



MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND FINANCE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in the committee room at Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday October 15th 2013.

*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), Damon Wellman (DW), Michael Lunn (ML) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

160. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Janet Tourell (JT), chair of the Village Hall (VH) committee updated the Parish Council (PC) on the committee's financial situation. They have had problems with the roof and hope to get a grant for the toilets and already have one to replace the chairs. They cannot afford to do work on the ceiling and the work in the toilets may identify further problems when the floor has been taken up. They have also had problems with the heaters. She asked the PC for £1,000 from the 2014/15 precept. Rachel Lewis (RL) from the TN22 club advised that they are currently meeting fortnightly and would like to change this to weekly. They would like £500 from the 2014/15 precept to help cover some of the venue costs.

Fiona Shafer (FS) from the Playing Field (PF) committee asked for funding for the annual mowing at the Playing Field. They have obtained 2 quotes and will obtain 1 further quote.

Bob Lake (BL), chair of the Hadlow Down Community Centre committee confirmed that they had received a response from WDC regarding the permitted development and they will be proceeding to legal development, if this is successful a full planning application will be submitted. They will incur a lot of expenditure before March 2014 and are trying to secure funding from other sources. The Clerk has already responded to the written request for funding from the committee advising that part of the expenditure falls within the 2013/14 financial year. The committee would like to apply for £4,500 from the 2014/15 precept.

161. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – none received.

162. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – SR and CE declared a personal interest in the CAB.

163. PRECEPT – the Clerk went through the requests she had received for funding. It was confirmed that the speed survey would now cost £400. *The Clerk will investigate defibrillators and the costs involved.* **Clerk** The chair opened this agenda item to the public.

A Councillor asked about the funding for the VH and Community Centre. JT advised that it is not known at this stage if there will be a new Community Centre (CC) so they need to ensure that the VH is maintained. Some of the new equipment will be able to be transferred to the CC. They will also be increasing their charges probably wef 1/1/14. It was questioned whether these charges are in line with other village halls. BL confirmed that if the HDCC are successful with the legal development they are hoping to put in their planning application in early 2014, if the CC isn't built within the 3 years after granting of the application, they may need to revert back to keeping the VH. One of the committee's problems is that the Ashdown Forest 7km exclusion zone means that there isn't a cost benefit from the sale of the VH.

A councillor questioned that a lot of the TN22 club members don't come from Hadlow Down. RL confirmed that about 20 members and volunteers are from the village, also the choir includes about 10 people from the village. She gave details of the clubs' costs.

The Chair thanked JT and her committee for all their work on the VH and it was felt that the TN22 club was good for Hadlow Down's profile.

FS was asked about the PF committee's finances. She advised that they have had problems with moles

and had contributed to the costs of the Geotech survey. BL advised that the survey recommended that 4 sunken bore holes be installed. If they receive funding from Sport England they will get a survey for what work needs doing. *The Clerk will advise FS of contractor's details for grass cutting.* **Clerk**

BL was asked about other sources of funding including the Millennium Book Fund. It was confirmed that this was held in a bonds fund for 2 years and would be available in 2015/16, BL to speak to Peter Gillies. Tinkers Park have contributed to the fund. BL was asked to let the PC know what other groups will be contributing in order that the PC have an idea of how much they will need to give in the future. The chair asked for the PC to see the business plan. It was questioned whether the PC could give a loan if it was known that funding would soon be available, *the Clerk will confirm.* **Clerk**

The Clerk asked whether the PC would be putting in the planning applications for the CC due to the reduced costs. BL will write to the Clerk regarding the legal development application which will be discussed at the next PC meeting [moved to December meeting].

The Chair highlighted that government funding has been cut by 15% which may affect the precept funding from WDC.

164. REVIEW OF 2013-14 PRECEPT SPENDING – the Clerk had sent documentation to Councillors prior to the meeting, this was discussed along with the current reserves figures.

165. PLANNING:

a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/2022/F – HARTS COTTAGE, STONEHURST LANE, FIVE ASHES TN20 6LL** – Replacement of existing outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation – The Parish Council support this application as they feel the proposals as set out support policy EN27 of the adopted Wealden Local Plan (5/0).
- ii. **WD/2013/1981/F – SHEPHERDS HILL HOUSE, SHEPHERDS HILL TN22 4PX** – Extension to existing garage to provide ancillary accommodation – The Parish Council support this application as we feel that the layout and design of the development is in line with policy EN27 of the adopted Wealden Local Plan. (5/0).
- iii. **WD/2013/1982/F – THE NEW HOUSE, SCHOOL LANE, TN22 4HY** – Proposed granny annexe – the Clerk had received correspondence from a resident which had been copied to all Councillors. – The Parish Council fully support this application as it meets policy EN27 with regard to the layout and design of the development and policy DC19 which relates to extensions of dwellings both of which are part of the Wealden Local Plan. (5/0)

b. APPROVED APPLICATIONS:

- i. **WD/2013/1470/F – GREYSWOOD FARM, HOWBOURNE LANE, BUXTED** – Proposed new summerhouse adjacent to annexe.

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

- i. AJW Grounds Maintenance Services £80.00 play area maintenance
- ii. Friends of St Mark's School £25.00 to replace cheque no. 101210 paid under the power given in Local Government Act 1972 s.137.
- iii. Wealden District Council £30.00 Wealden Parish Conference
- iv. Wellers Law Group LLP £303.60 legal advice paid under the power given in Local Government Act 1972 s.111.

167. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A RESPONSE:

- i. SSALC meeting with the Chief Constable – *the Clerk will write to SSALC requesting that they raise about the closure of Uckfield police station at their meeting with the Chief Constable.* **Clerk**
- ii. Freedom of Information request – the response was agreed to the Freedom of Information request that had been received. The insurance company have been informed of the request.

The Clerk had received an email regarding the testing of the electrical work at the Village Hall, an earth rod was required, expenditure agreed providing this resolves the problem, decision to be ratified at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm