



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday October 6th 2009
*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, Colin James, Lisa Scott, Graham Terry and Lucy McConachie. Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

- 140. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Eddie W point 145ii expressed concern as to whether the previous database still exists with the last Clerk, advised him that database was passed to present Clerk. *Clerk to contact originator of previous plan to ensure that it is shredded.* **Clerk**
- Cllrs Ken Ogden and Tony Reid arrived 7:05pm
- EW point 146 re Tinker's Park application this relates to 2 letters the Parish Council (PC) have received one of which was from EW - He wrote to Wealden District Council (WDC) highlighting that some of the statements in the application weren't valid, WDC have written back confirming they will investigate. Chair confirmed that the Parish Council's view on the application cannot be changed unless it is referred back to them by WDC due to discrepancies on the application.
- EW point 158ii the website poll has now closed with a clear majority voting for The Ridgeway. Expressed concern that the PC are also doing a poll through the Parish Magazine. The editor of the website has received a number of telephone calls and emails from people expressing concern that they are being dishonest as voting on the web and through the Clerk. Chair confirmed that the PC decided to do a poll in the Parish Magazine as it reaches everyone in the village, people would therefore be able to vote twice. They cannot however vote anonymously through the Clerk as she would need to ensure that people aren't voting more than once on the PC poll. Clerk will collate votes and forward information to WDC.
- Villager expressed concern over the oak tree at the bottom of Hut Lane which has a Tree Preservation Order on it, gentleman was examining it and saying that it had been damaged. Tree Warden or Clerk should receive notification if the tree was due to be chopped down.
- 141. PCSO KATIE BREEDS** – Nothing received in Katie's absence. There has however been a suspicious break-in at a property in Riverside, car was stolen and other items from the house, owners were on holiday.
- 142. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Cllrs. Michael Lunn and Norman Buck.
- 143. DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – The following prejudicial interests were declared: CJ & LS on the old Village Hall. Personal interests declared: PJ Hastingford House, LM Warren Farm and Tinkers Park, GT new Village Hall.
- 144. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 09 and of the Extraordinary meeting on 15th September 09 were agreed and signed as true copies, with however the amendment at point 133 to show that it was 'a supporter' of the Claude Jessett Trust rather than someone acting on their behalf. In response to EW's letter the Clerk has already written to him to advise him that the Chairs statement was not personal to him and was a general statement. The Chair's statement won't be being altered.
- 145. MATTERS ARISING (from prev. mtg):**
- i. (114ivd & 127ii) Contact with Heathfield Youth Club Manager and whether we host an event for other Councillors and clerks re youth – *LS to speak to other councils and the contact in the village who is interested in helping, will also speak to youth clubs and PCSOs* **LS**
 - ii. Old emergency plans to be passed to Clerk for shredding – actioned, also see comments at point 140.
 - iii. Village Hall Risk Assessment to be signed – *CJ to chase* **CJ**
 - iv. Community Safety Partnership Grant – c/f **ML**
 - v. Standards Committee Questionnaires - actioned
 - vi. Rural Young People Empowerment Project – unable to attend meeting, however going through the paperwork that related to this.
 - vii. Monthly income for Village Hall – LS provided details on income, they receive approximately £400pm. In the previous year the balance went down due to the amount that had to be spent on the Village Hall *Clerk to copy income and expenditure figures for 09 to Councillors. LS to provide bank balance at precept meeting.* **Clerk/LS**
 - viii. Clerk's report:
 - a. Broadband – now with O2.
 - b. SE Water – chased them a number of times for outcome of tests will continue to chase. **Clerk**
 - c. Cleaning of Hadlow Down sign on west side of village was due to be undertaken at the end of September.
 - d. Bollards – emailed Highways to update them regarding what action is being taken by the New Inn to resolve parking problems and that PC have invited publican into dialogue with them to resolve any future issues. Also advised that there is a problem with visibility when people park at the end of Hut Lane.
 - e. Letter sent to WDC requesting a meeting regarding the Core Strategy and LDF, WDC advise very busy at present and ask to revisit in a few months time.
 - f. Hadlow Down Road now also due to appear as an option in the poll in the Parish Magazine.
 - g. In future items relating to the entranceway at Scocus Farm will appear under the name of Little Tinkers. Owners of Little Tinkers have been advised by Highways that the entranceway needs to be finished.

- h. Highways sorted potholes in Five Chimneys Lane week beginning 7th Sep and were also due to cut back the foliage looking up towards School Lane. Carriageway patching work also to be undertaken on Tinkers Lane and Riverside.
- i. More powers for Parish and Town Councils – no action taken as email from a lobbying group.
- j. Annual return now on display on notice boards
- k. Response sent to East Sussex Fire and Rescue Services questionnaire regarding spending and improvements to service.

146. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

WD/2009/1979/F – CART LODGE, STONEHURST LANE, FIVE ASHES TN20 6LW – Removal of the earth bank and erection of fence and gate – The Parish Council recommend approval of this application, we consider this an improvement of the appearance from the road.

WD/2009/1944/F – WARREN FARM, SHEPHERDS HILL, BUXTED TN22 4PY – Erection of 2 stables and adjoining tack room – The Parish Council recommends approval of this application.

WD/2009/2024/F – HUGGETTS FURNACE MILL, STONEHURST LANE, FIVE ASHES TN20 6LL – Small single storey lean-to extension - The Parish Council recommends approval of this application.

WD/2009/1965/LB – HASTINGFORD HOUSE, HASTINGFORD LANE, TN22 4DY – Proposed repairs to roof – The Parish Council strongly recommends approval of this application.

WD/2009/2067/F – RIVERSIDE HOUSE, RIVERSIDE, BLACKBOYS TN22 4EY – Machinery, trailers and log store building - The Parish Council recommends approval of this application.

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:

WD/2009/1479/FA - BOLTON HOUSE, FIVE CHIMNEYS LANE TN22 4DX – Retention of two bay timber garage without complying with condition 5 of planning permission WD/2007/1076 (use of building by Longbottom Wright Building Co. only)

WD/2008/2640/LB - 2 HADLOW HOUSE, MAIN ROAD, TN22 4EP – Conversion of stair lobby into bedroom and installation of roof lights to existing roof

WD/2009/1536/F - LYNX HOUSE, SCHOOL LANE TN22 4JE – Retention of existing permitted use of existing barn as office with associated photographic studio (B1 use)

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION:

None received

Correspondence received regarding Tinkers Park application – Two items of correspondence have been received regarding the Tinkers Park application, Clerk has sent a response to one and the other from EW discussed at point 140. Will probably go before WDC planning committee on 22nd October. TR asked what the PCs response had been to the application. The PC approved the application with some reservations and asked for conditions to be added. Member of PC will attend WDC meeting to try and ensure that the PCs conditions are agreed to.

- 147. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC** – TR advised that they are working on budgets at present. Expecting 3% council tax rise next year, the next few years will be challenging with a 10% cash deduction in grants. Gives the council an opportunity to do things better, speaking with Kent, Brighton and Hove and Surrey Councils to try and do things more efficiently. Chair raised that in West Sussex there are a lot of red patches in the road that really stand out, would East Sussex be doing this? TR advised that they do speak to other councils and have just appointed a new Assistant Director for Highways – Karl Taylor. They are hoping to do more with West Sussex. West Sussex have spent more on Highways than East Sussex, although East Sussex have spent more on other budgets. PC complained to TR about the state of the surface of the roads. DW asked how ESCC can forecast a council tax increase when inflation has gone down, TR advised that ESCC costs and demands on services have gone up by 6%, these don't relate to the CPI or RPI.

KO advised that WDC have got to save £2 million on their budget, they are doing this by not replacing staff when they leave unless it is imperative in which case the person would be put on a short-term contract. Planning department are looking at running the one in Eastbourne as well. Spending £142,000 on bringing the plans onto computers, this will then save £40,000 per year. Preparing factual facts for those struggling paying their mortgage. KO confirmed that the PC will be informed of changes to any TPOs. Chair advised that it is important that WDC officers keep in contact with the PC and keep them informed. Maresfield recycling transfer depot will open on the 16th or 20th October.

Cllr. TR left the meeting.

PC raised with KO regarding Southview, Wilderness Lane asking under what authority the windows were put in as they go against the design and access that was agreed. *KO to investigate*

KO

Cllr. KO left the meeting.

- 148. BANK RECONCILIATION:** – Bank reconciliations for 26th August and 25th September 09 agreed and signed as correct.

149. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –

- i. Revised salary scale wef 1st April 09 – Clerk updated Councillors on the new salary scale, backdated pay will be made in November.
- ii. Fingerpost quotes – 2 quotes received, agreed on one for £350. *Clerk to arrange for work to be done and forward copy of quote to Highways*
- iii. 2nd precept payment received of £8998.50

Clerk

- 150. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed for payment:

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £621.75 includes £19.20 for mileage, £98.74 training hours and £2.34 expenses. £460 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £161.75.
 - ii. BT £452.41 by direct debit, £319.28 charged in error will be re-credited to bank account.
 - iii. Viking Direct stationery £37.56
 - iv. Madasafish by direct debit £17.10
 - v. Michael Lunn travel expenses £17.20
 - vi. Inland Revenue £773.99
- 151. PLAY AREA** – Pathfinder funding agreement received for signing, clause 2 to be amended to say: “The Delivery Organisation is required to demonstrate that it shall obtain best value for money in the carrying out of the required works”. Agreement signed by chair, *Clerk to return to WDC together with a copy of the letter from our insurance company* **Clerk**
 Discussion held on the procedure to make payments to cover expenditure. The Hadlow Down Playing Field committee will be acting as agents for the PC. It shouldn't be a problem for the PC to raise cheques on a fortnightly basis as required.
 Clerk advised of the charges that RoSPA make for a post installation inspection and for an annual inspection, LS and LM advised that there were people on their playground training who also do them. ESCC will do the initial inspection for free.
 DW left the meeting at 8:45
- 152. DOMAIN AND EMAIL ADDRESSES** – ML has provided details of available domains and quotes for website design and build and hosting. Agreed to hadlowdownpc.org. *Clerk to contact ML to confirm domain name and will obtain further quotes.* **Clerk**
- 153. NEW VILLAGE HALL** – Documents already been passed to Councillors. Consensus to build a new Village Hall and that it should be on the Playing Field. New Village Hall came high as a priority on the Village Strategy Plan. Rachel Lewis has agreed to be the chair of the new Village Hall Committee. Proposed that Parish Council commit to replacing the Village Hall at the Playing Field site. All in full agreement. GT would like to have a meeting to thrash out ideas and for the people involved to get together. Proposed that GT commence with the setting up of an advisory committee subject to point 50 of the PC's Standing Orders. All agreed. Details of committee and terms of reference to be agreed at a later meeting. PC thanked outgoing New Village Hall Committee for all their hard work and welcomed the new committee.
- 154. NOTICE BOARD OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE HALL** – Clerk received an email requesting that a notice board be put up on the side of the Village Hall for social events within the village. It was felt by the PC that anything that can be done to encourage the use of the old Village Hall would help the new Village Hall. Agreed that once the new notice board is received that the old one could be used for social notices however it would need refurbishing. *PJ to take a look at the old one when the new one is up* **PJ**
- 155. PLAYING FIELD** – Concern expressed over the number of private entrances onto the playing field, there are Health and Safety issues and also concern over the safety of children as there is now more than one entrance/exit. It was suggested to replace the fence and ask those who have removed the hedge to replace it. All entrances to the Playing Field other than the main one should be closed forthwith. *Clerk to write to those with entrances requesting that they close them as it is felt that they are a risk, Clerk to be provided with names and addresses of those concerned.* *PJ to seal hole to Playing Field.* **Clerk/PJ**
 LS left 9:10
- 156. LDF & CORE STRATEGY** – Buxted have sent a copy of their strategy to Clerk, copy of ours has been forwarded to them.
- 157. RISK ASSESSMENT** – Playing Field ditch due to be in filled later in the week.
- 158. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. Hours checked agreed and signed.
 - ii. Main Road – Article appearing in October edition of Parish Magazine requesting that villagers contact Clerk with their votes for a road name, the results of the vote will then be given at the PC meeting on 3rd November and be forwarded to WDC. WDC have advised that the following road names are unsuitable: Heathfield Road, Hadlow Down Ridgeway and St Mark's Road. Royal Mail would gradually add the addresses to their system however this could take a few years to do, although the road sign would go up quickly. South Beacon Road was suggested due to its historical links however this was too late to add it as an option for the poll. It has been raised by some villagers that only those who live in Main Road should be allowed to vote. Clerk has been sent a copy of the website poll by the website editor.
 - iii. Visit to Houses of Parliament – booked for February
 - iv. Rights of Way report – will send a report in a few weeks time. At present ESCC are consulting on putting a seasonal TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) on green lane at Dog Kennel Lane.
 - v. Website – 3 photos of Councillors now on website, pictures to be taken of others and put on website. **GT**
 - vi. BT adoption of local red telephone kiosk – article in October edition of Parish Magazine, to be discussed at PC meeting on 3rd November.
 - vii. WDALC comments on planning development – WDALC have written to WDC Planning Policy group advising that “Wealden District Association of Local Councils support the view that S106 development contributions, as per

central government guidelines, should be liable on all building developments within the Wealden District, whatever their size, to the benefit of Wealden District residents and to local communities.”

viii. Temporary road closure Tinkers Lane and Riverside – for up to 3 days between 12th October and 1st November.

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

- i. Village Hall Management Committee, Wealden Association of Local Councils and Safer Wealden Partnership – Cllr. Colin James – nothing to report.
- ii. Easylink – Cllr. Lucy McConachie – now have an extra bus in the village, no. 318/319 leaves Hadlow Down at 9:44 for Uckfield returns from Uckfield at 14:50. *LM to put article in Parish Magazine.* At the Wealdlink meeting they advised that they are now losing money, however they are going for a grant with ‘Down your Way’.
- iii. Neighbourhood Watch, Emergency Planning, New Village Hall Working Party and Playing Field Committee – Cllr. Graham Terry – Winterfest on 17th October
- iv. Burial Ground – Cllr. Paul James – nothing to report.

160. TRAINING & CONFERENCES:

- i. Update received from LS and LM re Playground Training. Update from DW re Housing Summit c/f **DW**
- ii. CiLCA round table event October – Clerk to attend

161. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE.

- i. Gambling Act 2005 response required by 19th October – felt that this doesn’t apply to our PC.
- ii. Rural Manifesto - forwarded to ML prior to meeting – c/f **ML**

162. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

- i. NALC Legal Topic Note – s.137
- ii. SALC annual report and accounts
- iii. WDC Parish Planning Panel Meeting – copied to everyone prior to meeting
- iv. Greater flexibility for planning permissions – forwarded to DW prior to meeting
- v. Wealden Business Focus
- vi. Charles Hendry’s September e-bulletin
- vii. East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership flyer
- viii. LCR magazine
- ix. Hinterland – passed to DW prior to meeting
- x. EAVS bulletin board
- xi. NHS guides
- xii. Rural Services Network newsletters
- xiii. Exploring East Sussex – guided walks and environmental events
- xiv. What is HomeBuy? leaflets

163. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

Nothing to add

Meeting closed 9:40pm

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL be a precept meeting on Tuesday 20th October 2009 at 7pm.

Signed..... Date.....