



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 7th July 2015.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY), Damon Wellman (DW) and Graham Terry (GT). The Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells was in attendance.
Apologies received from Cllrs. Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC) and Michael Lunn (ML)(WDC). Cllr. Toby Illingworth (TI)(WDC) had apologised that he would be late.

97. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None raised. The Chair advised that she was sorry to hear that David Waddington had passed away. The Parish Council recognised all the work he had done with many organisations in the village, including the Parish Council, over many years.
98. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Cllrs. Nathan James and Michael Lunn.
99. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none declared.
100. **CRIME REPORT** – none received
101. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 2nd and 23rd July 2015 were agreed and signed as true records.
102. **MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**

- i. Parking on the pavement – c/f.

GT

A Councillor raised that cars were still parking on the pavement near Grange Cottages, whilst the Parish Council (PC) expressed sympathy with the lack of parking in this area for residents, concern was raised that it was dangerous for pedestrians when the pavement is obstructed, *the Clerk will raise with the PCSO.*

Clerk

NJ

- ii. Hut Lane drainage – c/f.

iii. Letter and article regarding Gatwick Airport changes – JMY was thanked for his work on this.

iv. Presentation to previous District Councillor – SR confirmed that she had met with Ken Ogden.

v. Clerks pension – to investigate options – this has been passed to GT to action.

GT

vi. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:

a. Letters regarding Gatwick Airport changes and broadband have been sent to Nus Ghani MP.

b. The Clerk has spoken to WDC regarding the rats, they will visit and speak to the resident.

c. Response has been sent to the Wealden Local Plan Draft Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report 2015.

d. ESCC will investigate the exposed pipework on Byway 24 and make good any damage and re-bury the pipe.

103. **PLANNING:**

a. **APPROVED APPLICATIONS:**

- i. WD/2015/0934/F – 10 Standen Mews TN22 4HG – Single storey extension.

b. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

- i. Five Badgers, Stonehurst Lane – the Clerk updated the meeting on her correspondence with WDC.

The chair opened this agenda item to members of the public.

Two councillors have viewed the changes to the site and these were discussed. A Councillor also updated the meeting on his conversation with a WDC officer.

- ii. Wilderness Wood forthcoming application – a discussion was held on whether this application should be considered at a public meeting or within a normal PC meeting. It was highlighted that the Wood had already held an exhibition of the plans and had held question and answer sessions with

residents. It was decided that the type of meeting would be agreed once the application is received and the applicants would be invited to attend the meeting in order to answer any questions residents may have.

- iii. Land at Scocus Farm enforcement notices – the PC were updated on 2 enforcement notices they had received for land at Scocus Farm. The breaches alleged are that, without planning permission, the use of the land has been changed from agriculture to a mixed use for agriculture and for the stationing of a yurt and for use for purposes of education and recreation and that without planning permission timber buildings have been erected.

105. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for 26 June 2015 was agreed and signed, including by a non-signatory as part of the quarterly controls.

106. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :

- i. The quarterly financial report was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk confirmed details of the loan to the PC. £6065 has been transferred from property maintenance reserves and £1500 from elections reserves towards the cost of the purchase of the land. Councillors asked about early repayment of the loan. *The Clerk will email the information to them.* **Clerk**
- ii. The Clerk had received a request for kerbsets at the burial ground, it was agreed that these would be allowed and what the charge would be.
- iii. The signing of the BACS form for ESCC's contribution for the fingerpost costs, that was signed at the last meeting, was ratified at this meeting.
- iv. Tree survey quotes – councillors had been sent details of the quotes prior to the meeting, they agreed on which quote to go with. *The Clerk will arrange for a map to be purchased in order for the trees to be recorded on it.* **Clerk**
- v. The payment of £155.00 to Printmonger Media that was paid at the last meeting was ratified at this meeting.

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

- i. Cllr. Damon Wellman advised that he had attended the WDC Planning Panel meeting. He highlighted the gully on the A272 opposite Tinkers Lane that hasn't yet had an apron installed around it and the top is now getting covered in debris. It was also confirmed that one of the recently raised gullies on the A272 is now loose and that one is higher than the road. Concern was also raised that when travelling on a motorbike it was noticeable that the manhole covers were lower than the road. A Councillor highlighted that the pothole in Stockland Lane hadn't been filled in properly. *The Clerk will raise all of these items with Highways.* **Clerk**
It was raised that the hedge is overgrown on the corner of Dog Kennel Lane and the A272, *the Clerk will write to the homeowners.* **Clerk**
Following a comment from a member of the public to a Councillor, in future the budget heading of donations will appear as grants.
- ii. In Cllr. Nathan James' absence the Clerk advised that there had been a bonfire held next to the Pavilion and broken glass had been left there and in the field next to it. NJ will be discussing options with Fiona Shafer to prevent this reoccurring. The Clerk confirmed that for the Sport England grant the Playing Field Committee had arranged for an Accountant to deal with the requirements of s.124 of the Charity Commission and that their solicitor has sent the Form of Charge to the Trustees for execution.

108. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – Cllr. Sandra Richards had attended the Hadlow Down Community Centre Committee meeting, the committee are applying for a grant to pay the upfront costs i.e. architects costs. In the grant application the Chair of the committee has advised that they will be applying for a grant from the PC to pay for a small proportion of this. They hope to have a meeting with WDC in October. *SR will send notes of the meeting to Councillors.* **SR**

109. FUTURE PLANS FOR THE VILLAGE HALL – c/f

110. UCKFIELD HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS – the PC agreed their response to the questionnaire. Concern was expressed over the impact the works will have on traders.

111. DEFIBRILLATORS – the Clerk updated the PC on the options and costs involved in purchasing a defibrillator. It was agreed to purchase a defibrillator and cabinet, *the Clerk will arrange and will also contact the chair of the village hall about installing it on the outside of the village hall.* The PC will check the battery on a monthly basis and will add it to their meeting agenda. **Clerk**

112. VILLAGE FAYRE – the Chair thanked all Councillors who helped at the Fayre. It was agreed *that the Clerk would write to the organisers of the Fayre to thank them and their committee and to congratulate them on the success of the Fayre.* **Clerk**

