



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday June 7th 2011.

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

Present: Councillors David Walker (DW) (Chairman), Sandra Richards (SR), Michael Lunn (ML), Damon Wellman (DWe), Rona Hellewell (RH) and Tony Reid (TR) (ESCC). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Norman Buck and Ken Ogden (WDC).

DW opened the meeting by wishing Claire Rivers well with her illness, *Clerk to send a card on behalf of the Parish Council (PC).* **Clerk**

DW commended Tinkers Park on a good rally. He then explained the rules regarding public questions

- 66. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – A petition was handed to the Parish Council objecting to the planning application on the land adjoining Hall and Hut Lanes. The public expressed concern over the following: storm water drainage from the site; that it was only an outline application; that the extra parking for the Village Hall would be used by residents, that the Village Hall Committee weren't consulted about this and that if the hall was moved the offer of parking was irrelevant; the felling of the TPO oak has already been rejected; the site isn't a brownfield site, Hut Lane highlighted in red on the application when it isn't owned by anyone; extra traffic; privacy of those in Standen Mews compromised. It was suggested that a meeting be held between the PC, WDC and the developer.
- 67. REPORT FROM PCSO MARK CARTER** – in Mark's absence the Clerk reported that there had been no incidents in Hadlow Down however there had been some in Maresfield and Buxted areas.
- 68. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apology received from GT.
- 69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – RH and DW declared a prejudicial interest in point 72, application no. WD/2011/0534/O, SR declared a prejudicial interest in point 76ii.
- 70. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 13th and 24th May 2011 were agreed and signed as true records, apart from at point 45 it should have read Dog Kennel Lane and not Stockland Lane.
- 71. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. Article for Parish Magazine regarding electricity monitors – carried forward. **ML**
 - ii. The Clerk has now received all completed Register of Interests from Councillors.
 - iii. At present DWe is unable to attend the Councillor Training, *SR to provide him with notes [it was later decided that the Clerk would do this]* **Clerk**
 - iv. Clerks Report sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on the work she has undertaken over the last month, this included:
 - a. Confirming that the cost for the play area sign would be £62 + VAT
 - b. Writing to WDC and owner of the land confirming that the PC agree with WDC that the TPO oak tree in Hut Lane does not need felling and that it is the owner's responsibility to apply to undertake work to ensure that it is safe.
 - c. Communicating with ESCC regarding finger post work, at present they won't issue a works form for the work on the finger post at the junction of the Wilderness Lane's as they are holding discussions about future expenditure. She has also requested that rather than just painting over previous paintwork that Highways look to stripping back to the wood and then repainting.
 - d. Passenger Transport at ESCC to remove bus stop sign in School Lane and put in 2 new signs, 1 opposite the New Inn and 1 close to the letter box and notice board on Main Road.
- 72. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
WD/2011/0534/O – LAND ADJOINING HALL AND HUT LANE, TN22 4HJ – erection of 8 houses and parking for village hall.

RH and DW left the meeting.

The following response was made:

The Parish Council strongly oppose this application based on the following:

1. Under the LDF process the village development boundary has been removed. The claim in the application saying that it is near a development boundary is therefore null and void.
2. This is a green field site as evidenced by historical reference from local residents.
3. We are duly concerned about existing and future drainage and run-off of surface water.
4. We believe this development would have an adverse impact on traffic in Hall and Hut Lanes.
5. We have concerns that in the plan diagram no. 111/164/01 the applicant has presented ownership and access of Hut Lane. There is no proof of ownership by anyone of this lane.
6. We have concerns about additional traffic movements to and from Hut Lane onto the main A272.
7. There is a privacy issue over the development overlooking Standen Mews.
8. The Parish Council have already objected to the independent survey over the felling of the TPO oak tree under tree works application: TM/2010/0058/TPO, which has already been rejected by Wealden District Council.
9. This application goes against the Hadlow Down Community Plan (copy enclosed) which was being adopted by the Parish Council at their meeting on 7th June 2011. The Plan suggests historical growth rates of 1-2 houses per year.
10. The school infrastructure is unable to take any more local children.
11. The additional parking is not a reason for granting permission as it would not solve the problem of parking for the Village Hall as we feel it would be used as overflow for residents.
12. We feel it would be overdevelopment of the site.
13. It is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and goes against the High Weald AONB Management Plan.
14. We have received a petition from 21 residents opposing the application together with correspondence from other residents (copies enclosed), also opposing the application.

For the aforementioned reasons we fully reject this application. RH and DW returned to the meeting.

WD/2011/1123/F – HARWOODS, MAIN ROAD, TN22 4HJ – conservatory to the rear, demolition of existing timber detached single garage and replacement with attached single garage with store over – The Parish Council support this application.

