



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday November 2nd 2010 at 7.00 pm

Note - this is a draft copy to be agreed and amended, if necessary, at the next Council Meeting

Present: Councillors Paul James (Chairman), David Walker, Graham Terry, Michael Lunn, Lucy McConachie, Tony Reid (ESCC) and Ken Ogden (WDC). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

242. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – No questions received.

243. PCSO MARK CARTER – Report received from Mark in his absence, of the incidents for October: A sheep was found on the A267, owner not known; false alarm went off at a property; mobile phone stolen from a bag that was left at Wilderness Wood. ML updated the PC on Farmwatch

244. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – received from Cllr Lisa Scott.

245. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – declaration of personal interest received from ML, GT and PJ on point 253. ML also declared a prejudicial interest on point 261.

246. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on 5th October and the precept meeting held on 19th October were agreed and signed as true records (previously circulated).

247. MATTERS ARISING (from prev. mtgs):

i. Land Registry pack – c/f.

PJ

ii. Correspondence received from the Director of Transport and Environment at ESCC in response to the Parish Council's (PC) complaint about the work in Stonehurst Lane. Clerk to copy for TR. TR advised that he raised the issues with Highways department. GT to check the state of the road now. Clerk/GT

iii. Youth Group article appeared in the November issue of the Parish Magazine

iv. Emergency Planning Committee article – the Clerk confirmed that LS has requested that the committee be on the agenda for the next meeting.

v. GT will chase for quotes for the work at the entrance to the playing field. GT

vi. GT wrote a pro-forma letter that was put on the village website objecting to the decision not to build a new surgery at Buxted. The Primary Care Trust have now decided to build the surgery. Correspondence was received from Charles Hendry MP and from Buxted PC in response to the PC's communication with them

vii. Clerks Report: sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on the work she has undertaken over the last month. It was raised that one of the invitation to tender letters for the work on the oak tree in the playing field had not been received. Clerk to resend, no response has been received to the other invitation letters. Clerk

The Clerk has started the work on planning the design for a new website, will liaise with PJ Clerk/PJ

Application for English Heritage to list the telephone box has been rejected however as the information they were quoting is incorrect, the Clerk has lodged an appeal.

248. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

WD/2010/2355/F – PASSALLS FARM, WILDERNESS LANE, TN22 4HB - Proposed first floor side extension, covered porch and half hip roof to replace existing gable end – The Parish Council support this application.

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:

WD/2010/1898/FE – THE OLD STORE, MAIN ROAD TN22 4HJ – Extension of time of WD/2008/1394/RM – reserved matters – two link attached houses.

WD/2010/1708/F – LITTLE ENGLAND FARM, MAIN ROAD, TN22 4EP – Conversion of part of existing agricultural barn to accommodate plant required for the renewable energy generation for the whole site.

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION:

WD/2010/1745/F – 4 STANDEN MEWS, TN22 4HG – Proposed single storey side extension.

KO confirmed that WDC agreed to the application at Five Chimney's Farm subject to conditions.

It was raised that a yellow planning application form was displayed for the land north of the village hall, this has since been removed and there are no details of an application on WDC's planning website

249. REPORTS FROM CLLRS. TONY REID, ESCC AND KEN OGDEN, WDC – TR updated the PC on the government's reductions in county council funding, the English average is 22% over 4 years, however ESCC won't know their actual reduction until the beginning of December. If ESCC have a 0% Council Tax rise for residents they will be given an extra 2.5% from government. Capital will be reduced by about 45%. ESCC have over the last year, been planning to make savings of a similar amount to what is required.

The issue of the quality of the ditching work being carried out for Highways Department was raised with TR. KO confirmed that the WDC office in Crowborough is still due to be moved to Hailsham. WDC Consultation on 11,000 houses for the area has now been reduced to 8,000. This is expected to be challenged by developers. It has been proposed that the development boundary for certain areas, including Hadlow Down, be removed, this would mean no new houses for 20 years (affordable houses do not come into this). The PC disagreed with the proposals which KO has also objected to.

Concern was raised with TR regarding ESCC's Preparing for Winter programme. TR advised that farmers should contact ESCC if they have any concerns about clearing snow and ice. He will also find out when guidance is due to be issued to schools.

250. BANK RECONCILIATION: – dated 26th October 2010 agreed and signed.

251. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

i. DW and the Clerk updated the PC on the costs required to replace the laptop. The present laptop is old and far too slow. The PC agreed that the *Clerk could purchase a laptop, with office and transfer of data* up to a value of £750. **Clerk**

ii. VAT rebate of £2323.32 has been credited to the bank account.

252. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - The following were agreed by all and cheques raised:

i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £1418.15 includes £12.80 for mileage, £583.00 tax refund and £108.41 training hours, £520 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £898.15. The payroll officer has sent a letter to the PC regarding the tax rebate which will not cost the PC any extra, letter initialled by chair.

ii. Action in rural Sussex subscription - £50.

iii. SLCC Enterprises Ltd - £64.62 for Clerks conference.

iv. Barcombe Landscapes Ltd - £170.38 for maintenance of burial ground

253. NEW COMMUNITY HALL – Janet Tourell confirmed that the first meeting of the new committee will be next week.

She will provide the PC with a list of the committee members once the meeting has been held. It is proposed that at the meeting the constitution is agreed, that members are elected and that the committee applies for quasi charitable status. A discussion was held on the PC's membership of the committee and it was agreed that the committee would write to the PC to formally request they appoint members from the PC.

254. PLAY AREA – no update necessary

255. RISK ASSESSMENT – PJ provided the completed quarterly risk assessments, the only item highlighted was further clearing up of the bonfire site following the Winterfest. *GT will ensure that the committee inform the Clerk when this has been done.* **GT**

LM advised that she and LS will be undertaking an inspection of the play area on a fortnightly basis.

256. QUALITY COUNCIL – proposals for allocation of work given out to Councillors, to be discussed at the next meeting.

257. OAK TREE AT THE PLAYING FIELD – no response received to the 4 tender letters that were sent out, *Clerk to resend* **Clerk**

258. PRECEPT – the chair proposed and it was agreed by all to ratify the precept for 2011-12 at £26527. *Clerk to write an article for the Parish Magazine explaining the increase.* **Clerk**

259. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – GT recommended that the PC approve the new financial regulations, agreed by all.

260. UNCONSECRATED PART OF BURIAL GROUND – the Clerk updated the PC on the information she had received regarding setting up allotments. They would need to be temporary allotments with a short let and would need to be returned for burial use when required. *Clerk to check deeds and investigate temporary allotment agreements.* **Clerk**

ML left the meeting at 8:45

261. COUNCILLOR NORMAN BUCK'S (WDC) ABSENCE FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – Concern was raised that NB, as an elected WDC Councillor, had not attended a meeting of the PC since April 2007, although it was highlighted that ill health had affected his attendance at one stage. KO has supported the PC well. A discussion was held, KO advised that NB has informed him that he will attend a meeting once he receives an apology from the PC regarding a letter they sent him. *KO will confirm with NB that the letter referred to relates to one sent 2 year ago regarding double yellow lines in Buxted.* To be discussed further at the next meeting. **KO**

ML rejoined the meeting at 8:55

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

New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee – Cllr. Graham Terry – GT confirmed that the Winterfest was successful

Tree Warden, Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths – Cllr. David Walker – confirmed that ditch work is presently being undertaken in the area. *Clerk will contact Highways regarding the water valve covers at the top of School Lane.* **Clerk**

Neighbourhood Watch and Wealdlink – Cllr. Lucy McConachie – advised that there will be changes to the bus service however it is not yet known what these will be. Peter Gornall has agreed to attend meetings for the Community Car Scheme. *LM to put an article in the Parish Magazine asking for volunteers.* **LM**

TR advised that the rural bus subsidy grant has been cancelled. *Clerk to chase new bus stop signs.* **Clerk**
TR was asked whether the large fine imposed on C&S coaches for using tired drivers would affect them winning any future contracts. TR advised that contracts go out for tender however they would not wish to be associated with a company with these issues.

Community Strategies, Sustainable Development, Environment Matters and WDALC – Cllr. Michael Lunn – the new deer signs were due to go in last week, *Clerk to chase.* ML due to attend district conference on 3rd Nov. **Clerk**

Burial Ground – Cllr. Paul James – nothing to report

265. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

iv. Wealden's proposal for sustainable housing growth – the PC expressed their concern over this proposal. They would like to see 1-2 new houses per year and would like their views, from the core strategy, taken into account in the consultation. Also a 20 year timescale was felt to be far too long. ML to raise concerns at District Conference and then liaise with the Clerk in order that she can respond to WDC, TR and KO to be copied in on response. ML/Clerk

263. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. Hours checked agreed and signed.
- ii. The Clerk received correspondence from a villager regarding a near accident with deer crossing the A272. She contacted Highway's who were due to put in warning signs last week.
- iii. The issue of speeding vehicles, especially Courier vans, along Hut Lane has been highlighted to the Clerk. The PC have no jurisdiction over a private lane. Villagers can however report the drivers to their employer.

264. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE

- i. Items required for SALC meeting with the Chief Constable – lack of police presence and issue of speeding raised, Clerk to contact SALC to add to the agenda. Clerk
- ii. Queen Elizabeth II 2012 Fields Challenge – passed to ML
- iii. East Sussex Local Transport Plan 2011-26 Consultation – passed to LM prior to the meeting

265. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

- i. WDC Parish Bulletin
- ii. ESCC – Preparing for Winter – forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting
- iii. LCR magazine

**Meeting closed 9:26 pm
THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 7th December 2010 at 7pm.**

Criticisms of the Parish Council

The Parish Council are concerned about criticisms of them that have been made on the village website. They would encourage anyone who wishes to make a complaint or a criticism of the Parish Council to either attend one of their meetings, that are normally held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Village Hall, in order that this can be discussed openly, or to raise it in person or by email or by telephone with the Clerk or any one of the Councillors (contact details appear at the front of the Parish Magazine).

The Parish Council also has an official complaints procedure, a copy of which can be obtained from the Clerk.

The Parish Council in its work tries to meet the needs of all parishioners and not any one group. This will always mean that there are some people who disagree with Council decisions and the Council expects this to be the case. However, the current criticism is generally under pseudonyms and impolite in its language which reflects adversely on the Village. The methods outlined above can be used to raise any valid criticism of the Council.