



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council  
held in the committee room at Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Clare Emsden (CE), Nathan James (NJ), Ken Ogden (WDC) (KO) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.  
Apologies received from Cllr. Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC).

- 208. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – a member of the public confirmed that there are still problems with the drainage in Wilderness Lane. None of the water is going in the ditch that had been dug by ESCC outside Crowpits and that there is nowhere for the water to go. It was highlighted that there is a similar problem at the end of Riverside. *The Chair will contact the Head of Highways ESCC and the Chief Executive of ESCC.* **SR**
- 209. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Cllrs. Michael Lunn, Damon Wellman and Graham Terry, these were accepted.
- 210. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – SR and CE declared a personal interest in item 217iv.
- 211. CRIME REPORT** – PCSO Davies had confirmed that there was nothing to report in Hadlow Down for the last month.
- 212. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record, apart from at item 182 where KO had advised about the new president of the European Union and not RG as had been recorded. RG has confirmed that if all of the £2.5m s.106 hasn't been spent in Uckfield that the unspent part would be returned to the developer.  
The Clerk has received a request from a villager that abbreviations only be used if the definition of them has already been given in the minutes, she will arrange for this to be done, however where the abbreviation is used in the 'accounts for payment' section, it will appear as it is required by the payee.
- 213. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. 1<sup>st</sup> aid training – NJ confirmed that he had spoken to the Red Cross representative at the Resilience Fayre and has updated the Emergency Planning committee on their advice. It has therefore been decided that the committee won't have training, however they do have a list of residents who are willing to be first aiders.
  - ii. Fencing, sign and filter cover for pipe for Hut Lane drainage – NJ confirmed that due to the shorter days he wouldn't be able to do the fencing, it was agreed for the *Clerk to get quotes. He will try and clear out the pipe.* **NJ/Clerk**
  - iii. Gully review – c/f, although it was confirmed that the gullies had recently been cleared at Mayfield Flats. **DW**
  - iv. Wilderness Wood meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> November.
  - v. Risk assessments – the Clerk has requested that ML drop his completed forms into SR who has also now completed an assessment.
  - vi. Clearance of gullies – email has been forwarded.
  - vii. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
    - a. Articles encouraging people to cut their hedges have gone in the Parish Magazine and on the website.
    - b. The Clerk wrote to Rupert Clubb. ESCC's Director of Communities, Economy and Transport regarding the Uckfield Town Centre changes. She has received a response from him and also the Chair of the Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee. It was agreed that *GT could respond to Rupert Clubb's letter however the draft will be sent to all Councillors prior to issue for their comments.* **GT**

Comments were made on the quality of the work that has already been undertaken.

- c. The Clerk has requested that an article go in the Parish Magazine encouraging people to pick up their dog's mess. She has also spoken to the WDC street enforcement team who will visit Wilderness Lane and the Playing Field and look at putting up signs. *The Clerk will approach the Playing Field committee to see what action has been taken over the School providing posters.* Clerk

- d. Quotes for clearing ditches – c/f Clerk

**214. PLANNING:**

**a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **WD/2014/2185/F - JASONS KEEP, FIVE ASHES TN20 6JL** – Proposed first floor side extension above existing single-storey living room. Change roofs on existing rear extensions from flat to pitched. Change flat roof porch to mono pitch – the Parish Council support the application. (3/0)
- ii. **WD/2014/2155/F – THISTLEDOWN, WILDERNESS LANE, TN22 4HT** – Build conservatory to rear elevation – the Parish Council support the application. (3/0)

**b. REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

WD/2014/1815/F – HADLOW HOUSE FARM, MAIN ROAD – Demolition of existing garage/pool enclosure and erection of new pool housing with additional granny annexe accommodation.

**c. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

WD/2014/1682/F – THE OAST HOUSE, SHEPHERDS HILL – Replacement of conservatory with garden room and replacement of single-storey utility at rear of building.

**d. PLANNING MATTERS:**

SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces) applications – at the WDC Parish Conference the Chair asked how rural villages could get SANGS to offset any development, she was advised that the Parish Council (PC) need to register to be updated on developments. WDC have confirmed to the Clerk that the PC is registered for SANGS updates however they cannot guarantee that they will be consulted on all developments with SANGS.

- 215. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC** – Cllr. Ken Ogden congratulated the PC on their letter to Rupert Clubb regarding the changes to Uckfield Town Centre. He advised that of the £5m being set aside for SANGS £1m is being given to the Ashdown Foresters Conservators for SAMMS (Strategic Access Management & Monitoring Strategy) measures which include paying for voluntary dog walkers to teach people how to walk their dogs, to employ a new ranger and for management of the forest. WDC have voted for SANGs in Walshes Road, Crowborough, this will be sufficient for 1000 house units. 164 houses are being built in Walshes Road and Pine Grove may possibly be converted into 88 flats, they are reluctant to release SANGs for windfall developments.

The Chair opened the meeting to Janet Tourell (JT) (Chair of the Village Hall committee) and asked about the PC writing to WDC Director of Environment and Community Services about the windfall use of the Village Hall. KO confirmed that further SANGs at Uckfield would be agreed next month. It was agreed that SANGs and the Village Hall would be discussed at the PC meeting with the Playing Field (PF), Community Centre and Village Hall committee representatives in December.

Cllr. Roy Galley's monthly report had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting.

- 216. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for October 2014 was agreed and signed by the Chair, the Clerk will arrange for it to also be signed by another signatory.

**217. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :**

- i. Signatory for bank account – c/f till the next meeting.
- ii. 2014/15 budget – a discussion was held on whether funds should be used to clear the pavements on Main Road from the junction with Wheelers Lane to the junction with School Lane and then down School Lane to the playing field. It was also suggested that the Japanese knotweed on the path from Hut Lane to Waghorns Lane should be cleared, the Clerk advised that she had already raised this with the Rights of Way team *and will contact them to see what action they are taking.* Clerk  
Concern was expressed that the PC were taking on work previously undertaken by ESCC Highways. To be discussed further at the next meeting.
- iii. Fingerposts – a discussion was held on the quotes for the further work required on the fingerposts. It was agreed that the *Clerk would contact one of the contractors to see if the work could be done before the end of January and will write to the other contractors.* Clerk
- iv. Precept 2015/16 – the Clerk had received a further grant request from Wayfinder Woman, it was decided that this had been received too late to be included in the grants for 2015/16. Due to the number of Councillors in attendance it was decided to discuss the precept at the December meeting.

- 218. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – The Chair invited JT to update the meeting, JT apologized that the minutes from the last meeting aren't out yet. The Clerk confirmed that she hadn't yet received the appendices for the Business Plan.

- 219. SOCIAL MEDIA** – the Chair advised that a discussion had been held at the WDC Parish Conference regarding tweeting and it was proposed that the Clerk set up a twitter account for the PC for a trial period which would just be used to update people. *Clerk to contact Crowborough Town Council for advice and SR to arrange training.* **Clerk/SR**
- 220. INTERNET SPEEDS** – a discussion was held on the broadband speeds within the village, some areas are having problems with their speeds. *SR to raise with BT.* **SR**
- 221. COMMUNITY PLAN** – The Chair updated the PC on the working group's recent meeting. The walks have been planned however some trees are overhanging paths and need clearing, *SR will speak to the landowners to see if they can clear them.* One part was a licensed path. Some of the markers are missing. It was agreed that the cost for the signs, possibly for a tree surgeon and for the printing of the leaflet would be taken from the 2014/15 budget.  
The Chair invited KO to comment. KO advised that Natural England provided a team of workers to clear Maresfield's paths, *he will send the contact details to SR.* **KO**  
Mark Davis is trying to organize a group of volunteers to clear the paths. The Clerk suggested that the probationary team be approached. The group are looking at improving footpath no. 36 near Waste Wood. It was highlighted that there is also problem with footpath no. 25b between Wheelers Lane and Brick Kiln Lane.  
CE confirmed that the ESCC Rights of Way team have not been able to do any work on no.s 36 and 25 this year, they have been reinspected and will be considered for 2015/16. Residents were encouraged to write to ESCC Rights of Way team if they identify a problem with a footpath and to copy in the Clerk.
- 222. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
- i. Cllr. Nathan James confirmed that the feasibility report for the drainage of the playing field had been received. It was agreed that the *Clerk would write to the Chair of the Playing Field committee regarding the grass cutting listed in the maintenance schedule and congratulating the committee that the report has now been received.* **Clerk**  
Comments were made on how good the Bonfire Night was and it was agreed that the *Clerk would write to the bonfire committee congratulating them and thanking them for their efforts.* **Clerk**  
NJ had attended the Resilience Fayre. The Emergency Plan committee would like to produce a leaflet for residents, NJ will arrange for it to be produced in time for it to come out of the 2014/15 budget. *NJ to forward an article regarding winter emergencies to the Clerk so that it can then go in the Parish Magazine.* **Clerk/NJ**  
NJ advised that UK Power Networks have a system that logs vulnerable people so that they have a higher priority for being reconnected during a power cut, villagers are encouraged to register where they fall within this priority.
- i. Cllr. Sandra Richards and Cllr. Clare Emsden updated the meeting on the WDC Parish Conference.
- 223. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. Hours were agreed and signed.  
ii. The Chair confirmed that herself and CE had undertaken the Clerks review and updated the PC on it. The paperwork was signed at the last meeting.  
iii. Litter picking at the play area – the Clerk reminded the PC that the maintenance contract at the play area didn't cover November – February and encouraged people to pick up litter.
- 224. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed by the Chair, the Clerk will arrange for another signatory to also sign the cheques:
- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £836.65 includes £18 mileage, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £216.65.  
ii. Wealden District Council £121.20 dog bin emptying  
iii. Compact Cutting £336.00 burial ground and play area maintenance  
A further cheque for Friends of East Sussex Record Office £24.00 PC's subscription, was signed and will be ratified at the next meeting, paid under the power given in the Local Government Act 1972 s.137.
- 225. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:**
- i. Dog Kennel Lane and Criers Lane – the Clerk had received correspondence from a resident, she has reported problems highlighted to ESCC Highways who will investigate. *CE will contact the resident and arrange a site visit.* **CE**  
ii. Oil Club – correspondence received. The chair confirmed that there is already an oil club in the village.
- 226. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:** 2015/16 precept and 2014/15 budget.
- 227. ENTRANCE TO THE PLAYING FIELD** – discussed in closed session

The meeting closed at 8:55pm