



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 7th October 2014.

*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), Clare Emsden (CE), Nathan James (NJ), Ken Ogden (WDC) (KO) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

- 175. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – a member of the public raised about the work being undertaken in Uckfield High Street and asked how it was being funded. KO confirmed that WDC are part of the planning process and that there will be a further display and reconsultation. The funding is coming from £2.5 million s.106 funds from developments in the north of Wealden. To be discussed at item 182 when Cllr. Roy Galley has joined the meeting.
- 176. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Cllr. Michael Lunn, these were accepted.
- 177. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none received.
- 178. CRIME REPORT** – no report received.
- 179. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 9th and 18th September 2014 were agreed and signed as true records .
- 180. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**
- i. The Emergency Planning committee will be holding a meeting at the end of October when 1st aid training will be discussed.
 - ii. The website details regarding Gatwick’s proposals have been circulated.
 - iii. Fencing, sign and filter cover for pipe for Hut Lane drainage – c/f **NJ**
 - iv. Fingerpost review has been undertaken. NJ and CE were thanked for their work on this. It was agreed that the *Clerk would get quotes for those that require work in the next 6 months.* **Clerk**
It was recommended that in future the review be undertaken in the spring.
 - v. Gully review – the gullies in Five Chimneys Lane have been cleared and the ones in Hastingford Lane should have been actioned during the resurfacing. *Cllr Damon Wellman’s (DW) c/f.* **DW**
The Clerk has been advised that the gully opposite the burial ground on Main Road is blocked, she has reported it to Highways. GT confirmed that the Highways Steward will be joining him on a visit around the village this week.
 - vi. The Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:
 - a. *The Clerk will put an article in the Parish Magazine regarding hedge-cutting and will issue overgrown vegetation notices where the vegetation is impacting on drivers and/or pedestrians.*
Clerk
- 181. PLANNING:**
- a. **APPROVED APPLICATIONS:**
 - i. **WD/2014/1230/F ST MARK’S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL** – Proposed oak framed classroom and storage building.
 - b. **PLANNING MATTERS:**
 - i. Caravan at site in Stonehurst Lane – the Clerk confirmed that earlier in the year she had contacted planning enforcement who had investigated and advised that the caravan isn’t currently in breach of planning, however if the use changes or it is used for residential purposes they can look into it further.
 - ii. Wilderness Wood – the Chair advised that she had been contacted by the owners of Wilderness

Wood regarding their plans for the site. She had encouraged them to speak to their neighbours about their plans. It was agreed that the *Chair would contact the owners confirming that the PC would be willing to have an 'information-gathering' meeting at the wood.* **SR**

- 182. REPORTS FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY, ESCC & CLLR. KEN OGDEN WDC** – Cllr. Ken Ogden advised that on 23rd October a planning application for 160 houses and SANGs in Crowborough is being discussed. If this application fails there is an application for 1000 homes in Uckfield with SANGs on the opposite side of the bypass. If this also fails £5 million will be used to create a dog walking area. WDC is currently adopting areas for SANGs.

Cllr. Roy Galley (ESCC) (RG) joined the meeting.

RG advised that a new president has been elected for the European Union who is unhappy with the way the EU directive on wildlife and habitats has been used and may roll it back. If Pine Grove at Crowborough is used for housing they will also need SANGs.

Cllr. Roy Galley updated the Parish Council (PC) on ESCC's Killed and Seriously Injured initiative. Wealden has a higher than national average record and is the 6th worst district. They are working to take action to improve this.

RG confirmed that there had been a consultation regarding the Highways improvements in Uckfield Town Centre. The Chair allowed a member of the public to be involved in the discussions on this item. Concern was expressed on the impact the work was having to traders, the number of parking spaces being taken from the High Street, the new disabled parking spaces which are too far away for blue badge holders to walk to the High Street and that consideration was given to knocking down a school to allow a new road and to encourage nationwide stores. The High Street may be closed for 30 weeks during the main phase of work. RG advised that the pavements would be wider with trees planted. It was agreed that the PC would write to Rupert Clubb at ESCC to express their concerns, *Clerk to forward draft to Councillors before it is sent.* **Clerk**

RG advised that they had consulted about a new road however there wasn't sufficient support for it so they are redeveloping the town centre. The PC felt that the new station car park would help alleviate the pressure on Luxford car park. *The Clerk will arrange for the Uckfield petition to go on the website and in the Parish Magazine.* **Clerk**

RG confirmed that if the £2.5 million isn't used by a certain date it will be returned to the developers.

RG advised that the remedial work in Hastingford Lane is due to be started soon, the PC confirmed that the drainage work in Waghorns Lane still hasn't been done.

- 183. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for 26 September 2014 was agreed and signed. It was also signed by a non-signatory for the quarterly control.

184. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS :

- i. The payment to Printmonger Media £75.00 for printing of the newsletter, that was signed at the 9th September meeting was ratified at this meeting.
- ii. Signatory for bank account – the Clerk confirmed that Barclays hadn't received the forms, new forms to be signed at the next meeting.
- iii. The Clerk confirmed that the second precept payment had now been received.
- iv. The external audit has now been completed, the auditor has advised that in their opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The return is currently displayed on the noticeboards.

- 185. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – GT updated the PC on the last committee meeting. There is evidence of bats in the pavilion. 2 draws have been undertaken for the Hadlow Down Lottery and feedback from the public meeting will be available soon. The plans aren't available yet and there isn't a date for when they will be. The committee's next meeting is on 13th November.

Councillors had been copied in on correspondence from a resident regarding the disposal of the village hall. The resident presumed that the PC were being involved in discussions with the committee over this and asked for the village to be informed of any decision prior to the planning application for the new centre.

The resident also advised that the business plan and minutes from the public meeting aren't yet on the HDCC website. The PC confirmed that any decision regarding the hall would have appeared in the PC's minutes.

The chair allowed the member of the public to comment on this item. The chair confirmed that the land the hall stands on belongs to the PC so when it is vacated the hall will pass to the PC. It was agreed that the *Clerk would write to the secretary of the committee asking for the minutes to appear on their website.* **Clerk**

- 186. RISK ASSESSMENTS** – the Clerk advised that *ML would be dropping the July risk assessments to SR.* **ML**

SR had completed a risk assessment in September, she confirmed that the tape on the zip wire has been rectified and she will check whether the splinters on the log have now been rubbed down as the Playing Field committee have recently been undertaking work on the equipment.

187. STANDING ORDERS – these were adopted by the PC.

188. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE – this was adopted by the PC.

189. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

- i. SLR meeting – the Clerk was thanked for attending the meeting and taking the minutes which had been copied to Councillors. Highways had confirmed that the gully at the junction of Waghorns and Brick Kiln Lanes' junction is due to be cleared and they will ensure that the outflow works. A full survey has been undertaken of the drainage between School Lane and Nashes Farm, the gullies are due to be replaced and other repair work is scheduled. Concern was expressed over the verge cutting and the Highways Steward will check for any visibility problems at junctions. Problems highlighted by the PC with Criers Lane have been passed to the internal drainage team to action, the surface is due to be jet patched before or, during the winter. Highways have been given a copy of the PC's gully review, this will be raised with the Highways Liaison officer's manager to see what action can be taken. Temporary pot-hole repairs should have a 't' on them and will be re-done at a later date, all others should be cut out unless they have been jet patched. One of the raised sections of carriageway created following South East Water's work on the A272 has been rectified, the Highways steward will see if further work is required. The A272 from Tinkers Lane to the junction with the A267 will be resurfaced for 5 days from 10th November. Concern was expressed over the clearance of gullies where the debris was placed on the upside and would therefore drain directly back into the gully. Concern was expressed by the PC that gullies are still not being cleared. *SR to send RG a copy of her email to the Head of Highways so that he can also write to him and find out what gullies have been cleared.*
SR/RG
- ii. Parking in School Lane – correspondence had been received regarding vehicles parking on the pavement at the top of School Lane thereby making it difficult for pedestrians to get past, the Clerk has written to the PCSO to highlight the problem.

190. COMMUNITY PLAN – meeting to be held in October. A member of the committee has walked all of the footpaths and has detailed where there are problems, the Clerk has sent these to the Rights of Way team who have suggested that a volunteer group be set up. Due to the issues over insurance it was proposed to liaise with landowners over the work that needs to be done.

191. PLAY AREA INSPECTION – the Clerk confirmed that RoSPA are satisfied with the repairs that have been undertaken by the Playing Field committee. The PC signed off the committee's report and thanked them for the work they have done.

192. SCHEME OF DELEGATION – this was adopted by the PC.

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

- i. Cllr. Nathan James advised that the PCSO has confirmed that he can attend the bonfire night, NJ will liaise with him over timings. The Clerk has requested a copy of the risk assessment for the event. NJ is attending the ESCC resilience fayre and has booked an Emergency Planning committee meeting. At the playing field committee meeting it was requested that representatives from the committee, the HDCC and the Village Hall committee have a meeting with the PC, *the Clerk will organize and ask for agenda items.*
Clerk
- ii. Cllr. Clare Emsden confirmed that she had received a report from the Rights of Way team. A resident has written about the lack of rights of way notices at Woodlands Farm and Waste Wood. The Clerk has raised this with the Rights of Way team.
- iii. Cllr. Graham Terry advised that there was a Village Hall committee meeting this week.

194. CLERK'S MATTERS:

- i. The Clerks hours were agreed and signed.

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

- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £756.95 includes £19.35 mileage and £3.50 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £136.95.
- ii. G.S. Osborne £1200.00 grass cutting at playing field – paid under the power given in the Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10.
- iii. Viking £161.94 stationery
- iv. Greencare Plus £216.00 burial ground wall
- v. Compact Cutting £372.00 Burial ground and play area maintenance.
- vi. PKF Littlejohn £240.00 external audit
- vii. SSALC Limited £72.00 Chairs Networking Day

viii. HM Revenue and Customs £86.64 tax and NI.

196. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. SSALC meeting with the Chief Constable – *the Clerk will ask for speeding and dog fouling to be added to the agenda.* **Clerk**
- ii. Correspondence regarding dog faeces – the Clerk had received correspondence from 2 residents regarding dog faeces in Wilderness Lane. It was highlighted that problems with dog faeces not being picked up at the playing field was raised at the committee’s meeting and it had been suggested that Mrs Rivers be approached to see if the children can design a poster to encourage owners to pick up the mess. It was suggested that the posters be put up around the village. *The Clerk will approach the committee to see what action has been taken and will ask the editor of the Parish Magazine to put an article in the next edition. She will also contact the Street Enforcement Team at WDC.* **Clerk**
- iii. Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation – it was agreed for SR & NJ to respond.
- iv. Community Infrastructure Levy Revised Draft Charging Schedule – Hadlow Down falls in the higher rate. No response was made.
- v. Meeting with North Wealden Parishes regarding Gatwick’s proposals – the Clerk advised that Gatwick Airport has decided to delay any decision on the airspace changes. A meeting is being organized between North Wealden Parish Councils to which DW will be attending.

197. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

- i. Finance and Precept meeting on 21st October.
- ii. Entrance to Playing Field – to discuss in closed session.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm