



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down

at 7.00 pm on Tuesday November 3rd 2009

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

Present: Councillors Paul James (Chairman), Lisa Scott, Graham Terry, Michael Lunn and Lucy McConachie. Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

172. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Eddie W re point 188 asked as a rate payer how much it would cost for the Parish Council (PC) to have their own website. He was informed about £1000. EW advised that Steyning have a similar community website to the Hadlow Down one, he also quoted other parishes. PC have been advised by SALC (Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils) that they need to have their own website and the PC have chosen to do this. Clerk is looking into it at present. Parishioner has expressed concern that land has been fenced off in Waste Wood (not the part being used by the school). It was felt that there was not much that the PC could do about it, providing it wasn't blocking the public footpath and if it was done on a forestry basis. *Clerk to contact WDC to confirm.* **Clerk**
173. **PCSO KATIE BREEDS** – Apologies received from Katie, report for September: 2 reported crimes – Gatehouse Farm pond equipment stolen/damaged, Wilderness Lane attempted break in to garage, nothing stolen just lock damaged. Roads Policing Unit have contacted her as the speed signs are covered by the hedgerows. Clerk advised that this was raised at the SLR meeting and Highways will be taking action to rectify the situation. Report for the period 4th Oct. – 3rd Nov. – scrap metal stolen from Wilderness Lane 26th Oct., under investigation at present.
174. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Cllrs. Norman Buck, David Walker, Tony Reid, Colin James and Ken Ogden.
175. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – None declared.
176. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – minutes of the meeting held on 6th October were agreed and signed as a true copy however with point 147 amended to show that GT and not DW commented that the ESCC rise was not in line with inflation. Extraordinary meeting minutes of 20th October 09 were agreed and signed as a true copy.
186. **EMERGENCY PLAN** – This item appears on the agenda in order to discuss whether the brief for the emergency plan should be changed, as it was originally set up to deal with major events. The recent power cut is an example of when the plan is most likely to be required. GT questioned whether there is a national strategy in which case care would need to be taken as to how it could be changed, if it is the PC's own brief there wouldn't be a problem. The power cut showed that some people in the village did need help. Chair commented that the Emergency Plan group is wonderful and is run very well, it could however be used for other emergencies. EW confirmed that the plan includes to help at major RTA's in the village. He has tried to get information from EDF on vulnerable people but they were unable to help, the group have a list of vulnerable people but not everyone is on there. EW also confirmed that an electricity emergency is also covered in the plan. Chair advised that PC do not wish to interfere, EW runs the group exceptionally well, it's whether the brief is wide enough. At one point it was suggested that the emergency team have a defibrillator however the team felt it would be good if someone else in the village took this on. LS advised that she felt that the emergency plan team should be allowed to use common sense. Wealden control room no longer exists now at ESCC. Chair requested that EW do a report at the AGM, it was also felt that it may be a good way to get new people involved. EW was advised that if he wants any support from the PC to come and speak to them.
177. **MATTERS ARISING (from prev. mtg):**
- Community Safety Partnership Grant – ML advised that this wasn't relevant to PC as related to urban areas
 - Examination of old Village Hall noticeboard – PJ has removed old sign, felt that it would be possible to refurbish it.
 - Website – further photos have been added to website, *ML to provide photo to GT* **ML**
 - Rural manifesto – ML advised that this was an interesting document that talks about greater powers for Parish Councils
 - Clerks Report: update passed to councillors with agenda
 - Confirmation received that original emergency plan has been deleted.
 - Contacted WDC who will update Clerk if any plans received regarding the oak tree at the bottom of Hut Lane.
 - Signed Village Hall risk assessment received.
 - Copy of income and expenditure for 09 was forwarded to all Councillors.
 - KO is on hols however clerk has requested that he update her regarding Southview.
 - The new fingerpost is in the process of being made at a total cost of £350, ESCC have been updated as they will pay 50% of the cost. Raised that the fingerpost from the A272 pointing down Five Chimneys Lane is leaning over. Would appear that the tractor cutting the hedge has knocked it. *PJ to check.* **PJ**
 - Play area agreement was sent to WDC, our copy has now received back from them, funds went into our account on Monday 2nd Nov.
 - Figures for sustainable lighting for the church have now been included in anticipated expenditure for 2009-10. Updated figures and those for 2010-11 forwarded to Councillor's prior to meeting

178. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

WD/2009/1456/FA – FIVE BADGERS, STONEHURST LANE, TN20 6LL – Vary conditions 1 and 2 of WD/2006/1215/FR granted on appeal on 11th July 2007 to renew consent for the stationing of two caravans on the land in use for the keeping of horses. Amended plan – application site (edged red) amended to be consistent with previous planning permission WD/2006/1215. – The PC acknowledges the history and circumstances relating to this application and would support a further extension of 2 years to enable the applicant to seek alternative arrangements. This condition would only be linked to the named applicant – Mr Moore.

