



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN
PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday September 15th 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, Michael Lunn and Lucy McConachie. Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

The following statement was given by the chair:

‘I make this statement due to some unpleasant accusations levelled at myself and other Councillors.

Firstly I am not aware of any Councillor being lobbied prior to the Tinkers Park planning application.

Of the two objectors present at the meeting I did state to them that we had read their letters and then gave them two minutes to cover the vital parts of their objections as per Wealden District Council policy.

I as chair have no authority to instruct or direct another Councillor on how to vote or make his or her decisions. All Councillors are aware of this and would not allow this to happen anyway.

With regard to a “democracy champion” this is a subject for a Quality Council (which we are not), something this Council aspires to but is at least a year away.

As regard the subject of threats made to Mr Westfield I have spoken to all Councillors and have been assured no sympathy or support for accused threatener has been given, or even discussed.

With regard to the Village Strategy Plan, Michael and a lot of people, put an awful lot of time into this and to have it ripped apart by a nimbi objector is an insult to all the people who have worked so hard on this project.

At no time have any official complaints been made to myself, the Clerk or any other Councillor.

With regard to the website this is a private website and has no connection to this Council’ Paul James

ML joined the meeting 7:10

133 PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Eddie Westfield advised that he had received threats from someone who was acting on behalf of the Claude Jessett Trust. EW would have liked confirmation from the Parish Council (PC) that they didn’t support the accuser or have sympathy for them. Chair advised that he had spoken to all Councillors and the Clerk requesting that they didn’t respond and get involved with the emails that were going back and forth and to show restraint. PC confirmed that they have never had any wish to take over the website. EW advised that he would have expected the PC to disassociate themselves from the threat, PC notified the meeting that a decision cannot be made as a Council, until a meeting is held. A Councillor could have responded prior to the meeting however in a personal capacity rather than as a Councillor.

Chair advised that he was disappointed that the PC were slated on the website, the Councillors put a lot of work into the PC. EW said that the chair was overheard at the previous meeting to say to another Councillor to take the Parish Strategy into account. This could not be recalled by the Chair.

EW is disgusted that his input into the Parish Strategy was used for the Tinkers Park application. Cllr Michael Lunn responded that at every session people were advised of the strategic process and what it was leading to. Tinkers Park was seen as a parish asset and at this stage no-one on the PC knew of a planning application. It wasn’t discussed at the Parish Strategy about supporting a large planning application just that it was an asset to the village.

Chair confirmed that the Village Action Plan is a tool that the PC can use, such as in this case when they provided a response to the planning application

EW said that the impression he got at the last meeting on 1st September was that no Councillors were concerned about the Tinkers Park application. The Chair informed him that all Councillors had studied the application prior to the meeting. A number of people had also commented to him on how well the meeting was run, that it was chaired well and the best decision was made on the application in the circumstances. Chair informed EW that he can also go to the planning meeting at WDC and raise his objections in his allotted 2 minutes. Chair said that most of the objections were dealt with in the PC’s response to WDC. It was also confirmed that Tinker’s Park do have permission to be open for 28 days for events, they are not however planning to do this, with an application going through there is however a chance for there to be more control over events i.e. regarding noise, hours etc. EW advised that neighbours of Tinkers Park were previously supportive of them however following the planning application concerns have been expressed.

Chair hoped that EW had now been able to express his views and some of his questions had been answered. He doesn’t want there to be bad feeling among people, everyone needs to work together. Eddie has put a lot of hard work into the website and Emergency Planning and has worked well with the Parish Council.

EW raised about point 139 – Tinkers Park Application – representation at WDC committee meeting – PC confirmed that this related to whether they would be sending representation to the meeting. EW also asked why Public Questions are at the beginning of the agenda rather than at each point. Chair confirmed that Public Questions have to be at the beginning of the meeting otherwise he would have to suspend Standing Orders (PC are governed by these) each time a member of the public wanted to ask a question or provide input to an agenda point .

EW also asked about point 137 – Main Road – Clerk confirmed that this related to the naming of the road. Chair advised that an article will be going in the Parish Magazine asking for villagers to send their 3 top options to the Clerk by the end of October and then the results will be confirmed at November’s meeting and details sent to WDC.

134 APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – apologies received from Cllrs. Norman Buck, Ken Ogden, Colin James, Lisa Scott and Graham Terry.

