



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council  
held in the Committee Room of Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Present: Councillors Sandra Richards (SR) (Chair), Graham Terry (GT), Damon Wellman (DW), and Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY). The Clerk Helen Johnson was in attendance.

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC)

**163. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – a member of the public asked if the Parish Council (PC) were involved in the Land at Five Badgers hearing. They confirmed that there had been further developments at the site.

Cllr Michael Lunn (ML) joined the meeting at 7:03pm

**164. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Iain Turner (IT) had apologized that he would be late.

**165. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none received.

**166. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record. The Clerk clarified that the knotweed mentioned in minute 147i. related to the knotweed in the field rather than on the footpath. A Councillor confirmed that the knotweed in the field is being treated by specialist contractors.

**167. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**

- i. Contact at WDC regarding seats at closed burial ground – ML advised that Kelvin Williams, Head of Planning and Environmental Services at Wealden District Council (WDC) department is responsible for the seats at the closed burial ground. It was agreed for the *Clerk to write to him to request that the condition of the seats be surveyed*. The Chair advised that she had been contacted regarding the state of the closed burial ground, *the Clerk will investigate and if necessary raise this in her letter to Mr Williams.* **Clerk**
- ii. Fence at the playing field – GT confirmed that the Playing Field Committee had started the process of taking down the old fence and this would be finished after the bonfire night.
- iii. Risk Assessment for the footpath work – it was confirmed that the risk assessment had been completed.
- iv. *Witness statement for the damage to School Lane footpath* – c/f. ML (WDC) confirmed that if he is sent a copy of the statement that he would also be able to raise it with the principal authority. **JMY**
- v. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
  - a. Responses were sent to resident's correspondence.
  - b. Quotes were received for LED signs, these were taken to the SLR (Strengthening Local Relationship) meeting.
  - c. Thank you letters were sent to Fiona Bickerton and Penny Eliot.

**168. PLANNING:**

**a. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

WD/2016/1495/FR – Stable Cottage, Hut Lane – Retrospective application for erection of 1.8m high close-boarded fence to contain flank curtilage.

**b. PLANNING MATTERS:**

Land at Five Badgers, Stonehurst Lane informal hearing on 25<sup>th</sup> October. *The Clerk and ML (WDC) will find out when the PC are required to attend.* **Clerk/ML**

Cllr. Iain Turner joined the meeting at 7:13pm

**169. REPORT FROM CLLR. MICHAEL LUNN WDC** – ML advised that WDC had a meeting with the Wealden MPs regarding their concerns over housing numbers and highlighted to them that there wasn't the land available for the housing.

It has been highlighted that there won't be enough CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) to fund the upgrading of the A27 and the required infrastructure for the amount of housing. There is a lack of 5 year supply of housing and WDC are receiving hostile planning applications. They also have a duty to co-operate with other councils which means they could take some of their housing quota.

ML updated the meeting on the boundary changes, it is currently proposed that Hadlow Down be in the same constituency as Lewes and Uckfield, however there is some talk that it should be part of the High Weald constituency instead.

A discussion followed regarding the CIL.

ML confirmed that the Wealden Community Grants Programme is open for applications.

**170. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for September 2016 was agreed and signed, including by a non-signatory as part of the quarterly controls.

**171. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :**

i. The payments for £168 to Compact Cutting for the burial ground and playing field maintenance, £650 to G.S. Osborne for the grant for the cutting of the grass at the playing field and £17.62 to Graham Terry for oil for the noticeboards that were paid at the last meeting and the payment of £129.56 to BT that was paid on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 by direct debit were ratified at this meeting.

ii. Contribution of £35 has been received from ESCC for 50% cost of the work on the fingerpost at the Wilderness Lane junction.

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

i. Cllr. Michael Lunn showed the PC a copy of the BML2 (Brighton Main Line 2) brochure and confirmed that there is ongoing dialogue regarding the possibility of reintroducing the Uckfield to Lewes line.

ii. Cllr. Iain Turner advised that a risk assessment is a legal document and once produced for an event can't be amended. The current one for the work on footpath 27c is due for review in November and is therefore valid until the end of November.

iii. Cllr. Julian Michaelson-Yeates is attending a WDALC (Wealden District Association of Local Councils) meeting next week and is also attending planning training with DW in November.

iv. Cllr. Sandra Richards had been contacted by a resident regarding Marlowe House, they have been directed to the relevant areas to address their concerns.

**173. SOCIAL MEDIA** – the Clerk advised that she had added some of the PC's policies to the village website. A Councillor advised that some PCs have their own website, Twitter and Facebook. A discussion was held on how Councillors feel the PC should be using social media. It was agreed for the *Chair to have a discussion with the editor of the village website.* **SR**

**174. STANDING ORDERS** – a discussion was held over the inspection of documents by Councillors, the Clerk advised that this has previously been discussed by the PC and Councillors do not have a right to access all PC documents, it is on a need to know basis. The Clerk will locate the documentation and send it to Councillors, to be discussed further at the November meeting.

