



# MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down

Tuesday 15th June 2010 at 7.00 pm

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

Present: Councillors Paul James (Chairman), Graham Terry, Lucy McConachie and Lisa Scott. Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells. Apologies received from Councillor Norman Buck (WDC).

The chair congratulated LS on the success of the fundraising evening for the village print.

Congratulations were also given to the Claude Jessett Trust on another successful rally. *Clerk to write to the Trust on behalf of the Parish Council (PC)*

**Clerk**

**100. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – no public questions.

**101. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – received from Cllrs Michael Lunn and David Walker.

**102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Prejudicial interest received from LS regarding point 111.

**103. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**WD/2010/1190/F – HADLOW OAST FARM, CURTAINS HILL, TN22 4DV** – Front entrance canopy to existing entrance porch. The Parish Council support this application.

**WD/2010/1191/F – HADLOW OAST FARM, CURTAINS HILL, TN22 4DV** – First floor alterations and formation of a small dormer to the rear elevation to improve the existing dangerous staircase access – The Parish Council support this application.

**104. BANK RECONCILIATION:** – for May 2010 agreed and signed as correct.

**105. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed by all and cheques raised:

i. Barcombe Landscapes Ltd – £164.50 for burial ground maintenance

ii. A.J. Stiller - £922.38 to be taken from Pathfinder grant

iii. May Gurney - £191.29 for Village Hall sign

iv. Plato Scotland - £56.74 to be taken from Pathfinder grant

v. SALC - £94 for Legal and Finance Day, to be ratified at the next meeting.

vi. Swan Timber - £143.88 from Pathfinder Grant, to be ratified at the next meeting

**106. NEW VILLAGE HALL** – The chair suggested that a meeting be arranged between the PC and the Village Hall working group as there was not sufficient time at this PC meeting to discuss everything. The meeting would need to be minuted and proposals brought back to the PC. GT asked the members of the public for their views from the informal meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> May and the Old Village Hall committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Janet Tourell advised that they'd discussed how to get over not having a chair, people had wanted to get together and discuss what wasn't said at the December meeting. It is about anyone who wants to be involved in the new Village Hall. The meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> May was held following an email received by GT and concerns expressed in the PC minutes that nothing was happening. Chair advised that the structure of the committee has got to be decided.

The Chair advised that at some stage the PC will be asked for a large amount of money, due to this it would be very hard for the PC not to be involved. Rachel Lewis advised that the person needed to drive the project forward is yet to be found, the legal ramifications need to be looked into and it needs to consist of villagers in partnership with the PC.

The Chair advised that the committee needs to be made up with a representative from every group involved in the present hall. It was felt that villagers not on the PC need to be involved however the committee would need to report back to the PC due to the money that they would need to borrow and as the site the present hall stands on belongs to the PC as does the site for the new hall. It would need to be decided whether the group should be a committee or a working party. GT suggested that the committee be similar to the present Village Hall committee in that they run themselves however they come to the PC when they need money and report back to the PC. Chair advised that there would need to be at least 3 members of the PC on the committee, this was questioned, however at present LS is involved and there would need to be 2 others in case 1 of these couldn't attend. RL advised that they need to find out what the general



operating structure is. She also advised that if it was a charity they are extremely governed by the Charity Commission.

RL advised that she is speaking to Barbara Beaton from AiRS next week and will be requesting that either Barbara, or someone else from AiRS, attend a meeting to answer questions on the way forward, she will also look at whether other people with experience of similar projects could also attend the meeting.

The Chair asked whether there was anything Richard Boswell could do at this stage. JT advised he would like a brief. Chair suggested that RB do a few drawings, however the only way to get a significant response from villagers would be to call on them. JT advised that people need convincing that the new village hall will actually happen. RB has advised that he would like to survey the present hall to help decide what is needed with the new hall. JT confirmed that other people within the village would need to be consulted on what they wanted. The Chair asked whether everyone would be happy for the clerk to write on his behalf to RB requesting that he survey the present building, the new site and produce 3 drawings and related information that could then be presented at a public meeting, all agreed. **Clerk**

It was proposed by PC and seconded by GT that the PC would pay RB for the work. RL raised about matched funding. The Chair advised that discounted prices should be taken into account as this is valuable funding for the overall project. RL confirmed that there are currently funds available to assist with the project and that lottery funding should be able to help.