113. RISK ASSESSMENTS – these were handed to SR to complete. **SR**

114. HIGHWAYS :

- i. Fingerpost survey report – c/f

- 118. CO-OPTION PROCEDURE** – the co-option procedure was agreed. Clare Emsden has resigned from the PC, Councillors will encourage people to stand for co-option. SR agreed to take on Highways, Rights of Way and Strengthening Local Relationship meetings until a new Councillor is in place. *She will arrange to meet with Clare for an update on these areas. The Clerk will send SR a list of the outstanding Highways items, SR will then arrange to visit the roads in Hadlow Down with GT and RG.* **SR/Clerk**
- 114. HIGHWAYS:**
- ii. Highways issues – c/f.
 - iii. Vehicle advertising – the Clerk had contacted ESCC Highways regarding a van advertising near Mayfield Flats, she updated the PC on Highways’ response. The van has now been moved. It was questioned why signs on verges advertising local events have in the past been removed by ESCC and concern was expressed by a Councillor over the number of advertising signs. *The Clerk will contact Highways regarding these items.* **Clerk**
 - iv. Footpath 27c removal of bollards – 3 residents had contacted the PC regarding the removal of the bollards and that a car had been driven along the footpath. The Clerk has raised the matter with the ESCC Rights of Way team.
 - v. Stonehurst Lane patch repairs will be undertaken on Tuesday 14th July for 3 days on the corner by Saxon Ghyll. If the weather is bad the work will be delayed.
- 115. NOTICEBOARD** – the Clerk updated the meeting on the problem with the noticeboard on Main Road, DW *will look at it and see what work is required.* **DW**
- 116. ENTRANCE TO PLAYING FIELD** – no further update available other than the solicitor has advised that the Trust has queried a typo on the transfer document, he has asked that they sign the document.
- 117. TELEPHONE BOX** – the Clerk has spoken to BT who have confirmed that it is less likely that the phone box would be taken away due to the distance to other phone boxes. It is still used however usage is low. If they intend to remove the box a consultation notice would be put up in it for 90 days and WDC would be informed. They are unable to advise the PC if they are planning on removing it. The PC can adopt the box to ensure it isn’t removed. WDC have confirmed to the Clerk that the PC would be consulted before any removal of the box. The PC were encouraged to check the box for any notices.
- 118. CO-OPTION PROCEDURE** – it was agreed for the Chair to get a small gift for Clare Emsden to thank her for her work as a Councillor.
- 119. CLERK’S MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed
 - ii. Website & transparency code – the Clerk confirmed that details of landholding, a landholdings map and transactions over £500 now appear on the website in line with the new requirements under the Transparency Code. The Clerk expressed her thanks to Eddie Westfield for all his assistance with this and for his continual help when required.
 - iii. Liaison meeting with chairs of committees – it was agreed for the Clerk to organize a liaison meeting with the Chairs of the Village Hall, Community Centre and Playing Field committees in September.
 - iv. Meeting timetable for 2016 was agreed.
 - v. Wealden Clerks Meeting – the Clerk asked for the PC’s support for a letter to WDC from the Clerks at their meeting requesting that WDC’s consultations be clearer, that a glossary and summary be provided and that, where possible, consultations aren’t issued over Christmas or the summer holidays. This was wholeheartedly agreed by the PC.
- 120. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:
- i. Sandra Richards £27.00 leaving gift for District Councillor.
 - ii. Viking £37.15 stationery
 - iii. Wellers Law Group LLP £524.40 legal advice regarding the playing field.
 - iv. Wellers Law Group LLP £1324.80 legal advice regarding purchase of land at the entrance to the playing field.
 - v. Compact Cutting £504.00 maintenance of the burial ground and play area.
 - vi. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £787.47 includes £18.45 mileage and £19.95 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £167.47.
 - vii. HM Revenue and Customs £82.24
 - viii. SSALC Limited £60.00 New Councillor Training
- 121. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:**
- i. Wealden Parish Conference – it was agreed to wait till the agenda was produced before deciding whether to attend.
 - ii. Play area inspection training – no-one to attend.
- 122. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
- i. Supply of the Register of Electors – GT and the Clerk will receive a copy.

- ii. Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner – as the Commissioner had attended the Parish Assembly it wasn't felt necessary to attend this meeting. Members of the public can also attend the meeting on 29th July at 7pm at Five Ash Down Village Hall.
- iii. Friends of the East Sussex Record Office newsletter

123. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- i. The governments proposals regarding the sale of Housing Association properties. Concern had been expressed that this may result in a reduction of available properties for rent. Prior to the next meeting the *Clerk will find out if there are any conditions on the disposal of St Mark's Field properties. Clerk*

Cllr. Toby Illingworth joined the meeting at 8:50pm

104. REPORT FROM CLLR. TOBY ILLINGWORTH WDC

TI apologized for being late. He confirmed that WDC have approved an outline plan for 1000 homes at Ridgewood, ESCC didn't approve the application however they also didn't oppose it. The next stage will be a full planning application for stage 1 of about 300 homes. Once the SANGS are constructed he and ML can push for the new village halls to be included however it hasn't yet been confirmed that they will be. ML/TI hope to be able to confirm by the next PC meeting. He is meeting with the Head of Planning next week to discuss this, the Chair asked that the PC are kept updated. TI confirmed that he and ML don't think that village halls should be included in the Ashdown Forest 7km exclusion zone.

Concern was expressed by a Councillor about the lack of infrastructure at the Ridgewood development.

TI advised that timescales for stage 1 aren't yet known. He confirmed that Southern will be extending the trains to/from London on the Uckfield line.

The PC discussed the Five Badgers site with TI and also confirmed that he will be copied in on the PC's response to the Uckfield High Street proposed changes. They expressed concern that local parishes weren't originally consulted on the changes.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm