



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in the Committee Room of Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 26th July 2016.

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Graham Terry (GT), Damon Wellman (DW) and Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY). The Clerk Helen Johnson was in attendance.

107. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Rachel Lewis (RL) advised the Parish Council (PC) of the new ‘Celebrate’ funding stream from the National Lottery.

108. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – apologies received from Cllr. Iain Turner.

109. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none received.

The Chair of the Parish Council opened up agenda items 110 – 121 to the chairs of the Playing Field, Community Centre and Village Hall Committees to be involved in the discussions:

Cllr Michael Lunn (ML) joined the meeting at 7:05pm.

121. CELEBRATE LOTTERY FUNDING – RL invited the PC to apply for a Celebrate lottery grant in order to hold an event(s) to promote village organisations. RL is willing to assist in the application on a volunteer basis. There is also the opportunity to apply for funding for equipment and to employ a sessional worker. The PC agreed that in principle they wanted to go ahead with an application, it was agreed for JMY to be the PC’s representative and for a representative of the main groups in the village to be invited to an initial meeting.
The Clerk will arrange for invites to be sent out. **Clerk**

110. VILLAGE HALL – Janet Tourell updated the meeting on problems at the village hall and advised that parking continues to be a major problem.

112. COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT – Bob Lake (BL) confirmed that they were now in the process of applying for a £40,000 grant to assist with the putting together of a Community Right to Build Order, they can also apply for direct technical support from Locality with regard to planning and environmental matters. The committee now have a Facebook page and are holding a Car Boot Sale at Tinkers Park on 4th September. BL asked that either himself or Sarah Prall be advised of other outlets where they can promote the project.

ML (WDC) advised of support amongst his colleagues for the project and updated on the position regarding the Buxted reading room.

The Chair allowed a member of the public to ask questions.

BL confirmed that if their grant application was successful and a consultant was appointed they would then hold a public meeting.

113. DEVELOPMENT SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE HALL – the Clerk confirmed that the site was now up for sale with an uplift should the purchaser obtain planning permission for residential development. JT expressed concern regarding the overhanging hedge, the Clerk advised that any cuttings from overhanging vegetation have to be put back on the site.

The PC were asked if they would approach the landowner to see if he was willing to give some of the land for Village Hall parking. As the land is up for sale the PC felt that this wasn’t now possible.

111. PLAYING FIELD – Fiona Shafer (FS) advised that they had a successful stall at the steam rally and that the pop-up restaurants had made a good profit. FS updated further in agenda items 114 – 117.

114. DRAINAGE PROJECT AND IMPACT ON FUTURE USE OF THE PLAYING FIELD – FS confirmed that the drainage project is nearly complete and that grass seed is being added and the area fenced off to allow the grass to grow. In September the contractor will be working on ring drainage for the cricket field. Spare earth has been used to create a bund next to the play area and the drainage hole has been filled in. The final pieces of paperwork now need completing.

Questions were asked on measuring the success of the project and on the new drainage.

FS advised that BL is applying for a grant for mini goals, markers and other equipment. They want new Trustees who will manage the football grounds maintenance. Each year the pitch will need to be verti-

drained and sand dressed.

A discussion was held on the usage of the pitch and playing field after the first anniversary of the drainage work. It was confirmed that this would depend a bit on weather conditions, it would be ok for people to walk on the pitch and have stalls on there, however heavy machinery and vehicles wouldn't be allowed on it.

Concern was expressed by Councillors that it would be disappointing if the pitch couldn't be used for events and that the pitch would be used by clubs from outside the village. BL confirmed that the clubs would be open for any village children to join and FS advised that they would like to have village football and stoolball teams. It was questioned by a Councillor whether the PC should get involved in discussions over the future siting of the Village Fayre.

A Councillor requested that if the PC receive complaints regarding the future use of the playing field that they should revisit the matter.

- 115. RoSPA INSPECTION** – FS advised that the committee had held a meeting to discuss the inspection and were due to have a maintenance session. 2 members of the committee would complete the risk assessment by the end of the month and forward it to the Clerk.
- 116. VANDALISM AT THE PLAYING FIELD** – the meeting was updated on the vandalism at the playing field and concern was expressed that the perpetrator(s) are removing warning tape and therefore putting others at risk. A discussion was held on what could be done to improve security and therefore safety.

ML declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 117.

- 117. PLAYING FIELD BOUNDARIES & ACCESS ONTO LAND** – the meeting was advised that logging the boundary on GPS hadn't worked. The Chair confirmed the ownership of the trees adjoining ML's land. It was agreed for the Chair to photograph the north and west side of the boundary and to obtain agreement from the relevant landowners to the boundary and for it then to be approved at a PC meeting. **SR**

The Clerk advised that she was obtaining quotes for the fencing between the playing field and the School House. A decision will need to be made over trees that are on the fence line. Once the fence is installed the Playing Field committee will be able to remove the hedgerow. A tree survey will need to be undertaken of the trees on the PC side of the fence.

The Clerk raised concern over items from the Playing Field committee regarding access from landowners property onto the playing field and advised that she wouldn't recommend that the PC agree to this and explained the reasons why. If the landowner wants to install access they should request permission from the PC.

FS confirmed that it was still the committees' intention to apply for grants to replace play equipment.

- 118. PARKING IN THE VILLAGE** - concern was expressed over parking in Hut Lane, especially during an event as emergency vehicles still need to have access. JT confirmed that in the hiring agreement hirers have to have someone to manage the parking.
- Parking at the top of Wilderness Lane and opposite Waghorns Lane was discussed. ML (WDC) advised that WDC are currently having a conversation regarding the possibility of employing a traffic warden(s). It was agreed to request, at the September Highways meeting, for double yellow lines from the top of Wilderness Lane to Corner Cottage and Secret Garden and on School Lane from St Mark's Field to 6 School Lane Cottages.

- 119. GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS** – the policy, application and monitoring form had been sent to the Chairs of the committees prior to the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the precept meeting would be held on 18th October 2016 and she would therefore need any grant requests by 11th October.
- 120. INSURANCE COVER FOR VOLUNTEERS** – the Clerk updated the meeting on the information she had received from the insurance company regarding volunteers undertaking activities on behalf of the PC. *The Clerk will copy the information to FS.* **Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8:23pm