



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council  
held in the Committee Room of Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

Present: Councillors Graham Terry (GT) (Chair), Iain Turner (IT), Michael Lunn (ML) and Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC). The Clerk Helen Johnson was in attendance.

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Toby Illingworth (TI)(WDC).

- 64. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – a member of the public asked whether questions could be asked at agenda item 76i, this was agreed by the Chair, he also agreed for agenda items 70, 74 and 77 to be brought forward. A member of the public asked if the Parish Council (PC) had heard anything more from Quantum Homes regarding a possible development on the land south of the Village Hall. It was confirmed that no further communication had been received. A member of the public thought that the developer had received a letter from WDC confirming that they could build 7 houses. *ML (WDC) agreed to investigate.* The Clerk suggested that the developer probably had instead received a positive pre-application report from WDC. **ML**
- 65. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies were received from Cllrs Damon Wellman and Sandra Richards (SR) these were accepted.
- 66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – ML declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in items 69a.i and 74i regarding Coopers Farm.
- 67. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were agreed and signed as true records (previously circulated).
- 68. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. Speedwatch sites for Roads Watch Team – RG confirmed that he would update the meeting at item 70.
  - ii. Neighbourhood Area Consultation – the Clerk confirmed that SR had contacted WDC for an update and was awaiting a response.
  - iii. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
    - a. Planning have visited the site in Hastingford Lane, the Clerk is awaiting further information from a Councillor before responding to planning.
    - b. The signed Deed of Variation and Plans have been sent to the Solicitor.
    - c. Noticeboard has been inspected in Main Road and will need varnishing.
    - d. Highways have been requested to clean the signs on the A267 and the bollards on the A267 & A272.
    - e. Link to the Highways reporting page has been added to the village website. Following the Clerks request RG has raised with Highways that their reporting page can only accept photographs of a low size and they are currently looking into this.
    - f. The contractor has agreed to extend their contract for the grounds maintenance at the Burial Ground and the Play Area till 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 in order to tie in with the seasonal contract.
- 70. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLR. MICHAEL LUNN WDC** – Cllr. Galley advised that ESCC have put extra resources into grass cutting, there will be 2 cuts this year for rural areas and 6 cuts in urban areas. Councillors highlighted the danger at some junctions with overgrown verges and it was suggested that the Highways steward be contacted if an extra cut is required due to visibility problems. The Clerk updated the meeting on the backlogs at Highways' contact centre. RG confirmed that he hadn't received a response from the police regarding speedwatch sites. A Councillor confirmed that a resident had witnessed the roadsweeper in School Lane and was willing to provide a witness statement.
- Cllr. Julian Michaelson-Yeates joined the meeting at 7:15pm.  
A Councillor asked RG about his monthly report in relation to the Ashdown Forest and a Councillor updated the meeting on his conversation with the Planning & Development Portfolio Holder.

Cllr. Lunn (WDC) advised that WDC has released a list of potential sites that could be used for housing and informed the meeting that there wasn't currently any emergency housing available in Hadlow Down.

#### **69. PLANNING:**

##### **a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- ii. WD/2016/1314/F – 18 SCHOOL LANE COTTAGES, SCHOOL LANE, TN22 4JD – Alterations, additions and proposed garage – The Parish Council support the application as they feel that it is in keeping with the area and no neighbours are overlooked. (4/0)

Cllr. Lunn left the meeting at 7:22pm

- i. WD/2016/1054/FT – COOPERS FARM, FIVE CHIMNEYS LANE TN22 4DX – retain existing mobile home & lean-to for a further 12 months – The Parish Council support the application, it appears that the applicant is making good progress with the farm's profitability which it is suggested is close to the predicted figures in the consultant's previous report. (3/0)

#### **76. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY:**

The Chair allowed members of the public to comment on the following item:

- i. Hut Lane – parking and adoption of lane – a member of the public informed the meeting of the advice residents of Hut Lane were given when it was previously considered adopting the lane. Due to the work involved in bringing the lane up to the required standard concern was raised over how it would affect parking, the speed of vehicles, access from and egress onto Main Road. A resident advised that adoption of the lane had previously been considered by the PC on a number of occasions and they had taken legal advice. Some villagers had, at that time, raised that they did not want to fund a project that wouldn't affect them.

The PC agreed to take no further action on this matter.

#### **74. PLAYING FIELD:**

The Chair allowed members of the public to comment on the following item:

- i. Boundary of land – it was highlighted that boundary markers had been removed at the playing field. A discussion was held on the cutting back of the vegetation, on the type of fencing and whether it was required. It was suggested undertaking GPS positioning and for the affected parties to agree the markings, *IT to investigate*. IT

Cutting back of foliage to be considered once the boundary has been marked.

The Clerk raised about the ownership of trees numbered 355-381. It was agreed for a meeting to be held at the Playing Field with representatives of the PC and local landowners to discuss the boundary and ownership of the trees.

The Chair allowed Fiona Shafer (FS), chair of the Playing Field Committee to comment on the following item:

- ii. Health and Safety issues and risk assessments – FS confirmed that the electrical work was due to be undertaken at the pavilion. The risk assessment has been undertaken at the pavilion and play area. The tunnel has been blocked off and work is planned to make it safe. There has been an issue with safety and dog poo signs and safety taping being removed and destroyed. FS agreed to do an article in the Parish Magazine, the Clerk suggested that anyone seeing suspicious behavior report it to herself or FS. FS confirmed that they don't want to have a load of signs at the playing field however they need to highlight safety issues and there is a problem with a small minority not picking up their dog's faeces. The Clerk has also requested that the PCSOs visit the site.

FS confirmed that the drainage contractors were now back on site, they will be clearing out the ditches and cutting the grass. They have also agreed to connect the pipes and fill in the hole at the north east corner and add a bund separating the play and parking areas.

The Chair allowed Fiona Shafer, chair of the Playing Field Committee to comment on the following item:

#### **77. WDC OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSESSMENT – response was agreed.**

#### **69. PLANNING:**

##### **b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. WD/2016/0813/F – Passalls Farm, Wilderness Lane – Proposed glazed doors and oak balcony to first floor master bedroom.
- ii. WD/2016/0828/F – Copsedge, Wilderness Lane – Alterations and additions.
- iii. WD/2016/0454/F – Gate House Farm, Stocklands Lane – Redevelopment of site including demolition of industrial farm building, removal of water holding tanks and construction of two detached dwellings with associated works.
- iv. WD/2016/0517/LB & 0516/F – The Old Cottage, Curtains Hill – New five bar gate to drive entrance and internal and external alterations to house.
- v. WD/2016/0543/F – Oaklands, Stonehurst Lane – Detached triple garage with home office above.

