



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council  
held in the Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Damon Wellman (DW), Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY), Iain Turner (IT) and Graham Terry (GT). The Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells was in attendance. Apologies had been received from Cllr. Roy Galley (ESCC).

- 207. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – a member of the public thanked the Parish Council (PC) for their work on the Wilderness Wood planning application and felt that the right outcome had been achieved. A member of the public expressed concern that the pallets at the playing field hadn't been cordoned off, the Clerk advised that she would contact the chair of the playing field committee. **Clerk**  
A member of the public expressed concern over the gate being locked at the playing field as they were concerned that emergency vehicles would not be able to access the site. A Councillor confirmed that a heavy duty padlock could be purchased for which the emergency services would have a key. The Clerk has requested that any emails regarding the playing field are also copied to Cllr. James (NJ).
- 208. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies were received from Cllr. Nathan James (NJ), these were accepted.
- 209. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – GT declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 212bi.
- 210. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were agreed and signed as true records, apart from the minutes on 6<sup>th</sup> October which were amended so that GT didn't have (ESCC) after his name and that agenda items 172 and 177c showed the correct spelling for Lovetts.
- 211. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
    - a. The Parish Council agreed to rescind the decision made at agenda item 178bi for the Clerk to contact South East Water.
    - b. Highways have confirmed that the gullies in Main Road would be cleaned by 7<sup>th</sup> October and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> clean would be undertaken by 10<sup>th</sup> April. The Clerk has advised Highways that they need clearing and it has been confirmed that the gullies have now been cleared in Main Road. *The Clerk will find out when the gullies on the rural roads were last cleared.* **Clerk**
    - c. Maresfield PC Clerk has confirmed that their speed humps were paid for by s.106 money from a local development.
    - d. The Clerk is trying to obtain the trainers details in order to organize the defibrillator training.
- 212. PLANNING:**
- a. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
  - i. **WD/2015/2287/FR – LAND ADJOINING FIVE BADGERS, STONEHURST LANE, TN20 6LL** – Change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation as a gypsy site with associated development (alter access, hard standing, utility shed/day room) – retrospective. The Parish Council had attended a site visit prior to the meeting. The Chair allowed members of the public to comment and ask questions on the application. The Parish Council agreed (5/0) to the following response:  
The Parish Council very strongly object to the application for the following reasons:
    - They have serious concerns that it is a retrospective application and building work has already commenced;

- It goes against s.25 of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites regarding new traveller site development in open countryside;
- It goes against s.27 of Planning Policy for Traveller Sites as it is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- In accordance with The High Weald AONB Management Plan 2014-19 the natural beauty of the area should be conserved and enhanced and this isn't achieved by the proposed development;
- EN27 Wealden Local Plan Policy – the layout and design of the development isn't in keeping or suitable for the surrounding area;
- The applicant claims that there was a gap in the hedge where the new entrance is located however Councillors were unable to find a record of this and the entrance has also been further widened;
- The septic tank is currently an environmental hazard because of the soakaway on clay soil and the additional number of people using it.

The PC believe that the new application is still covered by WD/2013/2348/A and therefore believe that this consent has been breached in the following areas:

- Condition 1- 'The use hereby permitted shall be carried on only by Mr E J Moore, his wife and dependant children and shall be for a limited period, being the period during which the premises are occupied by them'. Mr Moore's parents have lived at the site which breaches this condition;
- Condition 5 – 'No floodlighting, security lighting or other external means of illumination of the site shall be provided, installed or operated at the site'. There is external lighting at the site which as well as breaching this condition also isn't suitable in an AONB;
- Condition 6 – 'No trees or hedges along the boundaries of the application site shall be cut down, uprooted or destroyed, nor shall any retained tree be topped or lopped, other than in accordance with the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority. If any retained tree or hedge is removed, uprooted, destroyed or dies, a replacement tree or hedge shall be planted and that tree or hedge shall be of such size and species and shall be planted at such a time and in a position to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority'. Hedges have been uprooted, cut-down or destroyed at the site.

A Councillor requested that the Chair reiterate to members of the public to write to WDC or one of their District Councillors to express either their support or objection to the application.

Cllr. Graham Terry wasn't involved in any discussions regarding the following agenda item.

**b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- WD/2015/1736/LB – Stockland Oast, Stockland Lane – Addition of a new high level window in the annexe.

**c. PLANNING MATTERS:**

- Five enforcement notices for Land at Five Badgers have been issued by WDC, these were copied to Councillors prior to the meeting.
- Planning applications received after issue of the agenda – the Clerk proposed that the following be added to agendas '**any applications received between the date of issue of the agenda and the date of the meeting may be discussed and a response agreed at the meeting. Details of the application will appear on the village website and on Twitter**'. This will enable planning applications that are received after the issue of the agenda to then be discussed at the PC meeting and a response agreed.. This will save extra meetings being required. The Clerk confirmed that a resident contacted her expressing concern over the proposal however the Clerk has reassured her that all members of the public, who are emailed a copy of the agenda, would receive notification of any applications received. The PC agreed to the proposal, the Clerk will also arrange for Standing Orders to be changed to reflect this amendment and that the agenda is now issued a day earlier. Clerk

**213. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLRS. TOBY ILLINGWORTH/MICHAEL LUNN WDC** – no reports received.

**214. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for October 2015 was agreed and signed.

**215. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :**

- Payments of £114 to SLCC Enterprises Ltd for training, £1200 to Wellers Law Group LLP for Playing Field Committee grant for legal fees, £30 to SSALC Limited for Planning Training and £792 to Compact Cutting for burial ground and play area maintenance that were signed at the 6<sup>th</sup> October meeting were ratified at this meeting..

**216. COUNCILLORS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** - the Chair proposed that IT take over responsibility for the Emergency Plan, Highways, Rights of Way and Strengthening Local Relationships meetings, this was seconded by JMY and agreed by all. It was proposed by the Chair that NJ, JMY and IT meet to discuss the Emergency Plan.

**217. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**

- Cllr. Graham Terry advised that there were more caravans, horseboxes and a number of cars at Cart

Lodge, WDC have been contacted.

- ii. Cllr. Damon Wellman confirmed that one of the aprons had been completed at the gully on Main Road opposite Tinkers Lane, however at the other gully a tiny apron had been installed which wasn't effective and the gully was now covered with debris. *The Clerk will contact Highways.* **Clerk**  
The Chair confirmed that the requested berms had now been installed in Dog Kennel Lane and Criars Lane.  
*The Clerk will contact Highways again about the rattling cover east of Little England Farm.* **Clerk**
- iii. Cllr. Julian Michaelson-Yeates advised that he was due to attend planning training.
- 218. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – the Chair confirmed that a meeting was being held with WDC on 9<sup>th</sup> November regarding a Neighbourhood Area and Community Right to Build. Bob Lake has confirmed that he is awaiting receipt of the pre-feasibility study.  
The Clerk confirmed that she had a discussion with representatives from DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) and the Solicitor at a Clerks training event and DCLG would be sending her further information regarding Neighbourhood Areas and Community Right to Build.
- 219. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY** – the Chair updated the PC on the responses received so far, the closing date has been extended till the end of this week.
- 220. PROTECTION OF ASSETS FROM UNAUTHORISED USERS** – the Clerk and NJ had met with the PCSO at the playing field, the Clerk updated the meeting on PCSO Davies' recommendations, NJ will also be updating the Playing Field committee at their next meeting. *The Clerk will contact the Chair of the Playing Field Committee regarding the suggestion of a padlock made at agenda item 207.* **Clerk**
- 221. NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA** – also discussed at agenda item 218. The PC had received written confirmation that at the HDCC extraordinary meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015, the committee agreed for the PC to notify WDC of the PC's support for Hadlow Down being designated as a Neighbourhood Area and to request a meeting with WDC to discuss this.  
It was decided that at this stage no-one would attend the AirS Neighbourhood Planning training.
- 222. CRIME UPDATE** – the PC have been advised of the theft of a handbag from a car in Stonehurst Lane and a smash and grab theft from outside some stables, a blue Peugeot was in vicinity at the time of the thefts. There has also been a break in at Scull Wood and the theft of cable from there, also a residential post box at Curtains Hill has been stolen.
- 223. REVISED PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION** - no response made. Comments on the need for the right infrastructure will be made on the Local Plan: Issues, Options and Recommendations consultation.
- 224. RISK ASSESSMENTS** – DW will arrange for them to be completed and will report back at the next meeting. *The Clerk will contact the Chair of the Playing Field committee regarding the bonfire risk assessment for 2016.* **Clerk**
- 225. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:**
  - i. Wealden Roads Watch – Cllrs agreed to give the Wealden Roads Watch Team permission to undertake Speed Watch sessions within the village boundary. JMY updated the PC on the discussions at the WDALC (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) meeting regarding LED speed signs.
  - ii. Forthcoming works in Tinkers Lane – on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December between 930 – 1530 Tinkers Lane will be closed from the junction with Main Road to the junction with the U7869 Riverside in order that BT can carry out repair works.
- 226. LAND AT ENTRANCE TO PLAYING FIELD** – the Chair updated the meeting on the site visit. She proposed, and it was agreed by all, that the boundary on the south side of the transferred land be in line with the hedgeline, *the Clerk will write to the Trust to confirm.* **Clerk**
- 227. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
  - i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed
  - ii. Update from the Clerks review – The Chair and NJ had undertaken the Clerks annual review. Councillors have been sent a copy of the policy schedule. The Clerk is waiting for information regarding the new policies required for the Transparency Code. The Chair confirmed that the Clerk will be working on archiving her emails and is looking into the possibility of electronically archiving them.
  - iii. Computer back-ups – the Clerk confirmed that the emails were now being backed-up.
  - iv. Litter picking at the play area – the Clerk advised that the seasonal contract at the play area finished at the end of October and would start again in March, she requested that if people see litter there that they pick it up.
  - v. Parish Assembly – options for speakers for the Parish Assembly were discussed, the Clerk will send an invitation to the local MP.
- 228. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** - the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £849.41 includes £34.65 mileage and £2.60 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £229.41.
- ii. Mr C. Stevenson £40.00 work on laptop.
- iii. Hadlow Down Village Hall £100.00 hall hire.
- iv. Rother District Council £48.00 removal of wasps nest.

**229. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- i. Uckfield TCR Project survey – carried forward till the next meeting.

**230. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – the Clerk confirmed that she had checked the defibrillator and battery, she highlighted that there was some condensation in the cabinet.

**231. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:** to be discussed at an extraordinary meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

- i. Wealden Local Plan – Issues, Options and Recommendations.
- ii. Uckfield TCR Project survey.

**The meeting closed at 9:05pm**