- 135 DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – PJ declared a personal interest in Woodlands Farm and LM a personal interest in Tinkers Park.
- 136 PRECEPT** – Janet Tournell handed out a summary of the Hadlow Down Village Hall future financial needs, this is divided into immediate and non-immediate needs.
 Immediate relates to cavity wall insulation, electricity meters and safety around the building. Two quotes have been received for cavity wall insulation. Money is being lost with the present electricity meters as they aren't covering the cost of the fuel. Will be looking at changing the unit price on new meters and will need recalibrating every 3-4 months.
 Discussion held on improvements to safety such as rails, ramps etc. Chair asked for the monthly income for the Village Hall, *to be provided to the PC by Cllr Lisa Scott* **LS**
 JT confirmed that monthly income needs to increase. In order to promote New Village Hall, present Village Hall needs to be pushed as a community venue.
 Non-immediate needs relate to the ceiling in the Village Hall, which needs the tiles replaced and to be properly insulated. JT asked for help with the parking issue, people double park and block emergency exits etc. PC suggested that people should be encouraged through the website, Parish Magazine etc to walk or car-share to events at the Village Hall. JT advised that parking facilities don't encourage people to use the Village Hall. If money is going to be raised for a hall we need to show that the present Village Hall is being used. The recent Talent Night brought a lot of young people into the Village Hall, it was suggested that this should be built upon in order to get more youth involved. People also commented at the Talent Night on how good the Village Hall now looks, JT thanked those people who helped to decorate it. She felt that the new Village Hall should be built as soon as possible.
 Report received from GT: Emergency Plan - no specific expenditure expected however allow £200 for small expenses i.e. repair to radio; New Village Hall - need to budget for draft plans, ecological survey and other surveys expect to cost between £5,000 - £7500, new lease will need to be signed with the School House Trust and could cost between £250 and £1000; Neighbourhood Watch - no expenditure foreseen; Playing Field - expenditure on grass cutting and possibly help with new play area, over the next few years there will also be expenditure on the Pavilion. Also felt that we should consider that some of the tasks performed by ESCC or WDC could be organised and paid for by the PC with the appropriate cost claimed back from ESCC or WDC.
 The Chair confirmed what the Precept is and what it covers. He advised that Councillors only claim for large travel expenses, nothing else.
 ML advised that he has received a quote for printing the Village Action Plan, this is for about £1000, he will however obtain a second quote.
 £220 is normally given to the Parish Magazine each year.
 EW advised he didn't need anything for the website. Chair advised that it is a very good website, easy to use with a lot on it and excellent links. EW confirmed that the website will be lost if no-one takes over by the end of November. Chair advised that it wasn't for the PC to suggest a replacement, it is a private website not the Parish Council's. It was highlighted by EW that the villager who donated the website to the village did it for free
 Clerk confirmed that the following are also asking for money or have been requested by a villager to receive a donation: CAB; Crimestoppers; Homestart and Tree Council of Great Britain. Also need to be aware that adopting the BT box may incur an ongoing expense. *Clerk to prepare list for Precept meeting of who is asking for what and what they have previously received.* **Clerk**
- 137 MAIN ROAD** – Discussed in public questions at point 133. EW advised that he has spoken to WDC and 'Ridgeway' and 'The Ridgeway' will be treated as the same, then if they come out top of the poll on the website, the one with the highest votes will be notified to WDC. He also confirmed that the name Hadlow Down Road can be used as an option in the polls, *Clerk to ensure that this road name also appears in article in Parish Magazine* **Clerk**
- 138 DOMAIN AND EMAIL ADDRESSES** – The Chair previously asked the Clerk to look at a new ISP especially as she was moving house. ML has looked at domains. As a Quality Status Council information will need to go out from the PC and go out correctly, PC will therefore need to have their own website, however with a link to the Hadlow Down website. ML confirmed that there are possible domain names available and that a 10 year license and register of the name would cost £50. Domain can be hosted on a local server and Councillors can have their own email addresses. PC would also like a link from the Hadlow Down website to the PC website. c/f to next meeting.
- 139 PLANNING MATTERS**
APPLICATION: WD/2009/1782/F WOODLANDS FARM, TN22 4HH – Single storey side extension and two storey rear extension – The Parish Council supports this application. All Councillors unanimously agreed to application.
TINKERS PARK APPLICATION – REPRESENTATION AT WDC COMMITTEE MEETING – One of the Councillors has asked if the PC should send a representative to WDC planning meeting as it is a major application and to support the PC's comments that they made on the consultation sheet that accompanied the application. Some previous applications WDC didn't take into account the conditions put down by the PC. Agreed by PC that someone should go to emphasise the conditions, providing one of the Councillors is available and if the application goes to committee.

Meeting closed 8:30pm

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be on Tuesday 6th October 2009 at 7pm.

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