



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held in the Village Hall, Hadlow Down**  
**at 7.00 pm on Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, David Walker, and Graham Terry. Also in attendance were Michael Lunn, Tony Bonnick (both applying for Councillor vacancies), Cllr. Tony Reid (ESCC), Joan Wiltshire (Courier) and Jean Holmwood (Clerk).

1. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS.** Following successful interviews the Council asked Michael Lunn and Anthony Bonnick to join the Council. This was proposed by the Chairman, Paul James and seconded by Graham Terry. It was unanimously agreed by all. The Chairman welcomed them and invited them to join the Council table. Declarations of acceptance were signed and countersigned by the Clerk. They will be presented with New Councillor packs in the very near future.
2. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** Fiona Bickerton told the Council that ESCC had still not attended to the problems in Five Chimneys Lane. They had advised in early May that work would be commencing within 2 weeks. The matter was discussed and the Clerk will chase up ESCC as a matter of urgency.
3. **PCSO Tam Bennett.** There was no report from Tam in her absence. However Michael advised that he had had intruders on his land at about 0300 a.m., attempting to remove aluminium piping and tubing. They had left the items dumped in the lane and had not returned for them. It had been reported as a crime. It was suggested that this is issued as a warning. Not only is metal theft becoming a problem but theft of diesel and heating fuel as well.
4. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr. Norman Buck (WDC)
5. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** Michael Lunn declared an interest in the planning application for land at Five Chimneys. He advised the Council that he will be putting in more plans in the future and because of his personal interest he will always leave the room while they are being discussed and has asked that they are included at the monthly meeting, where possible, rather than at the other planning meetings during the month.
6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on May 6<sup>th</sup> were agreed and signed as a true record, with the following amendment. Under item 9 where David reported a problem with horses, the wrong location was reported. It was amended to "David reported that the footpath from Hut Lane to the A272, which is not a bridle way was being used by horses". The change was agreed and initialled by the Chairman.
7. **MATTERS ARISING**
  - i. Website. The Clerk had received information from Dan Elson of a local web designer. He suggested we make contact and that they may be able to sponsor to help with costs. The Clerk is also following a couple more leads. It was suggested that we ask Gwyn if we could take over the [www.hadlowdown.com](http://www.hadlowdown.com) name but the Clerk suggested that we should obtain a .gov.uk ending. This was agreed.
  - ii. A reply had been received from ESCC regarding the bollards on the eastern end of Main Road. They stated that they had "no plans at the present time or in the near future to install any kerbing along this stretch of road/footway. The recently erected bollards were put in to prevent vehicles being driven along the footway, this practice appeared to be quite a common practice". The Clerk was asked to make further contact with Andy Brooke saying that there is not enough room for a mobility scooter to drive along inside the bollards which had become apparent at the recent traction engine rally. She will invite Andy to walk the short stretch with Councillors. Graham and David are happy to attend.

It was said that the A272 junction with Five Chimneys has grown so tall that you cannot see to exit. The Clerk will chase ESCC.

A discussion was held about the wild flower verges just over the Buxted border. Whilst the Council fully supports the planting of wild flowers on verges this one is causing an obstruction for vehicles exiting from the back road from Framfield which is regularly used by many villagers. The Clerk will contact Buxted PC and give the concerns of this Council.
  - iii. A reply had been received today from ESCC regarding Scull Wood. The letter updated what ESCC had undertaken to date but did not give any major information, except a promise to keep the PC up to date on the situation. (A copy of the letter is available to anyone who wishes to view it).
  - iv. A message had been forwarded with information about 2 males taking photos of horses and sizing them up. A white Ford van and a maroon Land Cruiser were in their possession. Horse owners should be made aware.
8. **PLANNING MEETINGS**

A planning meeting was held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Minutes are circulated to Councillors, and posted on the notice boards.

**PLANNING APPLICATION:**  
Michael Lunn left the meeting before the item was discussed.

**WD/2008/0669/F Land at Five Chimneys Lane:** Restoration of two small ponds – pond 1 to be retained for conservation and ecological purposes and pond 2 to be retained as a traditional watering hole for grazing Sussex cattle. Reply “*We commend the restoration of these ponds to their historic status. This was unanimously agreed*”. Michael was invited back into the meeting.

**9. REPORT FROM CLLR. TONY REID, EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

Tony told those present that only today a formal climate change strategy was made. There is a lot more to be done and it will be taken into the community at a later date. Tony would be attending a meeting with WDC the next day to discuss taking waste management forward. On the financial side, he is working with colleagues to try to put more money into highways. It was difficult with so much funding going to the elderly and social care. Tony mentioned the ongoing problems at Scull Wood and a discussion ensued. He suggested the Council words out a strong response to the letter received today.

**10. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO :**

The following appointments were agreed, some of which may change after the appointment of another Councillor.

- i. Rights of Ways & Highways – David Walker
- ii. Burial Ground – Tony Bonnick
- iii. Village Hall Management Committee – Colin James
- iv. Playing Fields – Graham Terry
- v. Tree Warden – Jo Dummer (ex Councillor)
- vi. Emergency Planning – Graham Terry
- vii. Wealden District Association of Local Councils – Colin James
- viii. Village Action Plan and Easylink – Michael Lunn
- ix. Safer Wealden Partnership (Sussex Police) – Colin James
- x. WDALC – Colin James
- xi. Neighbourhood Watch – Graham Terry (temporarily)
- xii. New Village Hall Working Party – Graham Terry
- xiii. Youth Council – Tony Bonnick
- xiv. Sustainable Development and Environment Matters – Michael Lunn

As nobody had been in a position to take responsibility for the various positions, the following were commented on by various Councillors.

David voiced his concern that the work on the A267 was not yet forthcoming. It was believed that it was to be undertaken in August. The Clerk will check.

During the recent steam rally at Tinkers Park there had been difficulties for people walking to the rally. Although the organisers had done a good job cutting back the overhanging foliage last year, the grass verges had grown excessively this year. It was agreed to ask ESCC if they could cut that part about 6 – 8 weeks before the rally annually, if not perhaps the organisers could cut back their part. Paul said, on the subject of Tinkers Park, that they should be congratulated for yet another successful event.

Graham advised that at the junction of Waghorns Lane with School Lane, the vegetation was encroaching about one third over the road. It was suggested that ESCC should be informed. The Clerk will deal.

Colin commented on repairs that were needed at the Village Hall. He asked Graham how long it might be realistically before the new VH would be built. He said probably 5 years. It was said that the VH roof would not last until then. It was a priority so would be costed. Although some had been replaced recently, kitchen equipment will also be needed to make it lettable.

Graham reported that the cricket club were aiming to do a lot more at the playing field. There is talk of a league and more matches at weekends. There is to be a charity weekend in July and Graham asked if there was any objection to people camping on the site. There was no objection. He said that they were planning to lay the hedge at the front properly. Tony commented that the basketball ring was too high. Graham said they are aware and it was planned to lower it and to provide a “kick wall” for ball play.

Several emails have passed between the Council and Eddie from the Emergency Committee. An invitation had been received from WDC inviting a representative to attend a seminar in the autumn, where all PC's will be invited. They have asked Hadlow Down to attend as they consider them to be a good example of a parish who has a group and who continues to look at and develop their emergency plan. It was agreed that Eddie should attend as he is doing an excellent job with the EP.

Jo had reported that a villager had been charged for the removal of a tree which had been blown down in a storm and was blocking the highway. The matter was discussed as the PC had been told in the past that trees such as those near the junction of the A272/A267 would not be charged to the landowner if they were to fall. Tony Reid said he would look into the matter.

There had not been a meeting of the Safer Wealden Partnership, so nothing to report.

**11. BANK RECONCILIATION** – The bank statement had been received and was checked, agreed and signed by Paul..

**12. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**

- i. Report from a recent meeting of the Finance Group. The following is a précis of the minutes.

1. Expenditure for the year 2007 – 2008. It was agreed that it was an accurate record of the year's transactions. It was noted that the annual payment to the CAB had not been paid, so would be added to the next monthly meeting agenda for payment.
2. End of year figures for 2007 – 2008 were almost ready for the auditor. The ear-marked reserves were discussed, and agreed. The annual expenditure was approximately £3,500 less than the Precept. It was agreed to add all spare finances to the New Village Hall fund.
3. Details of the proposed new internal auditor, John Roberts, had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed to take on his services. He will charge £5 more than the previous auditor, but will include a visit half way through the year.
4. The Clerk's contract was discussed and still needed some amendments. The Clerk will ask SLCC and SALC for advice on the matters that were under disagreement. It was confirmed that the annual increment can be awarded and backdated to April 2008.
5. The Clerk advised those present she had received advice from SLCC stating that as the written warning had not been presented in writing it was no longer valid, being over a year ago since given verbally. This was agreed and accepted.
6. One possible new Councillor, Michael Lunn, had been interviewed prior to the meeting, the other two had been unable to make it. It was suggested that Monday would be an alternative day. The Clerk will arrange.
7. The Clerk suggested that the format for annual assemblies could be changed to one similar to that of Heathfield, where the Councillors did not stand up and give their speeches. It was agreed that the Council, at present, prefers the current format. However they did agree that the Clerk's other suggestion of holding the Annual Assembly on a different night to the AGM was a good idea. Having both on the same night was too much.
8. The new suggested insurance agents, Came and Co, had not given a quote in time, so it was agreed to renew with Allianz Cornhill for the next 12 months and then take the time to see what Comes have to offer.
9. AOB. The Clerk advised that the end of year figures and print-outs had been received from Simon which would be kept on file. His invoice for the year's work was included so the Clerk requested that it should be paid. A cheque was drawn and signed and would be offered for retrospective approval at the next meeting.
  - ii. Voucher had been received from Simon regarding the £100 credit to Inland Revenue. This would be offset against the next payment.

**13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

- i. Jean Holmwood. Salary £507.08 and expenses £97.41 = total £604.49
  - ii. WDALC annual subscription for 2008-9 - £18
  - iii. CAB – annual donation - £150.
  - iv. Retrospective payment to Simon Goacher for payroll services £ 78.24
  - v. Retrospective payment to Allianz Cornhill for insurance £519.16
- The above were all agreed and cheques drawn and signed.

**14. CLERK'S MATTERS:**

- i. The Clerk had no extra hours to claim.
- ii. As reported in the finance group minutes, this is still ongoing.
- iii. The Clerk was asked to produce more in her annual report at the Annual Assembly. To include the old and new precepts and allocation of funds etc.

**14. TRAINING**

Nothing received

**15. RISK ASSESSMENT:** It was agreed to create a pro forma for the risk assessment.

**16 OTHER MATTERS** – (To be advised to the Clerk in advance of the meeting – other matters may be discussed but decisions may be deferred to the next meeting)

- i. Colin – suggestions for achieving Quality Status. The Clerk was asked to obtain up to date information about Quality Council Status.
- ii. From Graham – request to fund the Emergency Committee with ID cards – approx £10. It was agreed that the PC would fund the EP for up to £100 p.a. without prior request for funding. Larger items should be dealt with separately.
- iii. From Jo (before leaving the Council). Letter received by a resident regarding charge from ESCC. Dealt under 10 above.
- iv. **EXTRA ITEMS.** Paul produced letters which had been received today from the children at the school. They were ideas for improving the local environment. The Councillors were impressed with them and would discuss them in greater detail at the next meeting. The Clerk will write to thank them and say that they will be discussed further. Graham advised that the children had been asked to design covers for the Village Fayre.

**Paul was called away on an urgent personal matter and left the meeting at 9.15 p.m.**

**17. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING ACTION OR RESPONSE.**

- i. Phone call from a resident asking why attendance records of Councillors are not published. *The matter was deferred for discussion until the monthly meeting in March 2009 to discuss before the annual meeting.*
- ii. Letter from WDC stating there were no further applicants for the vacancies for Councillor. *Noted.*

- iii. WDC/ESCC Community Emergency Planning Conference to be held in October. *It was agreed that Eddie should attend.*
- iv. AiRS – invitation to join them for a ringside seat at the South of England show. *Paul and Michael asked for details to be emailed. The Clerk will send.*
- v. Sussex Rural Affordable Housing Partnership. Invitation to annual conference. *David will attend. The Clerk will send off the booking form.*
- vi. Easylink – copy of the final draft agreement for provision of the service. *The Clerk was asked to read the contents and advise Colin and Paul.*
- vii. Standards Committee – request for a Councillor to address a meeting of the HDPC. *The Clerk will reply with dates of monthly meetings.*
- viii. Email from villager with concerns about the proposed development at Marlowe House. *(Forwarded, on receipt, to David).*

**18 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – FOR FILING OR DISTRIBUTION**

- i. WDC – details of a change to Town and Country Planning. *Copied for all Councillors.*
- ii. ESCC – details had been received of a Byway closure of Byway 22 – Stocklands Lane to School Lane, to enable ESCC to carry out repairs to the surface. It will run from June 9<sup>th</sup> 08 to December 9<sup>th</sup> 08. *The Council will write to ESCC to ask that the closure will be monitored to see if there is any adverse effect.*
- iii. South East Water. Details of public exhibitions to inform customers about planning for the future. Local venues are Ringmer and Eastbourne. *To be scanned and forwarded to Councillors.*
- iv. WDC – Advising that the Wealden Design Guide will soon be available and a copy will be sent.

**19. ITEMS RECEIVED AND AVAILABLE TO FORWARD OR VIEW.**

- i. Friends of High weald newsletter.
- ii. HOSC Newsletter. Available on the website [www.eastsussexhealth.org](http://www.eastsussexhealth.org)

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE  
on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2008 at 7.00 P.M**