



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council  
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7pm on Tuesday June 4th, 2013.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Graham Terry (GT), Nathan James (NJ), Damon Wellman (DW), Michael Lunn (ML), Clare Emsden (CE) and Ken Ogden (KO)(WDC).  
Apologies were received from Cllr. Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC)

- 37. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** - a member of the public raised about the regular noise from Tinkers Park and the reaction they received from a volunteer when the noise was highlighted to them. A member of the public commented that they had attended the rally and that there were stalls to raise money for the church spire and for the playing field, that a large number of villagers were attending and that the rally had been going for 48 years. They felt that the Parish Council (PC) should write to the organisers to thank them for a good weekend.
- Janet Tourell, chair of the Village Hall (VH) committee, highlighted that people aren't clearing up dog poo around the hall and asked that they have a dog bin in the area. Also that the VH bin is again being used for dog waste. She confirmed that she would like NJ and DW to run the cable through for the hall electrics and that the cost of this would come out of the 2013/14 grant from the PC, access to hall to be booked with Lisa Scott.
- Zoe John from Wilderness Wood advised that she wished to discuss the restrictions on the approved planning application for the pergola and how this was affecting them as a business, especially for events they would like to hold in the early morning or evening. They would want to ensure that the level of noise was respectable for villagers. She would welcome discussions with villagers.
- 38. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – none received.
- 39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – NJ declared a personal interest in points 44d.i. and iv. CE declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in point 44d.iii.
- 40. CRIME REPORT** – PCSO David Davies had sent his apologies and had advised that there has been a rise in the number of shed break-ins in the Uckfield area.
- 41. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).
- 42. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. The annual accounts had been agreed and signed off by GT and SR.
  - ii. GT confirmed that he would incorporate the amendments that had been raised for the annual report and would then send it for printing. GT was thanked for his work on the report.
  - iii. Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
    - a. Hastingford Lane due to be resurfaced in November 2013.
    - b. DW confirmed that the electric cable would not overheat if it was underground.
    - c. She has requested that the junction sign east of Dog Kennel Lane be repositioned so that it doesn't keep on being hit.
- 43. PARKING NEAR ST MARK'S SCHOOL** – the Chair confirmed that she had visited School Lane during school pick up time in order to view the problems with parking. A discussion was held on the problems caused by parking opposite the new the double yellow lines. A Councillor offered to speak to the resident should this continue.

Standing orders suspended

Claire Rivers (CR), head of St Mark's School, updated the meeting on the action the school has so far taken to try and improve the parking situation. The PC have previously looked at extending the layby however the cost was too excessive. It was agreed that CR would send the Clerk details of the costs identified in using land opposite the school for parking. A member of the public advised that when the school had previously looked into this planning had been an issue. It was highlighted that cars parked on the road slow down the traffic. It was suggested that members of the PC have a separate meeting attended by a representative from the School to discuss parking, speeding and weight restrictions in School Lane, this was agreed.

Standing orders reinstated.

**44a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **WD/2013/0844/F – HASTINGFORD FISHERY, HASTINGFORD LANE TN22 4DY** – Extension to fishing lodge incorporating occasional overnight accommodation when required. The Parish Council did a site visit prior to the meeting.

Standing orders suspended.

KO asked whether the planners at WDC had been consulted on the application, the applicants confirmed that they had been.

Standing orders reinstated.

The Parish Council fully support the application. (6/0)

- ii. **WD/2013/1026/F – OAKLANDS, STONEHURST LANE, TN22 4ED** – Proposed two storey side and rear extensions proposed dormer windows and repitching of existing lean-to roofs – The Parish Council do not support the application as they feel it is overdevelopment of the site and is an excessive extension that changes the fundamental character of the property (0/6).
- iii. **WD/2013/1015/F – ANNES, WILDERNESS LANE TN22 4HU** – New vehicle entrance and drive to link to approved parking area (WD/2012/1143/F). Blocking the garage front door opening and providing similar size opening to rear of garage – The Parish Council fully support the application (6/0).
- iv. **WD/2013/0812/F – LITTLE FOXES FARM, STONEHURST LANE TN20 6LL** – Repositioning of garage – The Parish Council fully support the application (6/0).

**b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **WD/2013/0371/F & 0372/LB – WOODREED FARMHOUSE, STONEHURST LANE TN20 6LJ** – Two storey corner infill to provide new staircase access to first floor bedroom, addition of new outdoor swimming pool and conversion of part of the garage block into a pool room.

**c. APPROVED TREE APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **TM/2013/0083/TPC – TREETOPS, WILDERNESS LANE TN22 4HU** – Dismantle to ground 6 Norway spruce and 5 cherry trees, fell 3 further cherry trees subject to conditions related to planning permission WD/2009/1047.

**d. PLANNING MATTERS:**

- i. Wilderness Wood events – a Councillor confirmed that the Wood can still apply for temporary licences the original licence was restricted due to the noise impact on villagers both nearby and far away.

Standing orders suspended.

Zoe John asked about the noise problems. It was felt that the planning application for the Pergola was misleading as it specified use for educational activities and not weddings which are currently being advertised.

Concern was expressed over how the Wood was perceived to have changed. It was proposed that some Councillors meet with a representative of the Wood.

Zoe John confirmed that villagers were still able to walk their dogs in the Wood for free. Due to the economic climate the café is now only open Friday – Sunday in term time and on bank holidays and every day during the school holidays. She confirmed that they have had discussions with WDC to have the conditions on the planning application changed or removed. It was agreed for Zoe to contact the Clerk regarding dates for a meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that decisions could not be made by Councillors at the meetings with Wilderness Wood and regarding School Lane and that only discussions could be held and these would then need to be reported back to the PC meeting for any decisions to then be made.

Standing orders reinstated.

- ii. The Clerk confirmed that the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order)

(Amendment) (England) Order 2013 came into effect on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The new permitted development for home extensions does not apply to areas which are AONB's, also they may be restricted by the Ashdown Forest 7km zone of influence.

- iii. WDC Planning meeting for WD/2012/2271/O Five Chimneys Eggs – erection of an agricultural workers dwelling to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
- iv. Caravans at Tinkers Park – the Clerk had been contacted on 29<sup>th</sup> May regarding the arrival of caravans on site on 24<sup>th</sup> May. A further email had been received from another resident regarding issues with the rally and this had not been received in time to appear on the June agenda.

Standing orders suspended

A member of the public requested that the Claude Jesset trustees be sent a copy of the letter in order that they can respond. *The Clerk will write to the trustees.* **Clerk**

Standing orders reinstated.

It was highlighted that there were still caravans on the site. It was agreed that all items raised will be discussed at the July meeting.

- v. Cars for sale on layby – the chair had been contacted regarding cars for sale in the layby near Curtains Hill.

Standing orders suspended.

KO raised concerns that he had been advised that a local resident is a mechanic. It was agreed that as this had previously been a problem, *for the Clerk to contact planning enforcement.* **Clerk**

Standing orders reinstated.

**45. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC** – KO advised that the Permitted Development Rights for WDC are slightly different to the Government's ones as Wealden's mention the Ashdown Forest 7km zone, they are therefore being challenged. The Government is putting pressure on Natural England and on WDC, so there may be a future for the VH. He felt that the historical side of Tinkers Park was good and agreed with the Parish Council talking with Wilderness Wood.

WDC applied for exemption from the Permitted Development Rights however this was refused.

A report was received from RG in his absence – the Conservatives have formed a minority administration at ESCC. They need to find another £44 million of savings in the next 2/3 years. Nearly half of day to day spend is on adult social care, the county has a disproportionately large number of very elderly people and the percentage is growing. School funding does not come from Council Tax but from a direct grant of £260 million from government. Most of the issues that have been raised with him relate to potholes, road resurfacing and speed limits and he is due to have meetings with ESCC officers and will be doing further research in order that he can aim to produce a full report on Highways for July.

**46. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for May 2013 agreed and signed.

**47. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –**

- i. The payments of £69.12 to WDC for dog bin emptying, signed at the previous meeting & the payment of £120.00 for Compact Cutting re Playing Field grass cutting signed 13<sup>th</sup> May, paid under the power given in Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10 were ratified.
- ii. The Clerk confirmed that ESCC no longer supply grit bins and the only power the PC could use to purchase grit was LGA 1972 s.137, she updated the PC on the information she has received from the insurance company. It was agreed not to purchase.
- iii. The Clerk confirmed that the 30 day payment rule relates to the date the customer receives the invoice or the date the goods were delivered or a service was provided (if this is later).
- iv. It was highlighted that the grass at the play area hadn't been cut for a few weeks. *The Clerk will contact the contractor.* **Clerk**

The new contracts for the Burial Ground and the Play Area were agreed by all, *Clerk to contact the companies who provided tenders.* **Clerk**

- v. The Clerk updated the PC on the bank accounts available for the reserves, all Councillors agreed to stay with the account they currently have. She advised that as part of the finance risk assessment the bank have confirmed that she can make transfers between accounts but not to third parties. The Clerk was congratulated on investigating whether a better financial return could be made.

**48. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Standing orders suspended

Janet Tourell confirmed that there had been a design group meeting and 2 business planning group meetings. The Chair asked that the PC be sent an update from the committee and confirmation of when

the Geotech survey would be undertaken. The items raised by the Clerk at the May meeting at point 30 were carried forward to the July meeting.

Standing orders reinstated

**49. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS** – the Clerk asked KO about the Housing and Business Land supply document.

Standing orders suspended

KO advised that Roy Galley is responsible for looking at regenerating business. He updated the PC on the situation with the old surgery in Buxted that has been refused permission to turn it back into residential accommodation.

Standing orders reinstated

The Clerk updated the PC on the new funding available for Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP), the PC agreed not to have an NDP.

**50. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIGNITY AT WORK POLICIES** – these policies were agreed by all subject to some

amendments suggested by a Councillor. *Clerk to amend and send new copy to Councillors.* **Clerk**

**51. CO-OPTION PROCEDURE** – agreed by all.

**52. YOUTH SHELTER** – the Clerk advised that she would recommend that this isn't purchased until the bus shelter has been installed. She has spoken to WDC planning and updated the PC on the information they require. *NJ to send the Clerk a copy of the design.* **NJ**

*The Clerk will send NJ a map of the site in order that he can liaise with the Playing Field (PF) committee over the ideal position for the shelter. Once this has been agreed the Clerk will write to the church representative for their agreement and once this is received she will write to WDC planning.* **NJ/Clerk**

Item to appear on each agenda. *NJ to discuss the cleaning of the shelter with the PF committee.* **NJ**

**53. SCULL WOOD** – a Councillor advised that ESCC have cut back on their monitoring of the inspection points outside the Scull Wood site as methane and other gases have never been found at these. The other inspection points on site will continue to be checked weekly.

**54. HEDGING AT THE BURIAL GROUND** – a Councillor advised that the yew hedge at the north side of the burial ground needs a full cut back, *Clerk to obtain quotes.* **Clerk**

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

Cllr. Michael Lunn advised that the Village Fayre was being held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, it was felt to be too late for the PC to organize a stall, *Clerk to diarise for next year.* **Clerk**

Open gardens in the village this weekend.

It was highlighted that there was a lack of volunteers to help set up for the fayre.

Cllr. Clare Emsden commented on how quickly the roadworks in Wheelers Lane were undertaken, villagers were encouraged to report highways problems to the Clerk or direct to Highways at ESCC.

Cllr. Nathan James advised that he had received the Emergency Planning disc, a copy of which the Clerk now has on the PC's laptop. NJ is in the process of updating the information, 3 copies will be printed of this and brought to the next meeting together with updated information for the Clerk.

**56. CLERK'S MATTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- i. Hours agreed and signed
- ii. The Clerk advised that GT has checked the burial plots and with the improved weather it was no longer felt that 2 of them needed topping up.
- iii. The Clerk had received correspondence regarding electric fences and dogs, she updated the PC on this and that she has contacted the Rights of Way team and the PCSO who are investigating.
- iv. The Clerk advised the PC of the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Rural Reassurance Campaign.
- v. The Clerk confirmed that Stonehurst Lane will be closed from 8<sup>th</sup> July for 4 weeks due to structural repairs at Pigsfoot Bridge.
- vi. The Clerk confirmed that the Traffic Regulation Order for the extended double yellow lines in School Lane was sealed on 24<sup>th</sup> May.
- vii. The Clerk advised the PC of the South East Water draft water resources management plan

**57. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £786.29 includes £18.00 mileage and £59.99 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £166.29.
- ii. Simon Fitt £200.00 burial ground maintenance.
- iii. BT £157.54 phone and broadband, paid by direct debit, Arlington PC to be invoiced for £74.95 of this bill.

iv. Sussex Associations of Local Councils £60.00 chairs networking day.

v. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £75.00 play area maintenance.

vi. Viking £88.88 stationery

Two further payments of £75 for SLCC Enterprises Ltd for Clerks course and £20 for WDALC subscription were also signed, to be ratified at the next meeting.

**58. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:**

i. Wealden Community Engagement Strategy 2013 survey – it was agreed not to send a response.

**59. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:**

i. Friends of East Sussex Record Office newsletter.

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

Tinkers Park; Bus Shelter; Village Hall Electrics; update from Wilderness Wood meeting; lease for entrance to the Playing Field; Village Plan (August meeting) and Youth Shelter.

**The meeting closed at 9.06pm**