- 73. REPORT FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC** – TR confirmed that the A272 is due to be resurfaced between School Lane and Tinkers Lane. He has stood down from cabinet and is no longer deputy leader. Over the next 2 years he will be looking at better understanding the issues for small and medium sized rural businesses, he has already identified the problem of banks not lending them money and planning issues. ESCC are trying to offer the best services they can with the funding they have.
Clerk to contact Chief Executives office regarding the adoption of the community plan by ESCC. Clerk
- 74. BANK RECONCILIATION:** – for 26th May 2011 agreed and signed.
- 75. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS** –
- i. Application for the transfer of the Barclays Business Saver account to an Active Saver account signed.
 - ii. The Annual Return was approved and signed-off.
 - iii. It was agreed to donate £15 to St Mark's School for the use of their hall, under the power given in the Local Government Act 1972 s.134
 - iv. The Internal Audit report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, they were all happy with the content.
- 76. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed by all and cheques signed:
- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £847.24 includes £31.05 for mileage, £100.67 extra hours and £20.58 expenses, £620.00 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £227.24 .
 - ii. Citizens Advice Bureau £150.00 paid under the power given in Local Government Act 1972 s. 142 (2a)
 - iii. Sussex Air Ambulance £50.00 paid under the power given in Local Government Act 1972 s.137
 - iv. Hadlow Down Parish Magazine £250.00.
 - v. Suffolk ACRE Services £463.88 insurance
 - vi. Complete Landscapes £121.00, of which £85.00 for burial ground maintenance and £36.00 for play area maintenance.
 - vii. BT £145.77 paid by direct debit.
 - viii. Hadlow Down Village Hall £100.00 rent from January to March 2011.
- 77. NEW COMMUNITY HALL** – Janet Tourell advised that a door to door survey is to be done and an update meeting will be held soon. They are awaiting a figure for part of the land north of the village hall and are also preparing a questionnaire for young people. It was asked that if there isn't a clear direction after

the surveys that the committee makes a final decision regarding moving the hall.

78. **COMMUNITY PLAN** – ML confirmed that there needs to be cohesion between the PC, WDC and ESCC over the plan and that priorities need to be decided. DW proposed that the PC adopt the plan, seconded by SR and agreed by all.
79. **COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES** – it was decided that DWe will take over the responsibility for Neighbourhood Watch and Safer Wealden Partnership and Rona Hellewell for Emergency Planning. SR and GT to attend SLR meetings. *Clerk to write to Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee to request that the minutes of the meetings be sent to her.* **Clerk**
80. **COUNCILLOR'S EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES** – a discussion was held over expenses and allowances and the personal costs that have been incurred by Councillors over the last few years, especially due to the cost of printer inks and fuel. It was agreed by all Councillors that they will claim their entitled allowance for 2011/12 and if they so choose will claim for travel expenses. Clerk will pay allowances every 3 months in arrears. *Clerk to design claim form and forward to Councillors, to also add to next agenda in order that Cllr. Graham Terry can also make a decision on whether to claim.* **Clerk**
81. **BURIAL GROUND** – there is a number of mole hills in the burial ground, the Clerk updated the PC on a quote she has received to remove, Clerk to obtain further quote. PC gave her authority to then instruct for the work to be undertaken.
82. **SALC VISIONING EXERCISE** – *date agreed, Clerk to contact SALC to arrange and to also book hall* **Clerk**
83. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
Planning and Emergency Planning – Cllr. Rona Hellewell - *Clerk to add application no. WD/2010/1898/FE to the next agenda in order that the PC can be updated on WDC's planning response.* **Clerk**
Tree Warden – Cllr. David Walker - DW advised that he had received a telephone call regarding 2 TPO trees in Standen Mews, he has advised that the owner of the tree will need to be contacted by the resident over their concern regarding unsafe limbs on the trees.
DWe highlighted a damaged drain outside Hastingford House, *Clerk to contact Highways.* **Clerk**
84. **CLERK'S MATTERS:**
i. Hours checked agreed and signed.
ii. The Clerk has contacted the Probation Service and put them in contact with Lisa Scott to see if they can do work at the Village Hall. It was felt that work at the Burial Ground would not be possible for them as there is no running water or toilet facilities.
iii. The Clerk confirmed that she had received further information from WDC on the expenditure at the closed burial ground. *She will contact WDC for a response to her request that a Councillor also attend the meeting with them.* **Clerk**
iv. Main Road from School Lane to Tinkers Lane will be resurfaced from 25th to 27th July [prior to issue of the minutes further dates received changing this to 23rd – 29th July between 9:30 – 16:00]. *The Clerk to request that Highways replace the kerbing east of Wheelers Lane.* **Clerk**
v. Rights of Way report has been received, Clerk to email to SR in future and see *if ESCC can provide the Clerk with maps of the area covered by the PC for Councillors.* **Clerk**
vi. The digital switchover dates for the Heathfield and Tunbridge Wells transmitter are 30th May 2012 for BBC2 analogue off and 13th June 2012 for all analogue channels off, *Clerk to produce article for the Parish Magazine.* **Clerk**
85. **CORRESPONDENCE NEEDING A RESPONSE:**
i. Planning for Traveller Sites – passed to RH. **RH**
ii. Relaxation of planning rules for change of use from commercial to residential – passed to RH. **RH**
86. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:**
i. NALC e-bulletin; ii. ESCC Economy, Transport and Environment newsletter; iii. ESCC Focus on East Sussex; iv. Wealden District Commanders monthly update; v. Wealden Business Focus
87. **ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA**
i. Standing Orders – *Clerk to send out new Standing Orders to Councillors to review and discuss at the July meeting and to then be agreed at the August meeting.* **Clerk/ALL**
DWE highlighted that he had reported a suspicious person to the police but it did not appear in PCSO Mark Carter's report. *Clerk to raise with Mark.* **Clerk**

Meeting closed 9:30pm

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be on
MONDAY 4th July at 7pm