**175. SCHEME OF DELEGATION** – amendments discussed and changes agreed.

**176. RISK ASSESSMENTS** – ML agreed to undertake the quarterly risk assessments. [The Clerk has received the quarterly completed risk assessment for the playing field and pavilion from the Playing Field committee]. IT advised that a member of the committee has spoken to him about the bonfire night risk assessment and the Clerk has also been contacted by a member of the public. *IT agreed to look at the bonfire night risk assessment, to be discussed further at the 18<sup>th</sup> October meeting.* **IT**

**177. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS:**

i. SLR meeting – IT provided an update on the recent SLR meeting.

*SR will take photographs of the state of bridlepath 25a.* **SR**

Bridlepath 36 is currently being worked on.

*The Clerk will write to ESCC requesting a reduction in the speed limit between Howbourne Lane and the entrance to the village.* **Clerk**

Highways have advised that the problems in Dog Kennel Lane will be actioned as and when finance becomes available and there is currently no money available for this work. A Councillor highlighted the ongoing problems on the lane and it was agreed for ditching in Dog Kennel Lane to be discussed further at the November meeting.

A discussion was held on the problems with flooding of the A272 at the junction with Tinkers Lane and it was agreed for *SR to write to Cllr. Galley to request that action be taken to resolve the problem.* **SR**  
The bank will be rebuilt at Riverside and Sheepwash Lane, no date available yet.

*The Chair will write to Roy Galley regarding the state of School Lane and will request that it be considered for urgent resurfacing.* **SR**

Speed reduction schemes were discussed at the meeting, ESCC normally only allow equipment that they supply, the *Clerk will liaise with the road safety officer regarding criteria for LED speed signs and the costs involved.* **Clerk**

It was confirmed that users of the Green Lanes, including motor bikers, need to show consideration for other users and if this isn't happening it can be reported to the police.

- ii. Footpath 27c – JMY updated the meeting on the work still to be undertaken, he confirmed that the barrier tape will go up again around the knotweed to ensure that the contractor stays away from it. The Chair commented on the amount and quality of the work undertaken, *the Clerk will send a letter to Bob Lake thanking him and the other volunteers for all their work.* **Clerk**
  - iii. Correspondence regarding hedgerow – the Clerk had received a letter from a resident regarding a hedgerow, a Councillor has visited the site and having referred to ESCC guidelines it is felt that no action is currently required.
  - ii. JMY advised that the post for the footpath sign at the Waghorns Lane end of footpath 27c was rotten and will need replacing, *the Clerk will contact the Rights of Way team.* **Clerk**
  - iv. Correspondence regarding footpath 28 – the Clerk was contacted about the entrance to the footpath, she has contacted the landowner and he has taken action to resolve the problems, the Clerk has also installed a new footpath sign on the stile.
  - v. School Lane – following an enquiry from a resident, the Clerk has looked into the recommendations and minutes from the ESCC Lead Member meeting where the banning of HGVs in parts of Rotherfield was discussed. *It was agreed for the Clerk to write to ESCC again, expressing the PC's concerns that the ban will have an impact on School Lane.* **Clerk**
- 178. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – *the Chair will speak to Bob Lake to obtain an update.* **SR**
- 179. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed.
  - ii. Clerks annual review – JMY and SR to undertake.
  - iii. Meetings with police and Wealden Clerks – the Clerk had sent an update from these meetings to Councillors. It was agreed for the *Clerk to apply to WDC for CIL funding to install measures to reduce speed through the village. She will also see whether the PC can apply for funding for a LED speed sign from the police production fund grant.* **Clerk**
- 180. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
- i. The 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement technical consultation – c/f to 18<sup>th</sup> October meeting.
  - ii. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service survey – c/f to November meeting.
  - iii. Electoral Review of East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council – the Local Government Boundary Commission has completed its review of county and district electoral reviews. Changes must be implemented by order subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. They are planning that the new electoral arrangements for ESCC will be implemented at the local elections in 2019. No response made to the opinion survey regarding processes and procedures.
- 181. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:
- i. Helen Johnson. Salary £878.58 includes £13.50 mileage and £31.99 expenses, £750 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £128.58.
  - ii. Compact Cutting £516.00 grounds maintenance.
  - iii. Wealden District Association of Local Councils £20 membership.
  - iv. East Sussex Pension Fund £247.19 pension contributions.
  - v. HM Revenue and Customs £168.03 tax and national insurance.
  - vi. Andrew Coates £599 fencing work.
  - vii. Wealden District Council £432 dog and litter bin emptying.  
A further payment to Mr P Anderson for £70.00 for fingerpost work was also signed and will be ratified at the November meeting.
- 182. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES:**
- i. East Sussex Highways Roadshow – the Chair will attend.
  - ii. Lantra Awards Basic Tree Survey and Inspection course – no-one attending.
  - iii. Wealden Parish Conference – DW to attend.
- 183. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – the Clerk confirmed that she had checked the defibrillator prior to the meeting.
- 184. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA**  
The next meeting will be the Finance and Precept meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm