



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 2<sup>nd</sup> June 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), Nathan James (NJ), Damon Wellman (DW), Clare Emsden (CE), Michael Lunn (ML) and Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC). The Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells was in attendance.

68. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – a member of the public asked whether it was still the Parish Council's (PC) intention to issue the closed session minutes, the PC confirmed that they would be available once the purchase of the Trust's land was completed.
69. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE:** apologies received from Cllr. Graham Terry, these were accepted by the PC.
70. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none received.
71. **CRIME REPORT** – none received.
72. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record apart from Item 62iii which was amended to read 'the Clerk highlighted that this should only be done during the nesting season if the hedge is a danger to pedestrians or road users'.
73. **MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. LED speed signs – ML confirmed that he had spoken to the supplier who is willing to attend the July PC meeting and do a drive through the village to look at suitable sites. The supplier is also checking with ESCC Highways that the signs are acceptable to them. The PC agreed for the Clerk to obtain 2 further quotes. Clerk
  - ii. Parking on the pavement, to speak to the landlord – c/f. GT
  - iii. Fingerpost survey and photographs – CE to take photographs, NJ and CE to complete survey for July meeting. CE/NJ
  - iv. Back-up of email files – it was agreed for the Clerk to arrange for the system back-up to be checked to ensure that it works and for back-up of the emails to be set-up. Clerk
  - v. Hut Lane drainage – NJ confirmed that he had checked the drainage and would clear out the debris this week. NJ
  - vi. Letter and article regarding Gatwick Airport changes – JMY confirmed that the letter had been drafted and sent to the Clerk who will send it out to Councillors prior to sending to the MP. JMY will write an article for the Parish Magazine. JMY/Clerk
  - vii. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
    - a. The insurance company have confirmed that there wouldn't be an extra charge for 2 LED signs and if they are installed by anyone other than the company supplying them, the Clerk will need to check with the insurance company as to whether this was acceptable.
    - b. Broadband letter to MP, quotes for tree surveying, amendment of Statement of Internal Controls and letter regarding affordable housing c/f. Clerk
    - c. Letter has been sent to the Vicar of St Mark's Church regarding the burial ground driveway.
    - d. Highways have checked the signs warning of children crossing the A272 and have advised that there are some maintenance issues associated with visibility which have been referred to the Highways steward to deal with. The Clerk will update the member of the public who raised this item. Clerk
74. **PLANNING:**

**a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **WD/2015/0877/FR – LAND AT HADLOW OAST FARM, CURTAINS HILL TN22 4DU** – Retrospective application for replacement field gate and improved access onto A272. – The Parish Council support the application and are pleased with the improved safety aspect being proposed in the application.  
(4/2)

**b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **WD/2015/0389/F - OLD FORGE, MAIN ROAD** – Proposed single-storey extension to rear of property

**c. PLANNING MATTERS:**

- i. Five Badgers, Stonehurst Lane. The Clerk advised that she had contacted WDC planning enforcement and they have made a number of visits to the site and the matter is being dealt with in conjunction with their legal department. The occupiers and their planning agent are fully aware that they are in breach of planning controls. The Clerk has also reported the lighting and discharge from the washing machine to Environmental Health.  
Michael Lunn (WDC) confirmed that he had also spoken to WDC's legal department in his capacity as a WDC councillor.

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

It was confirmed that work continues to be undertaken at the site and the PC were updated on recent developments. JY and DW will look at the changes that have been made to the site. Residents were encouraged to keep a diary of activities at the site. Questions were asked about retrospective applications and what response residents can make.

- 75. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLR MICHAEL LUNN WDC:** - Cllr. Roy Galley advised that ESCC are currently waiting for the Chancellors July financial statement. He offered to, in the summer, go round Hadlow Down with GT and CE to look at Highways issues, CE will see if the Highways steward could also join them. The PC highlighted problems with the ironworks not being raised on the A272 during resurfacing (to be done 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June) and other problem roads.

Cllr. Michael Lunn confirmed that he'd had a meeting with the PCSO who advised that PCSOs are concerned about the police restructuring, he will have weekly meetings with the PCSO. He has highlighted the lack of clarity with reports from WDC however the former secretary of state directed that summaries be removed from reports as people weren't reading the full report and this has been fed down to more local councils, he will raise this matter at the Conservative Party Group.

The Ridgewood development in Uckfield is coming to WDC planning committee in 2 weeks' time. ESCC have done a review of the traffic impact of the development and have concluded that there won't be a serious congestion impact. ML confirmed that serious scrutiny of the application will need to be undertaken, especially regarding s.106 agreements.

- 76. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for May 2015 was agreed and signed.

**77. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :**

- i. The payment of £265 to Broker Network Ltd for insurance and £383.20 to Wellers Law Group LLP for legal advice relating to the Trusts land that were paid at the 19<sup>th</sup> May meeting were ratified at this meeting.
- ii. The Clerk had received correspondence from a contractor offering a fingerpost maintenance contract. It was felt that as CE and NJ currently inspect the fingerposts and highlight any that require work, that it wasn't necessary to have a maintenance contract.

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

- i. Cllr. Nathan James advised that the Tinkers rally at the weekend was excellent. There was a bit of mud on the road because of the rain on Sunday. Councillors commented that the rally was a lot quieter than normal and this was appreciated by villagers. NJ confirmed the arrangements that the Park had in place to limit the noise. It was *agreed for the Clerk to write to the Trustees congratulating them on the rally and thanking them for their efforts to reduce the noise impact.* **Clerk**
- ii. Cllr. Clare Emsden confirmed that surfacing work was currently being undertaken on Fordcombe Hill, this was due to finish on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Changes are due to be made to the Highways Stewards' area however it isn't yet known whether this will affect Hadlow Down. She confirmed that the Rosers Common sign has been straightened.
- iii. Cllr. Michael Lunn advised that a complaint had been received regarding bonfires to which the Clerk had responded.
- iv. Cllr. Julian Michaelson-Yeates confirmed that he and DW are attending a meeting about Gatwick Airport next week.
- v. Cllr. Damon Wellman reminded people that changes were being made to the waste collection.
- vi. Cllr. Nathan James advised that a complaint had been made to WDC about rats coming from the communal garden in School Lane. One of the gates to the garden had been padlocked and there

were chickens on part of the garden. It was confirmed that WDC Housing department are dealing with the matter.

79. **GATWICK AIRPORT** – the PC agreed to become members of High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group (HWCAAG) and as members to approve their policy. The membership fee of £150 was also agreed. The Clerk will arrange. **Clerk**
80. **TELEPHONE BOX** – a Councillor advised that a few years ago the PC had the opportunity to purchase the telephone box from BT, a Councillor asked whether if the PC bought the box whether it could be moved from its current site. It was agreed for the Clerk to write to BT asking that when they are considering doing anything with the box that they refer to the PC beforehand. **Clerk**
81. **DAY OF MEETINGS** – the Chair questioned whether the PC would like to change the day of the PC meetings. The Chair opened this item to the Chair of the Village Hall committee.  
Janet Tourell (JT) confirmed that with the other clubs Tuesday or Friday were the most suitable evenings for the PC to have their meetings. It was agreed to keep the meeting date to a Tuesday.
82. **VILLAGE FAYRE** – manning of the stall was agreed. CE to produce pro-forma competition form and prizes, CE and Clerk to organize prizes. **Clerk/CE**
83. **DEFIBRILLATORS** – it was suggested that if the PC provide a defibrillator that it be installed in the telephone box, it was confirmed that this would not be possible if the box does not belong to the PC. A discussion was held on where a defibrillator could be located.

The Chair opened this item to the Chair of the Village Hall committee

JT advised that the Village Hall committee would probably agree with it being located on the Village Hall. A discussion was held on advertising the location of the defibrillator. The Clerk will look into the cost, for discussion at the July meeting. **Clerk**

84. **PRESENTATION** – a card was signed for Ken Ogden which SR will give to him and she will discuss with him a gift from the Parish Council in recognition of all his work on behalf of the village. **SR**
85. **PLAYING FIELD DRAINAGE WORK** – the Clerk confirmed that the Playing Field Association have instructed the PC's solicitor to act on their behalf regarding the agreement with Sport England. The Association's governing document only covers selling or leasing the playing field and not charging or mortgaging, the solicitor is discussing this with the Charity Commission. The Clerk has checked and she doesn't have any documents other than the leases relating to use of the land and the property register. The solicitor has confirmed that the land has been used as an open space since 1975 and would therefore be lawful as such. The Clerk will be sent an invoice by the solicitor for a payment of £500 on account which will be paid by the PC as part of the grant being donated to the Playing Field Association.
86. **ENTRANCE TO PLAYING FIELD** – the Clerk confirmed that the plan for the Trusts land is the same as appears on previous maps. The PC agreed to the plan, this will be attached to the transfer documents, the Clerk will advise the solicitor. **Clerk**

The Clerk confirmed that the loan application had been agreed by the Public Works Loan Board.

A Councillor raised about the youth shelter that had previously been agreed and could now be raised again.

**87. CLERK'S MATTERS:**

- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed
- ii. The Clerk advised that the staging date for her to have a pension is 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 and the Pension Regulator recommends that the PC start preparing for this up to a year in advance. If the Clerks salary only takes into account her Hadlow Down PC work she has the right to opt in, however if it covers all of her PCs work she would need to be automatically enrolled. The options are the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). The payroll provider has confirmed that he currently manages LGPS deductions and administration for other clients. JMY agreed to look into. **JMY**

**88. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £790.06 includes £13.50 mileage, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £170.06.
- ii. Wealden Citizens Advice Bureau £100 grant.
- iii. Home Start South Downs £100 grant.
- iv. Sound Architect £400 grant.
- v. Sussex Air Ambulance £250 grant.

A further payment for £155 for Printmonger Media for the annual report was signed and will be ratified at the next meeting.

**89. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- i. Consultation on the Wealden Local Plan Draft Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report 2015 – a response was agreed. It was questioned why the nitrogen monitoring at Ashdown Forest was being done next to the road. ML (WDC) confirmed that the

monitoring stations hadn't shown any record of nitrogen so they had been moved next to the roads.  
ML confirmed that he was asking questions at WDC.

**90. TRAINING:**

- i. Social Media Workshop – it was agreed for ML to attend, the Clerk will also attend if she is available.

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

- i. Future plans for the Village Hall.
- ii. Fingerpost survey report.
- iii. To prioritise Highways issues.

**The meeting closed at 8:45pm**