



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Hadlow Down Parish Council  
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7pm on Tuesday March 6th 2012.

*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), Rona Hellewell (RH), Graham Terry (GT), Michael Lunn (ML), Ken Ogden (KO)(WDC) and Tony Reid (TR)(ESCC). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells (HSW). Apologies were received from Cllr. Norman Buck (NB)(WDC).

- 351. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** A member of the public raised about the lack of PC representation on the Community Centre committee and advised that the committee are aiming to spend approximately £20,000 on surveys, business plans etc and then approximately £30,000 on architects fees and to take it to planning. It was highlighted that GT has worked very hard, however he is no longer on the committee and it was felt that there should be at least 2 Councillors on there. To be discussed at point 362.
- 352. REPORT FROM PCSO MARK CARTER:** No report from Mark in his absence. The Clerk highlighted that 4 people have now been arrested in connection with the burglaries in Buxted and the offences have now stopped. Residents should contact the police if they have any further information that would assist them.
- 353. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE:** apologies received from Damon Wellman (DWe).
- 354. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** ML declared a prejudicial interest in point 357ii, SR declared a personal interest in point 357i and DW a personal interest in point 375iii
- 355. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 356. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. KO advised that he has spoken to Kelvin Williams at WDC about the new planning document, this will result in the streamlining of applications going into planning, photographs will always be required and more information will be available for the Parish Council (PC), consultation at point 377iii.
  - ii. Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation – date passed.
  - iii. DW has added contact information to the playing field sign
  - iv. Consultation on WDC budget proposals – ML confirmed that WDC have forecasted for their expenditure on the closed burial ground for the next few years rather than expecting local residents to pay for it. Discussions are being held at WDC regarding Localism which may have implications for the Parish Council from 2014/15 onwards.
  - v. GT has photographed all the fingerposts and logged them on a map. He was thanked for his work on this, *HSW to forward the information to Highways and for recording on the list of structures of local importance.* **Clerk**
  - vi. RH responded to the WDC LDF Strategic Sites Development Plan Document, Issues and Options Consultation regarding the sites in Crowbrough, Heathfield and Uckfield.
  - vii. Clerks Report: was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
    - a. Registration with the Rural Broadband site and with ESCC for faster broadband in the village.
    - b. Liaison with Highways over blocked gulleys and water running from the footpath joining Wheelers Lane. *HSW to chase Highways as the gully in Hut Lane hasn't yet been cleared. Also the problem of the water running off the road in Stockland Lane still hasn't been sorted, HSW to send information to TR of this outstanding item.* **Clerk**
- 357. PLANNING MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerk has received correspondence regarding the development at Oakways, a discussion was held on this. *RH to investigate changes to original application.* **RH**

ii. Notice has been received of the WDC Planning Committee meeting regarding **WD/2011/2754/F COOPERS FARM** – retention of a mobile home and lean-to extension for 2 year period

**PLANNING APPEAL:**

**APP/1435/E/11/2161156 and APP/C1435/A/11/2161158 COLES HALL, HEATHFIELD ROAD** – 15 photovoltaic solar panels to the existing south facing roof of the garage - Appeals have been dismissed by the planning inspector.

**358. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLR.KEN OGDEN WDC:** TR advised that the ESCC budget has been approved and they won't be increasing the council tax. They are trying to maximize their capital plan programme and will be spending £257m. over the next 4 years. The link road between Bexhill and Hastings is awaiting government approval as is their broadband plan. There is the opportunity to increase broadband strength to 24 megabytes in rural areas and villagers are encouraged to respond to the survey on the ESCC website. Expenditure next year will be the same as this year. £5m.is available to try and get ahead with road repairs. Concern was expressed by Councillors over repairs to the A272 near Pound Green following water company work, *Clerk to raise with the Highways steward.* **Clerk**  
TR updated on the Uckfield gyratory system, it is planned that this will go over the old railway line, however if in the future this part of the railway is reopened, a bridge would have to be built. Car parking in Uckfield and Buxted was also discussed.

KO advised that the Core Strategy is currently being examined and it is likely that the Inspector will want WDC to make changes. It will then probably go for public examination again. There is a chance that a Plan could be produced where local people specify where and how much development they want.

ML confirmed that NB has been very ill, the PC wished him well.

**359. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –dated 24th February 2012 was agreed and signed.

**360. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –**

- i. Councillors suggested amendments to the invitation to tender letter for the play area, *Clerk to amend and send out.* **Clerk**
- ii. A discussion was held on how much of the hedging at the burial ground needs cutting back, quote agreed.
- iii. The Clerk presented proposals for the revised burial fees, amendments were suggested by Councillors and the final figures were agreed, *Clerk to update and issue to local funeral directors.* **Clerk**
- iv. As the Sussex Playing Fields Association have not requested payment of the subscription and they appear as removed from the Charity Commission website no payment would be made to them.
- v. The Clerk confirmed that Reactive Maintenance at ESCC have agreed that the Village Maintenance Team can rub down all the fingerposts and repaint them. Highways are no longer undertaking repairs to fingerposts on A and B roads. They will inspect the 2 leaning fingerposts and report back to the Clerk. *Fingerpost agreement form passed to GT to be raised at the SLR meeting.* **GT**

**361. DOUBLE YELLOW LINES IN SCHOOL LANE** – SR updated on the results and comments from the survey, 59 responses were received and of these 57 were in favour of extending the double yellow lines. There was a 17.5% response from householders. *HSW to write to ESCC with the results and request that the lines be extended, TR to be copied in. Clerk to also liaise with Claire Rivers regarding the outcome of the previous suggestion that teachers park on the land opposite the school.* **Clerk**  
*SR to produce article for the website and the Parish Magazine.* **SR**

**362. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – GT confirmed that the Terms of Reference of the committee are being written, sub-committees have been formed and the AGM has been held. GT had no recollection of the £30,000 mentioned at point 351. They have been in liaison with the Charity Commission regarding charity status and the chair will be consulting with Solicitors this week.  
ML confirmed that he had spoken to the monitoring officer at WDC and if Parish Councillors attend the Community Centre committee meetings but aren't committee members they can still vote on decisions made by the PC. SR, ML and GT agreed to attend the meetings as observers, Janet Tourell (JT) would update the committee. Next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm possibly at the New Inn, venue to be confirmed.