- 107. PLAY AREA** – GT advised that he wasn't happy with what had been done and felt that the PC would end up having to pay the full balance. Playlink haven't cashed the cheque that has been sent to them. The PC are disappointed by the work undertaken by Playlink however they feel that the remaining balance will have to be paid. The Chair proposed that the PC pay the remainder of the invoice, seconded by GT and agreed by all. *Clerk to arrange payment.*

The Clerk updated the PC on the amount remaining from the Pathfinder Grant.

**Clerk**

GT advised that the play area won't be open before the Village Fair however they hope that it will be ready for 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**108. WEBSITE** – The Chair advised that he was informed about the offensive language on the village website on the Friday before the Tinkers Park rally. On the Saturday he left a message on the website editor's answer phone asking on behalf of the PC that the item be removed as it was offensive and not suitable for a village website. He believes this was removed on the Monday morning.

A discussion was held regarding individual Councillor's opinions on the blog. It was felt that the language used was offensive and probably illegal. The rally has been in the village for 45 years and is part of the history of the village, it was happening before the majority of people in the vicinity moved into the area. The insults made were directed to the people at the rally, although the issue appears to be with the Claude Jessett Trust. LM advised that she was approached by a trustee of the Trust asking what the PC felt about the language used on the website. Tinkers Park received telephone calls from people in Kent who saw the comments on the website asking if it was alright to attend the rally.

The Chair confirmed that the email that was sent to him by the website editor, via the clerk, was copied by her to all the Councillors. It was confirmed that the rally weekend is not governed by planning restrictions. It was felt that it was no longer possible for the PC to be connected with the village website and they will therefore need their own website. **'The PC does not agree with the derogatory comments that were made in the website blog and fully supports the rally, and the people who attend it, many of whom are villagers and have supported the rally for its past 45 years. The comments damage the image of the village to the wider world. The views expressed on the website do not reflect the PC's views.'**

It was however agreed that the editor of the website has done a lot to improve it. All of the PC reluctantly agreed to *pursue looking at a new website.*

**Clerk**

**109. COMMENTS ON ELECTRONIC PLANNING FOR CLERKS MEETING WITH WDC** – The PC provided the Clerk with feedback on the electronic planning trial that she could then present to WDC.

**110. WDC RECYCLING SCHEME** – Leaflets have been sent to villagers regarding the new kerbside recycling scheme. A public meeting is being held at St Marks Primary School on the 29<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. The bins and caddies will be delivered between 12<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July and collections will start either week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> August (the date will be confirmed in the recycling calendar that will be sent out week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> July). *The Clerk will contact WDC to see if there are posters available regarding the public meetings.*

**Clerk**

**111. VILLAGE HALL RAILINGS** – details of the quotes for the railings were sent to Councillors prior to the meeting, the cost of the ramp and the railings would be £2060 + VAT which would include the painting of the metalwork. LS asked if the PC would pay for the full cost. Colin James was asked if a grant could be obtained for matched funding, CJ advised that it may be possible to get one from 3VA. The Village Hall Committee has received funding from the PC for other projects in the last 12 months. GT proposed that the PC pay 50% of the bill. The Clerk informed the meeting that the PC agreed in the precept to £1000 for the ramp, railings, ceiling and other safety items at the Village Hall and that the PC has already spent on other items in the village over what it has precepted for. The Chair advised that if £1030 is given there won't be anymore money available for this year, as £1000 was allocated in the precept. CJ will see if other funding can be obtained from grants. GT suggested that the committee approach the Village Fair committee.



**112. AREAS FOR LITTER PICKING IN COUNTRY LANES – c/f**

**113. SITES FOR DEER WARNING SIGNS – c/f**

**114. NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF DATE FOR THE EXERCISE OF ELECTORS' RIGHTS –** for the accounts for 2009-10 has been posted on the notice boards.

**115. TRAINING & CONFERENCES**

i. Community Building Day in July – LS advised that she is presently liaising with 3VA. The Chair advised that he felt it was important for someone to attend, *Clerk to book chair in for the day.* **Clerk**

**116. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE**

i. Launch of Community Wildlife programme by the Big Lottery Fund – passed to GT

ii. ESFRS invitation for feedback on their recommendations arising from the Rural Review – The PC won't be taking part

**117. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION**

i. ESCC works update

**Meeting closed 9pm - THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL be on Tuesday 6th July 2010 at 7pm.**