WD/2009/2253/F – FIR TREE COTTAGE, SOUTHVIEW, WILDERNESS LANE – Proposed loft conversion to dwelling – The Parish Council oppose this application and consider that policy number's GD2 (excessive development outside the development boundary) and EN27 (layout and design of development not appropriate for a building in the AONB) are being breached.

Already the original application has been changed in that a window has been positioned in the south elevation, contrary to the design and access statement of the original planning application and this gives greater view overlooking Cobwebs, which is in a low lying position.

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:

None received

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION:

None received

Clerk to write to Head of Planning Department requesting when and if planning permission was given for the window in the south elevation at Fir Tree Cottage especially as it overlooks Cobwebs.

Clerk

Clerk to write to planning department to thank them for listening to the Parish Council's comments regarding the Tinkers Park application and for adding well thought out conditions.

Clerk

179. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC – nothing received in their absence.

180. BANK RECONCILIATION: – Bank reconciliation for 26th October 09 agreed and signed as correct.

181. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

i. Payment of £40 for membership of AiRS that was paid at meeting on 20th October ratified

ii. Wealden community grant schemes – *LS to apply for a grant for the insulation and electricity meters at the Village Hall.*

LS

182. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: The following were agreed for payment:

i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £630.35 includes £35.60 for mileage, £31..49 training hours and £52.56 backdated pay. £460 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £170.35.

ii. AiRS autumn village hall workshops £6.00.

iii. Hire of Village Hall July-Sep. 09 £100

iv. Chandlers £466.54, timber for playing field will be ratified at meeting on 1st December.

183. PLAY AREA – payment made for timber to Chandlers, awaiting copy of the invoice for Parkers Steel and then cheque will be raised payable to P. Gillies as he has already settled the invoice himself.

184. RESULT OF ARTICLE IN PARISH MAGAZINE REGARDING NAMING OF MAIN ROAD – none of the Councillors were, prior to the meeting, aware of the result of the poll. Clerk advised that the following votes were received:

15 to stay as Main Road

2 for St Mark's Way

1 for Cannons Way

1 for The Ridgeway

1 for The Ridge

1 for Wilderness Grove

Clerk will forward results of vote to WDC.

Clerk

185. ADOPTION OF LOCAL RED TELEPHONE KIOSK – Clerk updated the meeting with the results of the poll from the village website as to what should happen with the telephone kiosk:

6 voted for 'adopt it and retain it unused as part of village history'

3 voted for 'adopt it and use it as a village club and society information centre'

2 voted for 'adopt it and use it as a village terrarium'

1 voted for 'adopt it and use it as a mini village art gallery'

1 voted for 'adopt it and use it to replace the Parish Council notice board'

1 voted for 'adopt it and then sell it by auction to the highest village bidder (removal costs paid by buyer)'

The Clerk had received no response from the article in the Parish Magazine. Discussion held regarding the potential costs for keeping the kiosk and the options suggested above. The PC decided not to adopt the kiosk due to the ongoing potential expenditure involved.

187. PRECEPT – Clerk has provided Councillors with updated figures following on from the October meeting. A discussion was held on the options for the precept. ML felt that the Community Plan should be produced online thereby reducing the precept by £1000. ML suggested having a five year plan in order that villagers can see how much will be spent each year for the next five years. GT advised that villagers also need to be aware in advance of what the PC are planning on spending on the new Village Hall. *Clerk to produce spreadsheet to be used at the December meeting showing how alterations in the precept would affect villager's council tax.*

It was agreed that the PC need to reduce the percentage increase on the proposed precept and will need to look at where cuts can be made. *Councillors to take figures away and review prior to December meeting.* **All**

188. DOMAIN AND E MAIL ADDRESSES – c/f

189. PLAYING FIELD ENTRANCES – concern was raised at the last meeting about the number of entrances leading onto the playing field. The hole has now been filled in near the flats. Chair spoke to WDC who haven't given permission for the hedge to be pulled out, WDC will be writing to the PC on this matter. The majority of access' onto the playing field are locked. The Parish Council need to be able to maintain the right to close access onto the playing field if this is requested by i.e. the police etc. At the Winterfest there was a health and safety issue in that private entrances weren't roped off.

190. LDF & CORE STRATEGY – meeting in Hailsham in November regarding Wealden's LDF – forwarded to DW to see if he is able to attend.

192. PLANNING APPLICATIONS BY EMAIL – WDC have advised that with effect from autumn 2010 planning applications should be received by email and a return will need to be made via the website. In early 2010 the 1st phase of notifying plans by email will start. It was felt that it would be good for the Parish Council to be part of the trial. *Clerk to write to WDC advising we would like to be part of the trial however we would need to know what equipment they would provide us with.*

**Clerk
LS/LM**

191. RISK ASSESSMENT – Lisa and Lucy will undertake the quarterly assessments.

192a. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):

- i. Community Strategies, Sustainable Development and Environment Matters – Cllr. Michael Lunn – nothing to report.
- ii. Youth – Cllr. Lisa Scott – Nothing to report
- iii. Easylink – Cllr. Lucy McConachie – LM advised that she attend the Wealdlink meeting – they are waiting a s.106 payment from Morrisons and will then be introducing a £1 flat charge for a bus to Crowborough, there will be no charge to the PC for a year and then if it is being used in the village there will be a charge of 23p per household per year. The bus will pick people up from their door and is available for those who have difficulty getting on public transport (includes those with buggies). The bus could then be used as a community bus in the evenings and at weekends. LM also advised of a Mid-Weald Voluntary Cars Forum meeting
- iv. Neighbourhood Watch, Emergency Planning, New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee – Cllr. Graham Terry – GT advised that the Winterfest was a success. The Community Hall inaugural committee meeting is being held on 9th December at 7pm .
- v. Burial Ground – Cllr. Paul James – nothing to report.
- vi. Tree Warden - Jo Dummer (former Councillor) - awaiting for CRB check to come through and will then be planting trees with the children in Waste Wood on the piece of land that St Mark's School has been given. Concern has been expressed about the Oak near to the bottom of Hut Lane. This tree does have a TPO and must not be tampered with in.

193. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. Hours checked agreed and signed.
- ii. Kerbing – *Clerk to write to Highways advising that the kerbing heading east from Wheelers Lane to Greenacres needs replacing.* **Clerk**
- iii. Temporary road closure in Wilderness Lane 16th – 24th November.
- iv. Standing Orders – SALC have advised that the Standing Orders shouldn't be put on the village website. Under the PC's Publication Scheme for the Freedom of Information Act, members of the public can apply to the Clerk with a Freedom of Information request for a hard copy at a charge of 10p per sheet, under the scheme they would also need to give their name and address.
- v. Winterfest risk assessment – the risk assessment was received prior to the Winterfest. Chair congratulated ML on a very thorough risk assessment. ML advised that the safety at this year's event was a lot better than previous years.
- vi. High Weald Cultural Landscape Officer – offer of presentation on 'The Making of the High Weald Landscape' – not applicable to PC as presentation given at this year's parish assembly.
- vii. Parish Assembly – booked for 20th April in the main hall. *Clerk to organise speaker.* **Clerk**
- viii. New vetting and barring system for those working with vulnerable groups – LS advised that this was a new type of CRB check.
- ix. Parish tree planting – nowhere suitable on PC land

194. TRAINING & CONFERENCES:

- i. Update from HSW on the SLR meeting – GT said that the meeting was very productive and that Highways were receptive to what the PC had to say. After the last meeting they came and looked at what Councillors had raised. Article regarding trees will appear in the Parish Magazine. The consultation on extending the double yellow lines in School Lane won't be for some time. PC requested deer signs however Highways are receiving a large no. of requests for these, a new policy has been written and is awaiting approval. DW and GT are due to inspect the island at the junction of Tinkers Lane and the A272 and report back to Highways. It was raised about the white lines around the village, Highways will inspect them and see what action is required. The debris on the footpaths between Wheelers Lane and School Lane will be cleared in order to ensure that the paths are wide enough. Highways have confirmed that ditches are the landowners responsibility, where they are owned by ESCC they aren't being cleared as there is not enough money to do them.

It was raised at this PC meeting that staff from Marlowe House appear to be parking on the road rather than using the car park, this is causing a problem at peak school times.

- ii. Fuel poverty training awareness workshop November Uckfield – no-one attending
- iii. CAB AGM Uckfield November – no-one attending
- iv. Mid-Weald Voluntary Cars Forum meeting Uckfield November – no-one attending
- v. Finding Funding training day – no-one attending
- vi. Parish Clerks Seminar Jan – Clerk to attend

195. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE.

- i. Draft Bus Strategy Consultation – LM has responded confirming that what was recorded is correct
- ii. Waste and minerals development framework consultation on preferred strategy – no action taken

196. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

- i. Annual health check results for NHS
- ii. Rural services community
- iii. Changes to bus services in the Eastbourne and Wealden areas
- iv. Health overview and scrutiny committee newsletter, also event in November - rural health services under investigation.
- v. Wealden food and safety bulletin
- vi. High Weald joint committee annual review 2008/9
- vii. AiRS newsletter
- viii. ESCC supporting people newsletter

197. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

Nothing to add

Meeting closed 9:20pm

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL be on Tuesday 1st December 2009 at 7pm.

Signed..... Date.....