



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 November 5th 2013.

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

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

168. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – a member of the public asked about agenda item 174c. The Chair agreed to discuss this item after point 170.

169. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – apologies were received from Cllr. Michael Lunn (ML).

170. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – SR and CE declared a personal interest in point 185 regarding the CAB.

174c. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:

- i. **PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2012 FOR HADLOW DOWN 33** – the Clerk updated the meeting on the correspondence she had received from the Planning Inspectorate. The Chair invited a member of the public to comment on the correspondence. She observed that the application was taking a lot of time and costing a lot of money and she expressed concern that if the gate isn't shut sheep could get out of the field. The Parish Council (PC) have already commented on the application.

171. CRIME REPORT AND OPERATION CREOSOTE – there was a theft of power cables despite there being a security guard posted at the generator. In his absence PCSO Davies had advised that no crime had been reported, the police had been contacted about suspicious people and acts, however these were checked out and weren't a problem. *The Clerk will inform PCSO Davies of the people who were interested in having their property marked.*

Clerk

PCSO Davies felt that the playing field gate didn't need further marking. The Clerk has copied the PC in on correspondence from the police regarding the provision of monthly update reports.

172. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 1st and 15th October 2013 were agreed and signed as true records.

173. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):

- i. It was felt that a letter in response to the proposal to relocate police stations was no longer required. SALC will be raising this matter with the Chief Commissioner.
- ii. Emergency Plan – *to contact resident –c/f* **NJ**
- iii. It was confirmed that the Bonfire Night had been a success and that over £1000 was raised. *Clerk to write to the committee.* **Clerk**
- iv. Green Lane 24 – *to contact the Rights of Way team – c/f* **CE**
- v. Deer management meeting – NJ confirmed that he had advised CE of the contact details, talk to be given at the Parish Assembly.
- vi. Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
 - a. Jozef Zelinko has agreed to do the talk at the Parish Assembly and has confirmed that he is able to help people who are having problems with deer.
 - b. The Clerk has been sent a third quote for the grass cutting at the playing field.

174a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/2146/LB and 2145/F WAGHORNS, WAGHORNS LANE TN22 4EB** – Single-storey kitchen extension/utility and cloakroom – The Parish Council support the application. (3/2)
- ii. **WD/2013/2151/FA – HASTINGFORD FISHERY, HASTINGFORD LANE TN22 4DY** – Variation of

condition 6 of WD/04/2927/F – The Parish Council are unable to comment as they have insufficient knowledge of this matter. (5/0)

- iii. **WD/2013/2191/F – SOUTH VIEW, WILDERNESS LANE, TN22 4HX** – Remodelling and extension of dwelling (amendment to previously approved scheme WD/2013/1198/F) – The Parish Council support the application (5/0).

b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/1582/F - DUDDESLAND FARM, HEATHFIELD ROAD, CROSS IN HAND TN21 0UJ** – Change of use of land to equestrian to comprise formation of 60 x 25 metre outdoor horse exercise area in surrounding post and rail fence for private use.

175. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY ESCC and CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC – KO advised that he had spoken to the Head of Finance at WDC about the proposal that a referendum be held if Parish Councils ask for a precept increase greater than 2%. It has not yet been confirmed whether this will be a requirement, KO will check with him each week for any developments on this. If the referendum was lost the PC would have to pay the costs for it. He has been speaking with the police about the lack of action over parking. He has received a complaint from a local resident about their green bin not being emptied. Councillors had been copied in on RG's monthly report which encouraged people to contact WDC with any waste problems. The Wealden Dog Control order will be introduced on 1st January 2014 which will require people to pick up their dog's faeces in public places and dispose of it. The East Sussex Broadband project is about to be rolled out.

176. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for October 2013 agreed and signed.

177. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

- i. The payment of £5.10 to Sussex Associations of Local Councils for the Good Councillor Guides, that was signed at the 1st October meeting, was ratified at this meeting.
- ii. GT confirmed *that he would be getting a quote for a new plaque for the oak tree at the burial ground* GT
- iii. The decision made at the 15th October meeting regarding the installation of the earth rod at the Village Hall was ratified at this meeting..
- iv. The Clerk had received a letter from a resident requesting a salt bin/bag for outside the school, this has previously been discussed by the Parish Council, they felt that it was the schools responsibility. *Clerk to respond to the resident.* **Clerk**
- v. The Clerk had contacted the Chair of the Village Hall committee to ascertain how much the PC would be charged for the rent of the Village Hall in 2014/15. The Chair of the committee has asked for the PC's comments on their current contribution, especially as they are now having less meetings. The PC compared their present payment to the charges being made to current users. *The Clerk will respond to the Chair of the Committee advising that the PC feel that they should continue to pay their current contribution, however other users should be paying in line with this figure.* **Clerk**

178. DEFIBRILLATORS – the Clerk updated the PC on her research into defibrillators. There are currently defibrillators at Buxted medical centre, Heathfield Fire and Ambulance Stations, Five Ashes pub and in the telephone box at Waldron. Heathfield and Waldron First Responders include one person who lives in Hadlow Down and there are also First Responders in Uckfield. There are grants from the British Heart Foundation for which the PC would need to contribute a minimum of £400, however the defibrillator couldn't be stored at the school. There are also grants from Big Lottery Awards. An alarmed (and possibly heated) cabinet would also need to be purchased. A discussion was held and it was decided that as the community were so spread out and there were concerns about misuse of the equipment and there were First Responders nearby, that the PC wouldn't purchase a defibrillator.

179. SLR MEETING – a copy of the minutes from the meeting had been sent to Councillors. All action points should have been reviewed and actioned within 1 month from the date of the meeting. *The Clerk will contact the Highways steward regarding any outstanding items. She will also get timescales for the items that Highways didn't action, that were previously undertaken by the Village Maintenance Team.*

Clerk

The Clerk will raise about the Village Maintenance Team tasks at the Wealden Clerks meeting with the Head of Highways. She will also diarise to raise PEMs (Highways reporting system) for these tasks in the future and will also raise one for the gullies to be cleared and will send a copy to the Highways steward and RG.

Clerk

The Chair requested finish dates for all work.

180. PARKING – the Clerk asked whether the PC would be interested in monitoring parking in the village and in displaying notices asking for people not to park in certain areas. All Councillors agreed that the PC shouldn't be involved in this. KO advised that he felt that it was wrong for WDC to discuss this item without consulting PCs. WDC can pass the power to PCs.

- 181. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – it was confirmed that the playing field grant application wasn't successful. They will however be applying again. It was questioned how much the drainage at the playing field affected the building of the new Community Centre (CC). It was confirmed that the building could be done in 2 stages, the second stage being undertaken when the drainage problems have been resolved. KO updated the PC on developments regarding the Ashdown Forest 7km zone. He also advised that self-builders do not have to pay the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 182. RISK ASSESSMENTS** – SR reported on the quarterly risk assessments. *NJ to raise the possible risk of splinters on the wobbly log with the Playing Field Committee.* **NJ**
Clerk to add the bus shelter to the record sheet. **Clerk**
- 183. POWER CUTS IN HADLOW DOWN** – it was confirmed at the Wealden Parish Planning Panel meeting that there isn't enough capacity on the power network and this is being further affected by new developments, south Wealden is also suffering from lack of sewerage capacity. It is therefore expected that there could be more power cuts in the future. *SR and DW to keep a record of the power cuts.* **SR/DW**
- 184. EMERGENCY PLAN** – it was confirmed that a number of the older residents were contacted after the recent strong winds to check that they were ok and known tree surgeons in the village were also contacted. A new list of committee members needs to be produced and possibly a new survey issued. A discussion was held on what situations the Emergency Plan should be used for. *NJ, GT and SR to meet to discuss and present recommendations to the next PC meeting.* **NJ/SR/GT**
- 185. PRECEPT** – the Chair thanked the Clerk for her work on the precept. A discussion was held on the proposed precept and some amendments were agreed. The PC decided that they would need to see the Community Centre Committee's business plan before the December meeting, in order to be able to consider their request for funding, *the Clerk will write to the Chair of the Committee to advise.* **Clerk**
The Clerk will update the precept spreadsheet for the December meeting. **Clerk**
- 186. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
- i. The Clerk updated the meeting on the Rights of Way report for 1st April – 30th September 2013. She also advised that a resident had contacted her about the verge outside their house which is being damaged by road users, the Clerk has written to Highways regarding this. The Highways steward is due to check the road surface in Hastingford Lane and residents are encouraged to report any issues they have with it using the ESCC website.
 - ii. Cllr. Nathan James confirmed that the bonfire night had been a success. There is a works party at the Playing Field at the weekend and they are interested in any fundraising ideas.
 - iii. Cllr. Damon Wellman updated the PC on the Wealden Parish Planning Panel meeting and confirmed that he was willing to attend each of their meetings. *He will circulate the minutes of the meeting to Councillors once he has received them.* **DW**
 DW also updated the PC on the East Sussex County Council Parish and Town Council Conference that he had attended.
 - iv. Cllr. Graham Terry confirmed that the next newsletter would be produced for February.
- 187. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed.
 - ii. The Clerk confirmed that Hadlow Down is one of the first exchange areas to be upgraded for faster broadband, cabinet surveying will begin from November and it typically takes between 6-9 months from the start of work on an exchange till upgraded services are available.
 - iii. Correspondence received – nothing further received.
- 188. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** - the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:
- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £732.31 includes £18.00 mileage and £3.40 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £133.71.
 - ii. Compact Cutting £528.00, of which £408.00 maintenance of the burial ground and £120.00 maintenance of the playing field.
 - iii. Viking £124.74 stationery
 - iv. J.L. Roberts £126.05 internal audit
 - v. Simon Paddon £60.00 take down beech tree, paid under the power given in the Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10.
 - vi. G.M. Monk Ltd £1470.04 supply and connection of cable and installation of earth rod, paid under the power given in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1976 s.19.
- One further cheque for £71.28 to Wealden District Council for dog bin emptying was also signed and will be ratified at the next meeting.
- 189. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:**
- i. London Airspace Consultation – no response made.

ii. Strengthening Communities – no response made.

190. TRAINING:

i. Sussex PLACEnet - Neighbourhood Planning and Effective Community Engagement – no-one to attend.

191. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

i. Community Plan update

ii. Emergency Plan

NJ confirmed that the meeting sign is in the process of being produced.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm