



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday October 2nd 2012.

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

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Graham Terry (GT), Nathan James (NJ), Michael Lunn (ML), Clare Emsden (CE) and Damon Wellman (DW). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells (HSW). Apologies were received from Councillor Ken Ogden (KO) (WDC).

- 173. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Joanne Yarrow asked that standing orders be suspended at point 183 in order that she could respond regarding Wilderness Wood, this was agreed.
- 174. REPORT FROM PCSO MARK CARTER:** in Mark's absence he reported that he was transferring to Hailsham on 22nd October and that the new PCSO would start their tutoring on that date. In the last month a workshop was broken into in Wheelers Lane, nothing was stolen and the police have undertaken regular patrols since then. Also a suspect black car was seen in a driveway in Riverside. The Parish Council (PC) asked that *the Clerk thank Mark for all his work*. It was highlighted that there had been a serious accident at the top of Tinkers Lane which hadn't appeared in Mark's report, *Clerk to highlight to him.* **Clerk**
- 175. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE:** none received.
- 176. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :** ML declared a personal interest in point 184.
- 177. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 4th September 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record
- 178. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. DW confirmed that he had varnished the noticeboards. *Clerk to obtain a new spare key* **Clerk**
 - ii. Bus Shelter – DW confirmed that he was trying to contact Nigel Harrison to help with the lawful development forms. Wilderness Wood have confirmed that they are preparing the wood and will contact when the shelter is ready for installation. *SR to advise DW of Nigel H's contact details. [After the meeting ML took the forms to complete]* **ML**
 - iii. Emergency planning – GT confirmed that he had met with NJ, they had gone through the paperwork which needed updating. *ML to obtain contact details for previous Emergency Plan Parish Council representative to see if she has up to date information. Meeting planned to be held in December. NJ to confirm if he can attend East Sussex Resilience Plan session.* **NJ/ML**
 - iv. KO had forwarded a link to the paper regarding the Habitat Law and reasons for refusing a planning application. It was confirmed that the Inspector is currently looking at the ruling and that mitigating measures are being considered. The Clerk confirmed that a planning inspector has recently approved holiday cottages in Five Ashes.
 - v. Bus timetable – c/f **SR**
 - vi. Car sharing – c/f **NJ**
 - vii. Youth shelter – NJ has looked at designs at Wilderness Wood and *will be obtaining quotes for the precept meeting.* **NJ**
 - viii. GT confirmed that the ditch area to the south of the rope swing will be worked on, along with the other ditches, by the Playing Field Committee.
 - ix. Clerks Report: was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points and included:
 - a. The Clerk has requested 3 quotes for the Hut Lane drainage work, none have so far been received. Letters have been sent to Martin Osbourn and Planning Enforcement regarding the drainage from Standen Mews.

- b. The Highways Steward has requested that a new gully be installed on Main Road opposite Tinkers Lane to help with surface water drainage, he is awaiting confirmation that the work is agreed.

179. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2012/1845/LB and 1844/F – WOODREED FARMHOUSE, STONEHURST LANE TN20 6LJ** – 2 storey extension to rear, addition of glazed lean-to and redesign of flat roof link arrangement. Addition of new outdoor swimming pool and conversion of part of garage block into a pool room.

Standing orders were suspended

The applicant confirmed that the new building and lean to couldn't be seen from the lane.

Standing orders were reinstated.

The Parish Council fully support the applications. (6/0).

REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2011/2463/O – LAND ADJOINING HUT LANE** – Outline submission for 8 affordable housing dwellings.

PLANNING MATTERS:

- i. Planning enforcement – the Clerk advised that she had been contacted about a new wooden building at Cherry Tree Cottage. She has discussed this with Planning Enforcement who will ascertain if planning permission was required. *Clerk to send SR details of the area covered by the AONB.* **Clerk**
- ii. **WD/2012/1381/F and 1382/LB** – The Oasts, Broadreed Farm, Criers Lane – Single storey rear addition to utility and 2 conservation rooflights – application withdrawn

180. REPORTS FROM CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC – in KOs absence he had reported that holiday cottages had been approved by a planning inspector despite the Ashdown Forest habitat ruling and the AONB. Council tax benefit changes are currently being discussed at WDC.

181. BANK RECONCILIATION: –for September 2012 agreed and signed.

182. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

- i. £53.80 received from Arlington PC for broadband and telephone usage
- ii. The PC agreed for a report to be obtained from Monks on the electrical work for the Village Hall (6/0). It was expressed that villagers may be concerned that money is being spent on the Village Hall, a report has been undertaken on what further money needs to be spent. It was agreed *that the Clerk will write to the Village Hall Chair to request that they put an article in the Parish Magazine explaining why money is being spent.* It was also agreed that the next PC newsletter would contain an article about the precept which would touch on payments for VH work. **Clerk**
- Thanks were expressed to those villagers who had helped to install the new kitchen at the Village Hall.
- iii. The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return had been successfully signed off by the external auditor and was currently being displayed on the noticeboards.
- iv. The PC agreed with the quote from Southern Testing for the geo-tech survey for the Playing Field (6/0).
- v. It was agreed to wait for a further quote for reducing the hedge height at the burial ground, before a decision is made on the contractor (6/0).
- vi. The Clerk confirmed that the half yearly precept payment had been received.
- vii. The Clerk advised the PC of the increased proposed charges for Payroll Services, these were agreed by the PC (6/0)

183. EVENTS AND VENUES IN THE VILLAGE – a Parish Councillor expressed concern that there were 3 major venues in the village – Wilderness Wood, Tinkers Park and the New Inn and there could be too many events held for a village. A discussion was held on support needed for the local businesses. The Chair highlighted that if villagers wished to make any comments or complaints the PC should know who has complained, although this information would be made anonymous for the minutes. This would ensure that any complaint was genuine. It was felt that the PC should only get involved if a business was not complying with its licence and the PC should ensure that the facts that have been given are correct.

Standing orders were suspended.

Joanne Yarrow, owner of Wilderness Wood, confirmed that communication between the Wood and the village was essential as they did not want to upset their neighbours. She confirmed that the pergola is a temporary structure made of wood and recycled canvas and that they wanted to have it up till about Christmas and then put it up again next year for weddings. The Clerk confirmed that at present it was only allowed to be up for 28 days in a calendar year and suggested that Joanne contact Planning Department and keep the Clerk updated on developments.

Standing orders were reinstated

184. ACCESS ONTO THE PLAYING FIELD – the Clerk advised that at the recent Legal and Finance Day she attended, it was highlighted that the PC should be writing to residents who have installed gated access to the Playing Field which they aren't entitled to do. She updated the PC on the action taken by two other

local councils. A discussion was held on what action the PC should take and it was agreed that *the Clerk would obtain further information on the PC's legal position.* **Clerk**

185. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – no update as meeting has been postponed.

186. HUT LANE DRAINAGE – the PC were updated on discussions regarding the Standen Mews development and the drainage from there. Planning and Building Control will visit the site and send the Clerk NHBC's contact details. *The Clerk will contact Planning for a copy of their plans.* **Clerk**
ML agreed to get involved in discussions with WDC. **ML**

187. RISK ASSESSMENTS – NJ reported on the outcome of the quarterly risk assessments. Pins and nails had been left from notices on the post of the Village Sign, villagers are encouraged to remove these when they take down their notices. Sandstone wall at burial ground to be monitored. Exposed roots at the play area – it was not felt necessary to take any action on these as they hadn't been highlighted in Rospa's report. Also no action was felt necessary on the drain. It was highlighted that paint was coming off the handle of the slide, GT to refer to the Playing Field committee. Steps near the tunnel need infilling as earth has been washed out, GT to raise with Playing Field committee.

188. BIKE PARK AT PLAY AREA – it was highlighted that the bike park was now considered dangerous and should be leveled or rebuilt by a professional company. It was agreed *for the Clerk to obtain quotes to flatten the area but to keep the last semi-circular section.* **Clerk**

189. PARISH ASSEMBLY – the Clerk asked for suggestions for a speaker for the Parish Assembly, *Councillors to consider and come with suggestions for the next meeting.* **ALL**
The Clerk will also see if Graeme Lake would be able to attend from Highways to answer residents questions and to provide a stand. **Clerk**

190. SLR MEETING – SR updated the PC on the recent SLR meeting. Gullies are only cleared every 5 years, *she will chase Highways as they should have been cleared recently.* **SR**

The School Lane double yellow lines public consultation is due to commence soon. Highways have advised that they could remove the bollards east of Wheelers Lane however these were installed to prevent cars parking there, *the Clerk will ask the Village Maintenance Team to cut back the hedge in order that people with pushchairs don't need to walk in the road.* It was agreed to keep the bollards. **Clerk**
Councillors highlighted a number of potholes, *the Clerk will raise with the Highways Steward.* **Clerk**
The Clerk confirmed that Hastingford Lane and School Lane are due to be re-inspected by Highways Department to see if they need to be moved up the priority list for resurfacing.

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

Cllr. Graham Terry – Village Hall – GT advised that he will be meeting with the Highways Steward regarding the drainage problems in Stocklands Lane. He expressed thanks for those villagers who helped with the installation of the new kitchen at the Village Hall (VH). Concern was expressed by a Councillor that some hirers are uncomfortable using the new kitchen and if it is locked there isn't access to the first aid kit. *GT to raise concerns with VH committee.* **GT**

Cllr. Clare Emsden – Highways, Footpaths and Rights of Way – CE confirmed that she had walked bridlepaths 25a, 25b and 36 and highlighted the problems with these, *she will provide a full report to the Clerk.* **CE**

The Clerk updated the PC on ESCC's funding for footpath, bridleway and byway surfacing and will *write to the Rights of Way Team manager with details of the problems and the complaints that have been received regarding these bridlepaths.* **Clerk**

Cllr. Michael Lunn – ML confirmed that he had met with Mike Ford to discuss renewal of the lease for the entrance to the playing field. Mike Ford is now discussing with the trustees.

Cllr. Nathan James – NJ asked whether it would be acceptable for him to ask students questions about youth requirements in the village as they got off the bus, it was suggested that he undertook this with another person.

Cllr. Graham Terry – Village Hall – GT advised that there had been issues with people parking around the VH and that the committee didn't want any bad feelings from this. The VH committee had received a letter asking if a business could have a mobile shop in the VH car park. It was felt that the VH committee should decide whether or not to agree to this and what the charge would be.

DW left the meeting at 8:59pm

192. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. The Clerk's hours were agreed and signed
- ii. The Clerk advised that the Land Registry had contacted the Solicitor with further questions on the application to register the VH land, he is hopeful these will be resolved.

DW rejoined the meeting at 9:01pm

- iii. The Clerk had met with the police Casualty Reduction Officer to see if the village was suitable for litter

bin speed signage, he has confirmed that it does not fulfill the requirements and we therefore cannot use the signs.

- iv. The Clerk updated the meeting on the recent ESCC Parish Conference.
- v. The Clerk confirmed that the Village Maintenance Team have offered to paint the remaining fingerposts in December or in the Spring, it was agreed that the *Clerk would contact them and request that they are done in December*. As the team have some available time in December she has written requesting a number of maintenance jobs be undertaken in the village. **Clerk**
The Clerk will contact the Fingerpost contractor regarding the current work he is undertaking. **Clerk**
- vi. The Clerk confirmed that there will be a consultation on the revised proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies

193. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: The following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £765.76 includes £26.10 for mileage, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £145.76.
- ii. Hadlow Down Village Hall £100 – hall rental
- iii. Simply Landscapes £200 – burial ground maintenance
- iv. HM Revenue and Customs £223.32
- v. Mazars £340.81 – external audit
- vi. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £50.00 – play area maintenance

194. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

- i. It was agreed for CE and if he is available, for NJ to attend the SALC Councillor Briefing .
- ii. SALC AGM – no-one to attend
- iii. Wealden Community Plan workshops – ML to attend

195. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. CE reported on the proposed diversion of public footpath no. 33 at Coles Hall, Five Ashes - The Parish Council have no objection to the diversion, providing that the path is in a suitable condition to be walked on, they expressed concerns over deep ruts in the path, a high stile and an electric fence across the diversion area.

196. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

- i. Deer ruts

SR and ML updated the PC on the Clerks recent review.

The meeting closed at 9:18pm

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be
a PRECEPT meeting on 16th OCTOBER at 7pm.**