



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 October 1st 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), Michael Lunn (ML), Ken Ogden (KO)(WDC) and Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC).

- 136. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Janet Tourell (JT), chair of the Village Hall committee, advised that they were awarded a grant from the Lottery Fund for new chairs, they are hoping to get another grant from WDC for the toilets. WDC have asked for a letter from the PC confirming the financial support the Parish Council (PC) have given to the hall in the last year. JT to send details to the *Clerk in order that she can draw up a letter.*

Clerk

It was confirmed that the TN22 Club are doing a similar application to WDC.

- 137. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from GT. KO apologized on behalf of Cllr. Norman Buck (WDC) who is seriously ill.

- 138. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none received.

- 139. CRIME REPORT AND OPERATION CREOSOTE** – the Clerk advised that PCSO Davies had apologized for the lack of attendance at the Operation Creosote event., another PCSO was due to attend on his behalf. *Clerk to contact PCSO Davies to see if he would be able to visit the villagers she is aware of who attended and if he can also mark the playing field gates.*

Clerk

ML gave his apologies for the September PC meeting.

PCSO Davies has highlighted that with the colder weather heating oil theft may increase and that the whole of Uckfield rural has been quiet and there has been no trends in any crime. It was highlighted that a person staying in his vehicle on the playing field was reported to the police however this hadn't been reported by them to the PC. Concern was expressed that the PC aren't receiving regular up to date reports. *Clerk to write to PC Pearce.*

Clerk

- 140. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 3rd September 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

- 141. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**

- i. Hedge overhanging bin – actioned.
- ii. CE advised that Highways wouldn't do speed measurements in School Lane to see how effective the roundels have been, until they have been in place for a year. If a speed survey is undertaken the PC would need to pay for it. To be discussed at the precept meeting. *CE to also raise at the SLR meeting to see if they will fund the survey.*
- iii. Letter in response to proposal to relocate police stations – c/f.
- iv. NJ advised that he has spoken to the person who organized the deer management meeting who has asked that the PC send a representative to their next meeting. It was agreed for CE and NJ to attend. It was highlighted that a deer had been killed near Hadlow House on 30th September and that another one was killed near The Toll a few weeks ago. *Clerk to log details and ensure deer been removed from near Hadlow House.*
- v. Emergency Plan – *SR to send email contact details for resident to NJ.*
- vi. Date for Clerks review has been booked.

CE

GT

Clerk

NJ/SR

vii. Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:

- a. The Clerk has written to Diocesan House regarding ownership of the driveway at the church.
- b. The Clerk has written to Highways regarding the overgrown hedges on Waghorns Lane and School Lane as the owner has not responded to her letter or arranged for the hedges to be cut.

142. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/1878/F – THE OAST HOUSE, DUDES LAND FARM, HEATHFIELD ROAD, TN21 0UJ** – Single storey extension to an existing detached double garage and studio to form guest accommodation ancillary to the main building.- The Parish Council support the application. They feel that the extension won't have a detrimental effect on the surrounding amenities. (3/2)

143. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC. RG advised that Highways have recently undertaken some work in Hadlow Down. There was a fire services strike last week for 4 hours. RG was updated on the problems in getting Highways to resurface Hastingford Lane, it was agreed for November 2013 and is now just on a 'wish list', this will be discussed at the SLR meeting . KO thanked the chair for her comments to him on the WDC conference. WDC have had a meeting with Kiers regarding the problems with waste collection, KO updated on the reasons why Kiers think there have been problems. KO apologized on behalf of WDC. It was highlighted by one Councillor that collections are being made later each week. KO advised that a large number of people applied for brown bins after the cut-off date and it will take six months to get further supplies. A further 115 houses have recently been approved for Heathfield

144. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for September 2013 agreed and signed.

145. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

- i. The payment of £15.00 to St Mark's School House Trust for the lease at the play area, that was signed at the September meeting, was ratified at this meeting.
- ii. New plaque for oak tree at the burial ground - c/f in GT's absence.
- iii. The Clerk confirmed that the external audit had been successfully completed and that the notice was now being displayed. The Clerk was congratulated and thanked for her work on this.

146. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – the last meeting was postponed. The planning application for permitted development rights at the Village Hall and the Pavilion has been sent to WDC for consultation with the Planning department Team Leader. The application for the new Community Centre will be sent to WDC after this consultation. The Chair reiterated that the Parish Council would need to see the Community Centre application prior to it being sent to WDC and asked JT that she ensure that this happens. The Chair asked KO when he would be meeting with the Chair of the Community Centre committee, KO advised that this would happen after the Chair of the committee's meeting with WDC. The Clerk updated the meeting on her discussions with the legal adviser regarding the lease for the Village Hall. *She will send details to JT.* She has received an invoice from the legal adviser for work since February which will be presented for payment at the next meeting. **Clerk**

147. NEWSLETTER – it was agreed that the following topics would appear in the next newsletter: Community Plan; precept; tree warden; dog control order and heating oil thefts. GT and SR to write articles. The Clerk will advise David Walker that an article will be written on the tree warden. **Clerk**

148. DOG FAECES IN SCHOOL LANE – correspondence had been received regarding dog faeces in School Lane. It was decided to put an article in the newsletter.

149. PARISH ASSEMBLY – a discussion was held on possible speakers. It was decided that the Clerk would write to Jozef Zelinko to see if he could undertake a talk at the Parish Assembly. **Clerk**

150. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME – the amendments to the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme were agreed.

151. RISK ASSESSMENTS – the Chair agreed to undertake the quarterly risk assessments. **SR**

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

Cllr. Damon Wellman advised that he had attended a new driver event for young people at Heathfield Fire Station. He gave information on Operation Crackdown where the public can report incidents of anti-social driving.

Cllr. Nathan James advised of the bonfire night on 1st Nov at the playing field. There will be a working party on 9th November and on 26th October at 10am there will be a meeting for anyone willing to marshal at the bonfire night. NJ confirmed that the public liability insurance has been arranged. *ML to send NJ a copy of the previous risk assessment for the Winterfest, NJ to arrange for the risk assessment for the bonfire night to be sent to the Clerk. It was questioned where the fallout from the fireworks was due to be NJ to investigate.* **ML/NJ/Clerk**

Cllr. Clare Emsden advised that Green Lane 24 that runs from Main Road to Dog Kennel Lane was closed

in May 2013 for 6 months due to damage caused by water washing out stone and exposing terrain. If repairs are not carried out soon the surface will deteriorate rapidly. It was expected that the work would be done this year however there is now uncertainty about whether ESCC will have enough funding to do it this year. It should be a definite for 2014/15 subject to capital funding levels being maintained at around their current level. The PC questioned whether the Green Lane should have been closed. *CE to liaise with the Clerk and contact the Rights of Way team.* **CE**

Cllr. Sandra Richards advised that she had attended the WDC conference and updated the PC on the Community 21 website which would be helpful for mapping paths for the circular walk as part of the Community Plan. NJ, CE, ML and SR agreed to be part of a working group and draw up a project plan, SR to organize a meeting and consider which other people in the village would be interested in being part of the group.

153. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. Hours agreed and signed
- ii. The Clerk advised that they had a new temporary Highways Steward. A number of residents have complained that the 30mph sign hasn't been replaced on entering the village near Wilderness Wood, Highways have decided that the 30mph sign isn't required. To be raised at the SLR meeting. Highways are reviewing the rural fingerposts and will rank them in order of priority for maintenance. The PC will need to make a minimum contribution of 50% of the fee for any work they require on fingerposts that aren't considered high priority for Highways. Highways have written to some hedge owners requesting that they cut back their hedges and they will undertake 150m of siding at the back and front from Wheelers Lane to Greenacres to widen the footpath. Highways have sent the Clerk an update on the tasks they have undertaken recently, she will compare this to the list of items requested by the PC. It was highlighted that a large amount of ditching had been undertaken in Nursery Lane.
- iii. The Clerk advised that the School Lane meeting had been cancelled as the School are hoping to have parking provision for school staff by the end of 2014. This will help to resolve the current problems with parking.
A Councillor highlighted the occasional problem when people park in School Lane on the brow of the hill after St Mark's Field, in that it can be difficult for overtaking drivers to see oncoming vehicles.

154. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £747.99 includes £9.00 mileage and £1.50 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £127.99.
- ii. Patrick Coffey Planning £150.00 training
- iii. HM Revenue and Customs £158.38 tax and NI.
- iv. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £80 play area maintenance
- v. PKF Littlejohn LLP £240.00 external audit.
- vi. Compact Cutting £528.00 of which £240.00 playing field maintenance and £288.00 play area maintenance.

One further cheque for £5.10 to Sussex Associations of Local Councils for the Good Councillor Guides was also signed and will be ratified at the next meeting.

155. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:

- i. Talk by Nick Boles MP – no-one to attend.
- ii. AirS and SALC AGMs and SALC annual report – no-one to attend

156. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. Rail Strategy Consultation – SR and ML to respond.

158. CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING PLANNING APPLICATION WD/2013/1341/LDE – correspondence had been received from the applicant, it was agreed that this did not need to be discussed in closed session.

The response was agreed, *Clerk to send.*

Clerk

The remaining member of the public left the meeting.

157. ENTRANCE TO PLAYING FIELD AND PUBLIC SHELTER– discussed in closed session.

159. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA – nothing raised.

The meeting closed at 9pm