



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HADLOW DOWN PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday September 1st 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, Colin James and Ken Ogden. Also in attendance was the Clerk Helen Simpson-Wells.

- 109. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Concern expressed over the lack of consultation regarding the ‘Main Road’ street naming and what could be done to combat the application. Chair updated everyone on the process so far and confirmed that it had appeared in previous Parish Council (PC) minutes. The consultation would have been led by Wealden District Council (WDC). The Chair confirmed that the PC are unable to make decisions regarding this or any other matter until they have had a meeting. It was suggested by a member of the public that a straw poll be held now so that when WDC come back to the PC regarding the response to the application, there will already have been a decision made on the name. PC to await response from WDC. PC were asked to find an alternative to the bollards that would however have the same effect in stopping vehicles parking on the forecourt of the New Inn. Chair confirmed that consultation regarding the bollards went back a long time, will be considered at point 120.
- Following on from a question from the public, the Chair confirmed that PC have not been in liaison with Tinkers Park over their plans and that any comments relating to the application can be raised prior to the council discussing the plans at point 115.
- 110. PCSO KATIE BREEDS** – Report received in Katie’s absence, following incidents have occurred:
- An assault took place at a property in School Lane on 20th August 09, two suspects arrested, enquiries ongoing.
 - Bollards situated outside the New Inn were removed by unknown persons. Local enquiries to be conducted.
 - On 29th August 09, report received from a non Hadlow Down resident that he had had his iPod stolen during a house party in Hadlow Down. It was also reported that he was then assaulted. Two arrests have been made and enquiries ongoing.
- 111. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Cllrs. Tony Reid, Norman Buck, Graham Terry and Lucy McConachie.
- 112. DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – The following prejudicial interest was declared: CJ on the Village Hall.
- 113. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 09 and of the Extraordinary meeting on 18th August 09 were agreed and signed as true copies. Addendum to the minutes of 7th July 09 also signed and added to minute book.
- 114. MATTERS ARISING (from prev. mtg):**
- i. Consultation on greater flexibility for planning permissions – didn’t really affect Hadlow Down as we are in an AONB
 - ii. Copy of Playing Field Assessment has been passed to Clerk
 - iii. Leader funding in Wealden and rural Rother – ML reported that this was money from Europe and was appropriate for the new Village Hall, it can’t be tapped into until the new Village Hall Committee have met, architect’s drawings have been done etc. ML has also discussed this with GT.
 - iv. Clerk’s report:
 - a. Little Tinkers at Scocus Farm – Highways chasing engineer to contact Clerk
 - b. Broadband – *looking at changing to O2 as cheaper.* **Clerk**
 - c. SE Water – awaiting response regarding tests on the water, *Clerk to chase.* **Clerk**
 - d. Youth – has been suggested that we hold a meeting with other Clerks and Councillors to discuss what does and doesn’t work with the youth. *Contact number for Heathfield Youth Club Manager passed to LS.* **LS**
 - e. New Seat – awaiting licence from ESCC
 - f. Copy of new LDF (Local Development Framework) sent to WDC, planning copied in, PC advised that priorities followed on from the Community Planning Sessions. Planning very impressed with our LDF and advised that we should use this in responses to planning applications.
 - g. Letter sent to Head of Planning advising that we will keep his letter on file for any useful responses that can be made to future planning applications.
 - h. Have requested that Village Maintenance Team clear foliage surrounding Hadlow Down sign. Also awaiting quotes to mend fingerpost, *Clerk to chase.* **Clerk.**
 - i. Swine flu training cancelled as insufficient response.
 - j. Response sent to Highways quarterly survey
- 115. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
- WD/2009/1686/MAJ TINKERS PARK TN22 4HS – Proposed renovation and improvement to existing buildings plus additional landscaping and additional ancillary buildings to form a steam heritage site - The Parish Council received two letters of objection which were read by all councillors prior to the start of the meeting. It was stated by the Chair that he asked all Councillors to view the application prior to the meeting to ensure that they were all fully informed and were aware not to come to the meeting with any preconceived views. The Chair informed the public that they were allowed two minutes each to raise comments on the application, in line with WDC guidelines.

One person was concerned about 10 extra events during the summer, he felt this would therefore cover most weekends. He also raised that the proposed buildings weren't suitable for an AONB.

Another member of the public felt that neighbours were adversely affected by the activities on the site. He has liaised with the Environmental Health Officer each time the steam rally is held. The buildings breach planning policy EN27. Also the application breaches policy GD2 and the adopted plan 19.15.7. There will be extra noise and traffic in the area.

Peter Haining (Tinkers Park rep.) – the buildings are no longer suitable, they want to tidy up the site and need to look at the best way of storing equipment. The application is primarily to enable safe storage. The 10 extra events would not be all steam rallies, more likely open days, there wouldn't be any evening activities. They are aware that the steam rally causes disruption to people nearby.

One person raised that he felt that Tinkers Park enhances the village and events only occasionally happen there. It provides education for the children and entrance is at a reasonable price. He supports the application.

Chair asked Peter if they were planning to increase from the 28 days they are presently allowed as permitted events. Peter assured the PC that they weren't planning on going above this number. They also provide education in the form of a steam apprentice day and are looking at the possibility of school children visiting. As a charity they have to allow access to others. The new buildings will enable them to show their collection safely.

Councillors gave their opinions regarding the application:

- At the Community Planning sessions Tinkers Park was highlighted as a major asset for the village
- Access a problem due to safety issues
- Concern about the outlook for others
- Increase in noise
- Attendance up from 2008 (although this was the first time there had been dry ground for a few years)

If there was the demand Tinkers Park would consider running a bus from Buxted station

The Parish Council asked that Tinkers Park speak to villagers to help solve access problems for those walking.

It was stated that the new buildings would be a vast improvement on what is already at the site.

The Parish Council's response to WDC Planning Department was:

The Parish Council are in unanimous support of this application. Our recent community planning process identified Tinkers Park as a major asset to the village and should be supported.

We would however like to raise the following issues:

1. For safety reasons pedestrian access to the site from the village needs to be considered, i.e. perhaps a footpath and/or better signage, warning of pedestrians.
2. We would like to see some type of both time and noise control (possibly decibel monitored). Any events taking place would need to be finished by midnight, including use of music, fireworks and generators.
3. The use of the buildings should be limited to the usage of the Trust.
4. With regard to possible future usage of the buildings we would suggest a condition that should the Trust close/cease trading, the buildings should be removed.
5. A blanket Tree Preservation Order should be placed on the site to ensure future screening is maintained.
6. The applicant needs to address waste management from the site.

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION:

None received

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION:

None received

- 116. REPORTS FROM CLLR. TONY REID, ESCC & CLLRs. KEN OGDEN and NORMAN BUCK WDC** – Ken advised that it is delightful to see so many residents. WDC did have consultation with Tinkers Park regarding their application. Anyone putting in an application can contact WDC beforehand to discuss it. Main Road - long process to change a road name. Chair informed the meeting that WDC have confirmed that in future any major application will involve the Parish Council at an early stage.
KO to raise with WDC that close neighbours didn't receive notification of the Tinkers Park application. **KO**
- 117. MAIN ROAD NAME CHANGE** – Mainly discussed at point 109. ML concerned that PC received no indication that name of road could be changed. *Clerk to send letter to WDC expressing concern that the PC wasn't aware that road names could be changed.* **Clerk**
- 118. BANK RECONCILIATION:** – Not received in time for meeting.
- 119. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The following were agreed for payment:
- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £738.75 includes £18.40 for mileage, £197.49 training hours and £52.05 expenses. £460 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £278.75.
 - ii Madasafish £17.10 – already paid by direct debit
 - iii. Barcombe Landscapes £327.75
 - iv. Uckfield Town Council £195.50 Inspecting Children's Playgrounds Training
 - v. Viking Direct £71.99 – stationery
 - vi. Mazars £155.25 – external audit
 - vii. SALC £11.50 – Power of Wellbeing training
 - viii. John Roberts £100 – Internal Auditor
- 120. BOLLARDS OUTSIDE NEW INN** – Criminal damage was caused to 19 of the bollards on the night of 23rd August 2009,

has been reported to the police, crime reference no. EW-082737-09. Highways will be levelling the plastic on the damaged ones to the ground, filling in holes and smoothing over to ensure they aren't a danger to anyone. Will also discuss at meeting with police. It cost £4000 of public money for the bollards, only 7 now left.

People didn't like the aesthetics of the bollards but they did ensure that it was safe for people to pull out of Hut Lane. The pub car park has now been cleared so cars can park there. As soon as the bollards were removed people parked on the pavement. It is possible that the parking on the pavement could be self policed by the pub, the Parish Council would like to see the publican ensure that people don't park on the pavement.

A member of the public asked what would happen if the pub was more popular and there therefore wasn't enough parking spaces.

The main problem with what to put on the pavement to control parking is the aesthetics of the item.

The Parish Council would welcome improved dialogue between the pub, customers, ESCC and themselves. *Clerk to write to landlord offering dialogue with the Parish Council to discuss what action the pub can take and if they can police the parking.* Dialogue to be held either at a Parish Council meeting or through an individual Councillor. The Parish Council do have the power to employ someone to monitor the parking. It was noted that there is a problem exiting the lane when a car is parked at the top. It was suggested that a notice be placed in the pub requesting that people do not park on the pavement as it restricts the view. *Clerk to also write to ESCC to advise that we are monitoring the situation and hope to be in dialogue with the publican.*

Clerk

121. RISK ASSESSMENT – See point 128 re. Village Hall risk assessment.

122. DRAINAGE IN HUT LANE – Drain entrance not good. Not feasible for the Parish Council to repair the road when the Village Hall will be moved at some point and properties in the road could pay for it. Area needs regular sweeping and cleaning.

123. FINANCE REGULATIONS – Proposed and seconded to adopt new financial regulations. Agreed by all.

124. SLR MEETING – Following items to be added to the agenda: Double yellow lines in School Lane; Bollards at New Inn; Sustainable lights in School Lane (Director of Environmental Services in agreement); A272, surface of the road including noise from trailers and lorries bouncing in the potholes; junction of Tinkers Lane, the island is a 1/6th of the size it was 10 years ago, tarmac is put in however it just breaks off; entrance to Waste Wood. *Clerk to forward agenda items to Highways.*

Clerk

125. LDF AND CORE STRATEGY - *Clerk to send all Councillors a copy of our priorities for the LDF(see Appendix 1) . Letter sent to WDC requesting a meeting regarding the Core Strategy and LDF.*

Clerk

126. PLAYING FIELD – New risk assessment needs to be undertaken on playing fields. *Clerk to write to Peter Gillies requesting a new risk assessment be undertaken, also to ask for an update on the grant process and that PC be kept fully informed.*

Clerk

Letter has been received from Allianz Insurance regarding the playground, *Clerk to write to WDC to see if they are able to inspect the play equipment annually and if so what charge they will make for doing this.*

Clerk

Chair advised that GT due to set up a new committee for the New Village Hall, this will be under the authority of the Parish Council. The Committee will need a terms of reference and it is recommended that two Parish Councillors sit on it.

127. CLERK'S MATTERS:

i. Hours checked agreed and signed. Clerk has completed the WWYC course, vote of thanks and congratulations given.

ii. Youth session for clerks and responsible Councillors + PCSOs – *LS to look at whether it is worth us hosting a meeting, and will also contact youth manager at Heathfield Youth Centre to get her ideas.*

LS

iii. SALC meeting with Chief Constable – PC asked that speeding through the village be raised at this meeting.

iv. Visit to Houses of Parliament – original dates fully booked will now probably be in January or February.

v. Standards Committee – Information received regarding WDC's Standards Committee.

vi. Temporary Road Closure – A272 Uckfield to Hadlow Down, work will be carried out between 23:00 hrs and 05:00 hrs at some point between 14th and 25th September 2009.

vii. Operation Crackdown – Figures received for the Hadlow Down area for the January – July 09 period, 3 careless/inconsiderate driving, 1 driving whilst using a mobile phone, 5 speeding, these figures relate to prior to information about operation crackdown going on the website and in the newsletter, should therefore see an increase when the next report is produced. To report anti social driving please contact www.operationcrackdown.org

viii. Emergency Plan – *Any old emergency plan records should be passed to clerk for shredding.*

ALL

ix. Burials – c/f

128. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):

i. Village Hall Management Committee, Wealden Association of Local Councils and Safer Wealden Partnership – Cllr. Colin James – June 09 risk assessment for Village Hall passed to PC. Chair advised that this will need to show the name of the person who carried out the risk assessment and be signed by them, *CJ to provide.*

CJ

There is concern for the toddlers group as some of the wood is separating in the hall, it was suggested that it be lightly sanded back and maintained. Second quote received for cavity wall insulation. Two quotes been received in total, one for £653.85 and another for £1073. *Village Hall to provide recommendations to Parish Council.*

CJ

ii. Rights of Way, Highways and Footpaths – Cllr. David Walker - with regard to Affordable Housing and the original HOPE project, WDC contacted the diocese who are not interested in selling the land as planning to do something with St Mark's

School. This was however a historical decision with the previous vicar, the situation may have now changed. This is an ongoing process for WDC, it was suggested that they make a new approach to the diocese.

iii. Community Strategies, Sustainable Development and Environment Matters – Cllr. Michael Lunn – In dialogue with ESCC regarding sustainable lights going down School Lane, full approach been made to the council, once it has been approved grants can be applied for from ESCC. A few more lights are due to go in on the path at the church. Other councils have also shown an interest in using these lights.

Template for parish planning document will go out for consultation.

iv. Burial Ground – Cllr. Paul James – nothing to report.

129. TRAINING & CONFERENCES:

i. Sussex Rural Community Council AGM and Conference and SALC AGM – *Clerk to advise PJ of date, to also book DW onto WDC Parish Conference and confirm dates to him* **Clerk**

130. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NEEDING A RESPONSE.

- i. Community Safety Partnership Grant – passed to ML **ML**
- ii. Standards Committee Questionnaires – passed to Clerk and PJ prior to meeting **Clerk/PJ**
- iii. Rural Young People Empowerment Project – passed to LS **LS**
- iv. Community Scrutiny Review of Road Safety – action not required

131. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

- i. SALC Summer Briefing and Update Bulletin
- ii. NALC Legal Topic Note
- iii. Rural Services Network
- iv. Rural Services Community
- v. The Summer Volunteer
- vi. Duty to promote democracy – equality impact assessment
- vii. For your benefit newsletter
- viii. Compost Doctors newsletter

132. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA

- i. More Powers for Parish and Town Councils – everyone copied in
- ii. BT adoption of local red telephone kiosk – *Clerk to put item in Parish Magazine requesting ideas for what the telephone box could be used for and whether villagers want to keep it.* To be discussed at October meeting.

Clerk

Meeting closed at 9:27pm

THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL be an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 15th September 2009 at 7pm.

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

APPENDIX 1

Hadlow Down Parish Council's template to help Wealden District Council draw priorities from Parish Plans into a format that can provide evidence for the Wealden Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

Theme : Environment / Green space	
Three key priorities for PARISH :	
1.	To develop a circular bridleway / footpath to take in the key features of the village – physical buildings and countryside and to incorporate into a Parish 'green' map.
2.	To survey and map key environmentally important features, flora and fauna
3.	To protect village atmosphere from excessive and un-appropriate development

Theme : Housing	
Three key priorities for PARISH:	
1.	To provide affordable housing with perpetual rent as a key condition. Incorporate any affordable homes into village sympathetically.
2.	To maintain historic growth rates for housing provision in Hadlow Down i.e 1 or 2 houses per year. Do not bolt on 10 or 20 homes in one year.
3.	To have open and positive dialogue with Wealden District Council to identify suitable locations for housing development.

Theme : Transport and Access	
Three key priorities for PARISH:	
1.	To ensure speed monitoring through the village and push for a 20mph outside school during school times.
2.	To maintain and enhance access to local footpath and bridleway network.
3.	To seek mechanisms to improve inter-village transport links.

Theme : Prosperity / Employment / Economy	
Three key priorities for PARISH:	
1.	To protect the village pub (The New Inn) as a going concern and its environs as a community asset.
2.	To support local businesses connected to the area who create added value to the rural economy, such as Wilderness Wood, and Tinkers Park as tourism assets.
3.	To support the feasibility of the establishment of a village shop.

Theme : Health and Social Care**Three key priorities for PARISH:**

1.	Encourage and develop new 'active' village sports clubs for health and recreation in new village hall.
2.	Improve communications between Emergency planning committee and external agencies with reference to vulnerable and elderly persons, especially in emergencies.
3.	Extend mobile visiting health services at the new village hall.

Theme : Learning / Education / Training**Three key priorities for PARISH:**

1.	To support local village community groups.
2.	To support St Marks church, St Marks School, Wilderness Wood, Tinkers Park as community assets.
3.	To extend accessibility of St Marks School for adult education, and community education.

Theme : Community Safety**Three key priorities for PARISH:**

1.	To improve community dialogue with external parties – police, district and county councils, association of local councils, health officials.
2.	To improve lines of communication with external agencies and the emergency planning team, and run emergency exercise
3.	To support Village magazine and Village website to improve local communications.

Theme : Culture / Sport / Leisure / Play**Three key priorities for PARISH:**

1.	To design and develop a new Village Hall which incorporates the ability for multiple uses, eg meeting rooms, indoor sports facilities, kitchen, changing rooms, male / female toilets, Parish Council office, storage area, suitable car park area
2.	To establish a local community Forum / network that brings together all the community groups together to share ideas, problems, solutions (twice a year)
3.	To re-establish a youth service or create a dedicated youth facility for local young people.