##### **c. PLANNING MATTERS:**

- i. Land at Five Badgers, Stonehurst Lane – notice of informal hearing on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- 71. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for June 2016 was agreed and signed by the one signatory attending the meeting, the Clerk will arrange for another signatory to also sign it.
- 72. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :**
- i. Parish Magazine – the PC agreed on the presentation for Mr & Mrs Neill at the Village Fayre for all their work on the Parish Magazine. *GT to organize.* **GT**
  - ii. The payments of £252 to Compact Cutting for grounds maintenance work and £99.00 to Alison Stevens for the internal audit, that were paid prior to the meeting were ratified at this meeting.
  - iii. Request for contribution to tree work cost – the Chair advised that the Clerk had sought advice on this matter and had been advised that the PC shouldn't contribute to the cost. The PC agreed not to contribute, the *Clerk will write to the landowner to advise.* **Clerk**
  - iv. Internal audit report – Councillors had been copied in on the internal audit report prior to the meeting. The Clerk was congratulated on the report.
- 73. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
- i. Cllr Iain Turner advised that completed Emergency Planning surveys are being returned, he will record the information He visited Riverside and Sheepwash Lane and took photographs of the erosion to the side of the road and the exposed cables. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Highways and has stressed the urgency regarding the exposed cables. There is currently no date available for the ditching work outside Harvest Hill Farm. Councillors discussed parking at the top of Wilderness Lane, it had improved however cars were still being parked there, this can be a danger to other road users. The Clerk has put an article in the Parish Magazine,
- 75. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – GT updated the PC on the last meeting.
- 76. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY:**
- ii. Correspondence regarding footpath 27c – the Clerk updated the meeting on correspondence she had been copied in on regarding the footpath between Waghorns Lane and Springwell Cottage and on her conversation with the Rights of Way team at ESCC and the PC's insurance company. If the grant is obtained she has suggested to Bob Lake that a meeting be held between him, representatives of the Parish Council and the Rights of Way team. The Clerk has been advised that the area with the Japanese knotweed won't be disturbed and the PC were impressed with the work that has been undertaken to reduce it. *JMY agreed to investigate ownership of the land next to the knotweed and check that work was still being undertaken to eradicate it.* **JMY**
  - iii. Correspondence regarding Riverside and Sheep Wash Lane – discussed at agenda item 73i.
  - iv. Correspondence regarding closure of Wilderness Lane – the Clerk has contacted ESCC Highways to find out why the lane was closed on 5<sup>th</sup> May and is awaiting a response from them.
  - v. Notification of road closure – U7585 Nursery Lane and Tinkers Lane 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 to replace the electricity poles and works. Access to properties will be maintained where possible but may be restricted at times.
  - vi. ESCC consultation on their draft Countryside Access Strategy – no response made.
  - vii. Damage to footpath in School Lane – the Clerk advised that the Highways steward had visited the site, she has disputed their response and the Highways Liaison Officer is currently investigating, having been sent all the photographs. The Clerk has been in contact with WDC and the contractor. IT has spoken to a member of the public who is producing a witness statement of the incident.
- 78. VILLAGE FAYRE** – the Clerk advised that she had received some photographs but is still waiting for others. *She will contact ML to see if he is available to assist on the day.* **ML**
- 79. ANNUAL REPORT** – the report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting and was now approved. It was agreed for *the Clerk to get quotes and arrange for it to be printed and to contact the editor regarding inclusion with the Parish Magazine.* **Clerk**
- 80. GRANTS POLICY** – the policy, application form and end of project report form were approved.
- 81. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed.
  - ii. The Clerk proposed that Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance be invited to speak at the 2017 Parish Assembly, this was agreed by all, *Clerk to arrange.* **Clerk**
  - iii. Pensions Discretions Policy - the Clerk highlighted that she would like to have the option to take her pension early, should this be required due to ill health. The policy was agreed.
- 82. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:
- i. Helen Johnson. Salary £877.45 includes £13.50 mileage and £3 expenses, £750 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £127.45.
  - ii. Wellers Law Group LLP £316.80 legal advice, a further invoice for £208.80 had been received for Wellers Law Group LLP and a cheque for £525.60 was therefore signed and will be ratified at the next meeting.

iii. Compact Cutting £372.00 burial ground and play area grounds maintenance.

iv. Viking £103.71 stationery.

v. East Sussex Pension Fund £258.81 pension contribution.

A further invoice for £130.00 had been received from Mr P Anderson for fingerpost work, this will be ratified at the next meeting.

**83. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

i. Wealden District Council Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan – the Clerk advised that WDC had adopted its Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan.

ii. Correspondence regarding signs at the Village Hall – the Clerk advised that she had been contacted by the Chair of the Village Hall committee regarding the installation of signage at the Village Hall, she has advised them that unless it is on the Parish Council's land they don't need to be involved.

iii. Streets Ahead newsletter.

**84. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – the Clerk confirmed that she had checked the defibrillator prior to the meeting .

**85. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA** – nothing raised.

**The meeting closed at 9:11pm**