



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

**Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday October 20th 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, Graham Terry, Michael Lunn and Lucy McConachie. Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

- 164. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – none received
- 165. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Cllr. Norman Buck.
- 166. DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – The following prejudicial interest was declared: PJ on point 169v.  
Cllr. Lisa Scott joined the meeting at 7:05.
- 167. REVIEW OF 2009/10 PRECEPT SPENDING** – Clerk provided details for Councillors of the spending so far this financial year and what the anticipated spending will be for the full financial year. She also gave a breakdown on variances:
- Clerk's Salary:** higher than anticipated due to 42 extra hours paid in overtime. Hours were increased to 64 per month whereas PC precepted for 60. Also petrol allowance and NI employers contribution wasn't included in precept calculation.
- Clerk's Training:** allowed for 10hrs per month training whereas this has needed to be slightly higher. Clerk has therefore allowed for 12hrs per month. There will also be a conference, networking meeting, CiLCA round table sessions etc. over the next few months.
- Administration:** paid for printer in July, also £52.05 for business redirect for 6 months, still planning to spend under Precept figure.
- PC insurance:** shopped around to get a cheaper quote, will probably have to pay an increased premium for play area and if the smiley face is used for Speedwatch.
- Subscriptions:** SLCC still to go through + AiRS subscription for 2009, also Data Protection Register and Sussex County Playing Fields Association, which weren't precepted for as these are new payments. 2008 AiRS subscription has also been paid in 2009.
- Donations:** £918.39 for blinds for Village Hall and £150 to CAB, any further grants for 09/10 period will probably need to come from reserves.
- Maintenance of Burial Ground:** 2 payments paid so far to Barcombe Landscapes. Agreed quote was for £910.
- Maintenance of Playing Field:** no bill received yet for grass cutting. Approx. £380 for ditch work near the cycle track.
- Parish Projects Plan:** quote has been received for £1000 for the printing of the Village Strategy Plan, aim to do this a lot cheaper.
- Finger Post Maintenance:** includes £350 from 08/09 and £200 from 09/10 of which £175 is due to be spent on replacement post.
- Chairmen's expenses:** networking barbeque and Parish Assembly
- Councillor's Expenses:** to include 5 train travels to London for visit to Houses of Parliament.
- Election Expenses:** £305 from 07/08, £500 from 08/09 and £500 from 09/10.
- 168. PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2010/11** – Clerk provided Councillors with details of those groups who have requested funding from the PC and who has received it in the last 3 years. Chair felt that the PC should be looking at the needs of the current Village Hall and of the future Village Hall, they should also look at where savings can be made each year. Suggested that PC look at how much it would cost villagers to have a new Village Hall. PC wants to see improvements for the village which all costs money rather than them just doing the necessary work. It was considered showing villagers the hours they put into PC business, there is so much more work involved for them than even a few years ago. Discussion followed on who the PC felt they would like to give money to. LS advised that with the youth work she would like to take them out every 2 weeks, charging a minimum fee, PC would therefore need to help out with costs. With the old Village Hall (LS declared a prejudicial interest), it was confirmed that some of the work could be paid for from the income that the Village Hall receives. The new Village Hall won't be open for about 3-5 years therefore money needs to be put into the old Village Hall. Chair advised that he would be happy for the PC to pay 50% of the bill for the cavity wall insulation and the electricity meters (£623) in this financial year and then £1000 (approx. 50%) in 2010-11 to help towards the cost of a ramp and other safety items around the building and also the ceiling. Emergency Plan was set up to help in an emergency, some parts recently used during power cut, *Clerk to add to agenda for meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to consider extending the brief for the Emergency Plan.* **Clerk**
- It was anticipated that the Playing Field Committee could cover any extra costs at the Playing Field, although PC would pay for insurance on new play equipment.
- BT phone box – nothing included as no decision yet as to whether PC will adopt it. If it is adopted PC would negotiate with BT regarding disconnecting the electricity.
- St Mark's School House Trust have agreed to an increased lease of 60 years on the land the PC rents, however

solicitor's fees need to be paid to get the lease drawn up. Lease needs to be for 60 years to ensure access to the new Village Hall. Did try to buy the land however the Church of England aren't prepared to sell it. A large number of surveys need to be done for the new Village Hall, it will take about 18 months to get an agreed set of plans. It was suggested that the New Village Hall Committee do fundraising it was however felt that at this stage it would slow things down and that the new Village Hall cannot move forward till the lease and plans have been done, grants cannot be obtained until this stage has been reached. PC are committed to the project and fundraising cannot happen till the plans are received. GT confirmed that in 12 months time he would like to have a set of plans however they probably won't have gone through planning by then. It was proposed that the PC should allow £10,000 for the initial work. Some grants may later pay back some of the initial fees. Also proposed that £1000 should be taken out of reserves now to allow for the solicitors fees for the lease.

*Clerk to check whether SALC or WDC can provide help on setting up a website.* SALC have confirmed that for Quality Council status the PC need their own dedicated website. This may need to be paid for from reserves. **Clerk**

*Clerk to check figures for sustainable lighting as not included in 2009-10 anticipated expenditure.* **Clerk**

PC agreed not to provide funding to Home Start, the Tree Council of Great Britain & Sussex Crimestoppers, *Clerk to update precept figures with funding that PC would like to provide and circulate to all Councillors.* **Clerk**

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

- i. Madasafish – final payment for £27.22
- ii. SLCC Enterprises Ltd – Conference £56.35
- iii. Action in rural Sussex – £120.50, this included £80.50 for conference and £40 for membership, as the £40 hadn't appeared on the agenda it will be ratified at meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.
- iv. Wealden District Council – Dog bin emptying £65.03 and litter bin emptying £130.07 giving a total cheque for £195.10
- v. Paul James – Pipes for work at playing field £179.42. Councillors were pleased with the work that had been done at the ditch. Bill relates to pipes that were purchased for the work by PJ, he did not undertake the actual work.

**170. APPROVAL OF FIRST PLANS FOR PLAY AREA** – GT provided Councillors with a copy of a letter from Peter Gillies regarding the first 2 stages of the new play area. The Playing Field Committee want to start work as soon as approval is received on the basketball area and the swing. *Clerk to contact Cllr TR as funding still not received* **Clerk**

GT confirmed that the position of the new Village Hall wouldn't interfere with the play equipment, it may only be the swing that would need to be moved which would be easy enough to do.

LS left 9pm

Work can start once the money comes through.

**171. PLANNING MATTERS**

**APPLICATION: WD/2009/1456/FA - FIVE BADGERS, STONEHURST LANE, FIVE ASHES TN20 6LL** – Vary conditions 1 and 2 of WD/2006/1215/FR granted on appeal on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007 to renew consent for the stationing of two caravans on the land in use for the keeping of horses. – The Parish Council acknowledges the history and circumstances relating to this application and would support a further extension of 2 years to enable the applicant to seek alternative arrangements. This condition would only be linked to the named applicant – Mr Moore

**GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:**

**WD/2009/1047/F – TREETOPS, WILDERNESS LANE** – Proposed new build detached car port/log store building.

**WD/2009/0547/LB & WD/2009/0546/F - HUGGETTS FURNACE FARMHOUSE, HASTINGFORD**

**LANE** – Alterations to existing building including single-storey porch extension.

**REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION:**

**WD/2009/1675/F – BUNGALOW ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF SOUTH VIEW, WILDERNESS LANE** – Conversion of loft and change of use of land

**Meeting closed 9:20pm**

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 at 7pm.**

**Signed..... Date.....**