



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 21st 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), Damon Wellman (DW), Clare Emsden (CE), Nathan James (NJ) and the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

DW gave his apologies for the last meeting.

SR advised that item 202 would be discussed after item 200.

198. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - a member of the public raised about the gullies getting blocked in Wilderness Lane. The Chair advised that she had spoken to the Chief Executive of ESCC and the Head of Highways and the gullies were due to be cleared in Wilderness Lane and Waghorns Lane. A Councillor highlighted that there were also problems with the gullies in Tinkers Lane, he also commented on the Hastingford Lane repairs. A member of the public highlighted the lack of footpath signage near Waste Wood, the Clerk has already reported this to the Rights of Way team.

199. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – received from Cllr. Graham Terry, these were accepted.

200. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – SR and CE declared a personal interest in item 202 regarding the CAB.

202. PRECEPT for 2015-16– the Chair opened this item for members of the public to comment. Rachel Lewis on behalf of the TN22 clubs asked for a grant of £400 in order that they can purchase equipment and materials that the clubs can then share. 24 members and volunteers are from the village. The Chair commented on how beneficial the group was for the village.

Fiona Shafer, Chair of the Playing Field Committee, asked for the Parish Council (PC) to pay for the grass cutting at the playing field next year. The committee strived to obtain 3 quotes and confirmed their preference. She advised that they hope that the drainage work will be done in May 2015 and that the maintenance of this would probably not start till the following May. The HDCC are not in a position to submit an application for a grant for the maintenance drainage at present. The Chair thanked the Playing Field Committee for all their work.

Janet Tourell, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, confirmed that the work is currently being undertaken on the toilets. They are hoping to get a grant for the sanding and sealing of the floor. With the PC's grant for the current year they are hoping to do work on the ceiling. There is concern over the electrics and they would like to apply for a grant of £1000 to cover emergency work or possibly for new heaters. The Chair congratulated them on their current figures.

Marion Lucken from Homestart confirmed that they are a family support charity and in the last few years have supported 4 families and had 2 volunteers from Hadlow Down. They would like to apply for £559 to train a volunteer. She confirmed the contribution they received from local town councils.

The Clerk suggested that due to the changes in the law that the PC purchase a small camera to film the meetings, the PC felt that this wasn't necessary. The PC also discussed donations for the CAB, Sussex Air Ambulance and for the Parish Magazine. The Clerk will draft a precept taking into account the items already discussed and will present it at the next meeting.

203. REVIEW OF 2014-15 PRECEPT SPENDING – the quarterly figures and commentary had been passed to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors queried the play equipment figure on the Assets Register, the Clerk confirmed that this was based on the purchase price, *she will investigate further and report back at the December meeting.*

Clerk

The Clerk confirmed that due to the number of staff being cut at HMRC there was a delay in receiving the VAT refund.

A Councillor raised about the low insurance figure, the Clerk confirmed that she had shopped around and had got it at a cheaper price than the forecasted figure. A discussion was held on how the Highways contingency should be spent, concern was expressed that we were paying for ESCC Highways work, however due to the cuts Highways aren't undertaking all the work they previously did. It was suggested that the money be used to clear ditches or that signs be maintained and cleaned. The Clerk will obtain quotes for clearing the ditches from the top of the 2 Wilderness Lanes to the Riverside turning and to take away the debris, she will also ensure that the contractors have public liability insurance for this work.

Clerk

The Chair confirmed that there could be further expenditure for the Community Plan project. Expenditure for 2014/15 to be discussed further at the next meeting. The PC agreed for where the expenditure is due to go over the budget. The Chair signed the quarterly report.

201. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

i. **WD/2014/2063/F – RIVERSIDE HOUSE, RIVERSIDE TN22 4EY** – Entrance gates – The Parish Council support the application. (3/1)

204. FINGERPOST WORK – as 2 of the quotes had only recently been received the Clerk had only had time to look at the quotes for the more urgent work. She has contacted ESCC to clarify which fingerposts they have listed for Hadlow Down. The PC agreed the work for the first 4 fingerposts and will consider the quotes for the remaining priority fingerposts at the next meeting. It was agreed that the cost for the work in 2015/16 will come out of the fingerpost and Highways contingency budget headings.

205. CHEQUE SIGNATORY – c/f as only 1 signatory at the meeting.

206. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: c/f as only 1 signatory at the meeting.

207. ENTRANCE TO THE PLAYING FIELD – discussed in closed session.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm