



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday October 16th 2012.

*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), Nathan James (NJ), Clare Emsden (CE) and Damon Wellman (DW). Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells (HSW) and Cllr. Tony Reid (TR) (ESCC).

SR advised that she would like to discuss point 201 prior to point 200. Agreed by all.

197. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Fiona Shafer (FS) from the Playing Field Committee advised that due to the bad weather this year their funds are severely reduced. They would like to apply for funding of £1680 for 2013/14 for the grass and hedge cutting. Councillors have been sent a copy of the committee's application.

Janet Tourell (JT), Village Hall committee, confirmed that Councillors have received the committee's application for funding.

Rosemary Mays-Smith from Heathfield Partnership Trust confirmed that they were asking for £100 from the Parish Council (PC). She updated the PC on what stage they have reached with the swimming pool and that they would like the grant to help produce brochures, flyers etc for them to obtain further funding. They hope to start building in 2014 with a target open date of 2014/15.

198. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – received from Cllr. Michael Lunn, apologies were accepted.

199. DECLARATION OF INTEREST - CE and SR declared an interest in point 200 for the CAB.

201. REVIEW OF 2012-13 PRECEPT SPENDING – the Clerk went through the expenditure up to 16th Oct 2012 and the forecast for the remainder of the year. Due mainly to increased donations to other organisations, the cost of the bus shelter and the increased maintenance costs for the burial ground and the play area, the forecasted expenditure is higher than the precept. The forecast figure does not at this stage include anything for the Hut Lane drainage work, as quotes are still awaited.

Standing orders suspended

SR highlighted to TR the problem with the drainage in Hut Lane and that during the recent clearing of the gullies by ESCC Highways department, it was identified that the water from the Main Road was joining the drainage from Standen Mews. TR requested that he be copied in on any correspondence with Highways regarding the problem. *CE to contact Highways.* **CE**

Standing orders reinstated.

It was agreed that, should it be necessary, the Clerk would transfer money from the following reserves funds: £2,000 burial ground landscaping, £2,000 community plan and the remainder from road safety Improvements.

200. PRECEPT

Standing orders suspended.

No request for a grant had been received from the Community Centre Committee, JT advised that the chair feels that they are likely to be restricted for the next 18 months due to the 7km Ashdown Forest zone of influence. TR encouraged people to continue to press for a reduction in limitations.

Standing orders reinstated.

The Clerk went through the requests she had received for a grant from the CAB, Swimming Pool for Heathfield, Mediation Plus, the Village Hall Committee and the Playing Field Committee.

NJ confirmed that he had received a quote of £650 for a youth shelter at the Playing Field, the £200 in the youth club account could be used for this resulting in a cost of £450 to the precept.

It was highlighted that if the PC request an evening bus service that they may be asked to contribute to the financial cost. Feedback from the bus service article on the website is that a service that ran to Uckfield in the morning and returned early evening would be helpful for those employed in the town. Questions were asked about the Swimming Pool for Heathfield and it was agreed that the £100 be included in the precept figures that the Clerk will produce, with the understanding that it may be removed when these figures are reviewed in November. It was highlighted that there weren't any buses from Hadlow Down to Heathfield.

Donations were provisionally agreed for the CAB and Sussex Air Ambulance. It was decided not to donate to Mediation Plus.

Standing orders were suspended

A discussion was held on who would be invoiced for and manage the grass and hedge cutting contracts at the playing field. It was agreed for the Playing Field Committee to discuss at their meeting and for GT to come back to the PC with their recommendations.

Standing orders reinstated

The PC agreed to provisionally include £1680 for the Playing Field hedge and grass cutting, £2000 for the Village Hall and £450 for a youth shelter in the precept, final decision to be made when the Clerk presents the proposed precept to the PC in November. A discussion was held on some of the other expenditure, the Clerk will collate the figures and present to the PC in November. **Clerk**

It was expressed that if it is felt necessary the PC should increase the precept.

The Clerk will get an update on when a decision will be made on the Council Tax base. **Clerk**

- 202. BUS SHELTER** – the Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the solicitor and he has advised that the PC should put a public notice in the local paper regarding the permitted development, content and cost agreed. (5/0) At this stage the PC would not be able to register the land in their name.

Standing orders suspended

- 203. VILLAGE HALL SUPPORT SERVICE** – JT gave information on the Village Hall session she had attended that day. The VH committee would like the Parish Council to pay for the AirS support service. It was agreed by the PC that this should come out of the VH committee's budget.

Standing orders reinstated

- 204. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:

i. Wealden District Council £60.00 Wealden Parish Conference

iii. AJW Grounds Maintenance £75.00 Play Area maintenance

- 205. HEDGE CUTTING AT BURIAL GROUND** – the Clerk updated the PC on the quotes that had been received. It was agreed to go with the quote from AJW Grounds Maintenance Services. (5/0)

- 206. CHEQUE PAYMENTS AND PENSIONS**– the Clerk advised that in the future the PC may need to look at different methods of payment, she will keep them updated on developments. Also due to the changes in pension law in possibly 2014/15 the PC will need to set up a pension for the Clerk.

The Clerk advised that she will have an agenda item for the next meeting regarding storage of the youth club equipment and asked that Councillors consider this prior to the next meeting. **ALL**

The meeting closed at 8:08pm

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be
on 6th NOVEMBER 2012 at 7pm.**