC to adopt local parish plans. TR suggested contact CEO office”.
- 93. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- Community oil project – *Clerk to write to KO.* **Clerk**
 - Article for Parish Magazine regarding electricity monitors, *ML to pass back to Clerk to produce article.* **Clerk**
 - Consultations on Planning for Traveller Sites and Relaxation of Planning Rules – *RH to respond* **RH**
 - Clerks Report sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on the work she has undertaken over the last month, this included:

- a. Damaged drain outside Hastingford House, ironwork to be replaced. It was raised that the road surface around the drain keeps sinking, *Clerk to contact Highways.* **Clerk**
- b. Highways have responded to request to replace kerbing east of Wheelers Lane, unable to do at present, they will request that the site be considered for next year.
- 94. PLANNING MATTERS:**
- i. Correspondence received from WDC regarding the approval of application WD/2010/1898/FE – Extension of time of WD/2008/1394/RM – reserved matters – two link attached houses – The Old Store, Main Road – DW updated on WDC's response.
- 95. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLRs. KEN OGDEN and NORMAN BUCK WDC** – none received in their absence
- 96. BANK RECONCILIATION:** – for 24th June 2011 agreed and signed.
- 97. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS** –
- i. Oak tree at the Playing Field – DW advised that he has visited the site and feels that all of the tree should now be taken out. Agreed by all. *DW to speak to contractor regarding the price.* **DW**
- 98. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed by all and cheques signed:
- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £919.17 includes £27.90 for mileage, £128.63 training, £106.26 extra hours and £4.35 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £299.17. On the agenda the incorrect figure of £919.17 was quoted for the cheque.
- ii. St Mark's School £15.00 for hire of hall for Annual Meeting. To be paid under power given in Local Government Act 1972 s.134.
- iii. J. L. Roberts £112.10 internal auditor
- iv. Viking Direct £154.66 stationery
- v. HM Revenue and Customs £410.86
- 99. NEW COMMUNITY HALL** – GT updated the PC on the recent meeting of the committee. They have received a price for part of the land north of the Village Hall. They are planning a pre-application meeting with WDC planners and Highways and will be approaching the PC to pay the fee, it was suggested that Cllr. Ken Ogden (WDC) be approached, *GT to contact him.* **GT**
- A survey will be sent to villagers, it was questioned why villagers will no longer be asked what site they would like for the centre. Richard Boswell will be producing a plan for a hall on the present site and will be presenting this to WDC along with the plan he produced for the playing field site. The Clerk updated the PC on an email she has received from the Chair of the committee in which she advises that villagers will be asked where they would like the centre to be, *Clerk to write to Chair to seek clarity and to also invite her to the meeting on 18th July when the payment of the pre-application fee will be discussed by the PC.* **Clerk**
- 100. WEBSITE** – everyone agreed that they were now happy with the way the website is being run. *New Councillors to send me a profile that I can put on the website, other Councillors to check whether theirs need updating.* **ALL**
- 101. COUNCILLOR'S EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES** – GT and SR asked to claim a lesser allowance of £50 per annum. The PC agreed to pay travel and subsistence allowances under Regulation 26 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003 at the maximum non-taxable rate permitted by HMRC. For mileage this is 45p per mile.
- 102. QUALITY COUNCIL** – a discussion was held on the requirements to achieve Quality Council status and on the work involved. *Clerk to give everyone a copy of the application sheets.* **Clerk**
- c/f to August meeting, Clerk to also confirm the amount of time that is required to complete all the work involved.* **Clerk**
- 103. NEW INN** – a Councillor was asked to raise this as an agenda item as a number of people have been asking about the work at the New Inn and when it will be re-opening. There is a strong community desire to support the pub. *DW to liaise with the owner.* **DW**
- 104. REPORTED CLOSURE OF FOOTPATH/BRIDLEWAY IN BRICK KILN LANE** – the Clerk confirmed that she has spoken to the Rights of Way Team at ESCC and there is no record of a public rights of way for at least 150 years..
- 105. RISK ASSESSMENTS** – *GT will undertake the quarterly risk assessments.* **GT**
- 106. POLICE STREET MEETING** – this item was also discussed in public questions. Correspondence had been received from a member of the public and the police casualty reduction officer following the street meeting. It was felt that Highways would not agree with moving the derestricted sign to the other side of Five Chimneys Lane. With regard to the point relating to engagement between the school and parents over parking, as the school was copied in on the correspondence it would be their decision as to whether to take action on this.

107. **BOLLARDS OUTSIDE THE GARAGE DEVELOPMENT NEXT TO THE NEW INN** – it was agreed that the damaged bollards did not need to be replaced.
108. **SPEEDING WITHIN THE VILLAGE** – the Clerk updated the meeting on correspondence she had received regarding speeding within the village, a response has been sent. DW also raised about speeding down Hut Lane, people are asked to slow down in this area especially due to the danger of children playing.
109. **CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION** –it was agreed that a representative from the PC should attend the Examination, *the Clerk will respond to WDC*. It was also agreed that the Community Plan should be presented as it was felt, by a Councillor, that neighbourhood plans have not been taken into account as part of the LDF process. To be discussed further at August meeting. **Clerk**
110. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
- i. Burial Ground, Village Hall, Playing Field, New Community Hall and Strengthening Local Relationships - Cllr. Graham Terry – GT advised that due to the bad weather the Village Fayre lost some money this year.
 - ii. Trees – the Clerk advised that a tree leaning across the road in Stonehurst Lane was reported to Highways who dealt with it immediately.
111. **CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. Hours were checked agreed and signed.
 - ii. Correspondence was received regarding the damage to an ancient hedge following work by Highways in Criers Lane, the contractor will be meeting with the landowner to discuss the issues.
 - iii. The Clerk has received a request that should villagers ask, that they then be added to an email list to receive future agendas. Agreed by all however a pdf of the agenda will be sent.
 - iv. The Clerk updated the PC on the recent meeting with WDC regarding closed burial grounds. WDC should be sending her further financial information in order that a more informed discussion can be had at the PC meeting on 18th July.
 - v. Digital TV switchover pack received, *Clerk to display posters and do article for the Parish Magazine and the website.* **Clerk**
 - vi. New rector for St Mark's Church, Revd. Evan France to start on 31st August. *Clerk to diarise to ensure that welcome letter is sent on behalf of the PC.* **Clerk**
 - vii. Notice of road closure C209 Treblers Road, Jarvis Brook, from its junction with the B2100 Rotherfield Road to its junction with the C209 Castle Hill from 14th – 21st July.
 - viii. The Clerk updated the meeting on communications she has had with WDC planning department, ESCC Highways department and with the owner regarding the new entrance to land in Five Chimneys Lane. This is a historical entrance and the owner is planning to do new planting. The owner has also Informed the Clerk that he has spoken to the Forestry Commission and to WDC and has a felling licence for chestnut trees in School Lane as they are unsafe.
112. **TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:**
- i. ESCC Economy, Transport and Environment meeting Sep. 2011, *Clerk to book 2 places for the meeting.* **Clerk**
113. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:**
- i. NALC e-bulletin
 - ii. Grey Matters
 - iii. LCR magazine
 - iv. Homeworks newsletter – *SR to do article for the Parish Magazine* **SR**
 - v. WDC Parish Bulletin
114. **ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA**
Nothing further added to what has already been raised in the minutes.

Meeting closed 9:25pm

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be on
MONDAY 18th July at 7pm**