**363. VILLAGE HALL PAPERWORK** – Councillors had received a copy of James Stockdale's (JS) comments regarding the Village Hall paperwork. It was agreed for the *Clerk to arrange a meeting with Ian Davison (ID) from Hedley's solicitors, Louise Beaton from AirS and a representative from the Community Centre and the Village Hall committees. She will send a copy of the paperwork to ID, forward JS's comments to JT and draw up questions for the meeting to be sent to Councillors beforehand.* **Clerk**

**364. JUBILEE TREE** – DW and GT attended a school assembly to discuss the Jubilee Oak with the pupils. The PC agreed to the new site for the tree at the burial ground.

365. **BUS SHELTER** – the Clerk confirmed that the insurance company would be able to insure a new bus shelter. With regard to planning permission this would not be required if the shelter was put up in conjunction with a service the PC provided. *The Clerk will contact the bus companies to discuss. She will also arrange for quotes for the shelter.* **Clerk**  
SR advised that she is continuing to chase ESCC regarding the installation of the bus stop signs.
366. **ANNUAL REPORT** – a discussion was held on the production of the annual report. It was agreed that all Councillors would produce a report on their area of responsibility for the 2012/13 financial year and would forward these to GT by the end of April for collation. The report will be sent to all households. **ALL**
367. **PARISH ASSEMBLY** – TR and KO confirmed that they will be attending the Parish Assembly. It was agreed to do a powerpoint presentation, Councillors to provide the Clerk with bullet points. *The Clerk will liaise with Claire Rivers for the School report..* **ALL**
369. **SLR MEETING** – All Councillors to forward items for the SLR agenda to the Clerk by 8<sup>th</sup> March, Clerk to send list of agenda items to Highways and copy TR. **ALL**
370. **RISK ASSESSMENTS** – RH agreed to undertake the quarterly risk assessments and the annual office risk assessment. **RH**
371. **THE MAYFIELD TRUST** – the PC agreed to the reappointment of Fiona Bickerton as representative of the Parish Council on the Mayfield Trust.
372. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**  
Cllr. Graham Terry – Burial Ground, Village Hall, Playing Field, New Community Centre and SLR – GT advised that a resident has written to the Chief Constable regarding the sheep worrying and that there was another attack at the weekend involving 3 dalmations.  
Cllr. Rona Hellewell – Planning and Emergency Planning – RT advised that the Parish Emergency Radio Network will continue this year.
373. **CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerk hours were checked, agreed and signed.
  - ii. The Clerk updated the PC on correspondence received regarding the community engagement strategy statement, concern had been expressed over the wording used, the concern was noted.
  - iii. Correspondence had been received about the effectiveness of the new recycling bins, *ML to investigate and respond.* **ML**
  - iv. The Clerk has been sent a Sussex flag, passed to GT to be displayed at the Village Fayre.
  - v. The Clerk updated on the Barclays Skillsbank
  - vi. The proposed merger between East and West Sussex Fire & Rescue Services is not proceeding at present.
  - vii. Correspondence received from South East Water updating on water resources.
  - viii. The Clerk updated on correspondence she had received from a resident regarding grit bins near the school. She has liaised with Claire Rivers and directed her to advice given by the Government on clearing snow.
374. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR:**
- i. The Chair updated on information he was sent by villagers on speeding. The Clerk advised that the police had undertaken speed checks on the A272 and updated on what action they had taken.
375. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed by all and cheques signed:
- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £799.80 includes £4.50 for mileage and £2.32 for expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £179.80.
  - ii. Sandra Richards £22.74 refreshments for December public meeting, to replace lost cheque.
  - iii. Hadlow Down Village Hall £880 grant for woodworm treatment for the Village Hall paid under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
  - iv. JFDI Groundcare Services £36.00 Play Area Maintenance
  - v. BT £154.16 phone and broadband use, paid by direct debit
  - vi. Sussex Associations of Local Councils £15.50 LCR subscription
  - vii. The Information Commissioner £35.00 notification fee paid under Local Government Act 1972 s.226
376. **TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:**
- i. Localism Conference – GT to attend.
  - ii. Neighbourhood Planning workshop for Clerks – Clerk to attend.
  - iii. Interactive Housing Workshop session – no-one to attend.
377. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE:**
- i. ESCC Library survey – article has been added to the website and will appear in the Parish Magazine.
  - ii. Representations on Soundness of the Waste and Minerals Plan – plan has been approved, comments have been invited on the soundness of the plan, no response to be made.

iii. WDC Planning Local List of Information Requirements – *Clerk to forward information to RH. Clerk/RH*

**378. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:**

- i. Homeworks bulletin
- ii. ESCC Economy, Transport and Environment bulletins
- iii. WDC Parish Bulletin

**379. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA**

- i. Loudwell Farm Planning application
- ii. Neighbourhood Plan – for May agenda
- iii. Playing Field drainage
- iv. CAB Fuel Poverty worker

**The meeting closed at 9:10pm**

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be  
on 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL at 7pm.**