



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council  
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down  
at 7pm on Tuesday September 3rd 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), Nathan James (NJ) and Roy Galley (RG)(ESCC).

Apologies were received from Cllr. Ken Ogden (KO)(WDC)

**114. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – none received

**115. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies received from Cllrs Damon Wellman (DW) and Clare Emsden (CE).

**116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – no declarations of interest made.

**117. CRIME REPORT AND OPERATION CREOSOTE** – In his absence PCSO David Davies (DD) had advised that there was nothing new to report for Hadlow Down, there had been shed break-ins but these have reduced in the Uckfield area. It was highlighted that the theft of the gates at the Playing Field was not in the report, *Clerk to raise with DD*. The sign from the gates was found in Argos Hill and will be handed into the police to be checked for fingerprints. Operation Creosote is booked for 21<sup>st</sup> September at 10am at the Playing Field where the police will be able to mark items for free that are stored in outbuildings. **Clerk**

**118. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

**119. MATTERS ARISING (from previous meetings):**

i. Hedge overhanging bin – c/f. **DW**

ii. Speed measurements since the introduction of the new roundels in School Lane – c/f. **CE**

iii. GT has undertaken the hedgecutting at the burial ground, he was thanked for his work on this.

iv. NJ advised of the cost for the signs for meetings, agreed by all, design being prepared and NJ to make the frame. SR agreed to put the sign up for each meeting.

v. Letter in response to proposal to relocate police stations – c/f. **GT**

vi. SR has advised the Parish Magazine editor of the correct details for the PCSO and the ESCC Councillor. The editor has asked that she be kept informed of any changes.

vii. Risk assessments have been drawn up for the bus shelter and the items previously highlighted at the burial ground and the play area have now been actioned.

viii. Adders article – c/f, it was suggested that if the article hasn't yet been done to produce it in the Spring. **DW**

ix. Deer management meeting – NJ advised that he had emailed Chris Yarrow for an update from the meeting and will inform the Parish Council (PC) when he has had a response. **NJ**

x. Clerks Report was sent to Councillors with the agenda updating them on her action points, this included:

a. Highways feel that having a pedestrian warning sign on the A272 near Old Boot Cottage would be ineffective as the area is infrequently walked by pedestrians.

b. Youth club funds have been paid into the PC reserves to be used for the public shelter at the playing field.

- c. Following consultation with the legal adviser, the Clerk will not be writing to the resident who planted the hedges in Hut Lane.
- d. The pothole by the village sign heading east into the village has been reported to South East Water who have 28 days to rectify the problem.
- e. Highways have put all the items they highlighted from their survey on a 10 week ticket, anything requiring traffic management will be done in the same week. They will also clean all signs.

**120a. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **WD/2013/1470/F - GREYSWOOD FARM, HOWBOURNE LANE, BUXTED TN22 4QD** – Proposed new summerhouse adjacent to annexe – The Parish Council fully support this application (3/0)
- ii. **WD/2013/1582/F – DUDES LAND FARM, HEATHFIELD ROAD TN21 0UJ** – Change of use of land to equestrian to comprise formation of 60 x 25 metre outdoor horse exercise area in surrounding post and rail fence for private use – The Parish Council fully support this application. (3/0)

**b. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **WD/2013/1360/LB – HARTS COTTAGE, STONEHURST LANE** – Replacement of existing outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation.

**c. OTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- i. **WD/2013/1341/LDE – GATEHOUSE FARM, STOCKLANDS LANE** – Use of building for C3.A use – not issued.

**121. REPORT FROM CLLR. ROY GALLEY ESCC** - RG advised that he has mainly been dealing with the waste problems at WDC, 80% of collections have been correct however there have been difficulties with the remainder. The waste company are now being charged penalties. A meeting is being held between Kiers and WDC on 4<sup>th</sup> September. RG highlighted the monthly report he produces and questioned whether this could appear in the Parish Magazine, *Clerk to contact the editor.* **Clerk**

**122. BANK RECONCILIATION:** –for August 2013 agreed and signed.

**123. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS –**

- i. The payments of £99.60 for Playsafety Ltd and £80 for AJW Grounds Maintenance Services for play area maintenance that were signed at the July meeting were ratified at this meeting.
- ii. The PC agreed the quote for the removal of the tree at the burial ground.
- iii. The Clerk informed the PC of the problems she has recently had with the router, it was agreed to upgrade the broadband package which will include a new router.
- iv. GT had obtained a quote for a new plaque for the oak tree at the burial ground, he will investigate other options. **GT**

**124. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – the PC were advised that the Permitted Development Rights application is nearly finished and that a meeting is due to be held with Doug Moss from WDC. It is planned to have a public meeting just before Christmas and produce a newsletter in order to keep villagers updated on progress. The Clerk had raised a couple of items from the last committee minutes regarding the payment of rent and the future use of the current village hall. *Clerk to contact a trustee regarding the possible rent if there is a building on the Trust's land and to confirm the situation regarding future use of the Village Hall and the land it stands on.* **Clerk**  
It was thought that the boundary between the play area and the playing field was the ditch or hedge. A Councillor also suggested that it could be in line with the fence.

**125. COMMUNITY PLAN** – Councillors had held a meeting to discuss the priorities from the Community Plan, it was agreed that these would be: community centre; a circular footpath/bridlepath to include mapping of key environmental features and tourist points; a barbeque to thank volunteers and also one for stakeholders and neighbouring parishes; a meeting on alternate years with the main businesses in the village including the church, school etc. to help identify priorities. RG was invited to comment on funding, he confirmed that WDC had not heard anything further from central government regarding restrictions on precept increases or what funding would be received, although he felt that parishes would still get the grant element that they received last year from WDC.

SR thanked all Councillors for their contribution to the meeting.

- 126. PUBLIC SHELTER** – NJ showed Councillors the design for the public shelter, the Clerk will send to the Trustees of St Mark's School House Trust requesting their agreement for the shelter, she will then write to Planning department for confirmation that it is permitted development. **Clerk**
- 127. SLR MEETING** – items for the agenda were discussed, Clerk to send to ESCC. It was also raised that the drain cover is missing at the Stocklands Lane junction with Five Chimneys Lane, Clerk to report to Highways and ask when the resurfacing is due to be done in Hastingford Lane. **Clerk**
- 128. WASTE COLLECTIONS** – this was covered at point 121. Councillors advised that complaints were still being made about the collections, it was hoped that the situation would soon improve.
- 129. VILLAGE HALL** - following the Clerk's poster on the noticeboards, 2 people have agreed to take on the roles of treasurer and booking clerk for the village hall. The committee have been awarded a grant of £10,000 for new chairs and toilets.
- 130. PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT** – a response has not yet been done to the report however the work that it was considered was needed to be done, has been completed.
- 131. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**  
 Cllr. Nathan James advised that he was taking over as the PC representative on the Playing Field Committee. The Chair thanked GT for all his efforts whilst he was the representative. Clerk to update the website and arrange for the details in the Parish Magazine to be amended. **Clerk**  
 NJ to contact Ian Turner regarding the Emergency Plan. **NJ**  
 Cllr. Graham Terry confirmed that the new gates had been installed at the playing field and that they had been engraved to try and avoid further theft. The bore hole from the Geotech survey has collapsed, the company who undertook the work are investigating.
- 132. CLERK'S MATTERS:**
- i. Hours agreed and signed
  - ii. DW and SR to undertake the Clerks annual review, SR to organise date. **SR**
  - iii. The Clerk advised that she had tried to contact the witness to the damage to the kerbing in Standen Mews but had no response. As there is insufficient evidence the insurance company won't pay out.
  - iv. The Clerk has been contacted by the treasurer of the Parish Magazine, they have tried to recruit a volunteer advertising manager and have advised that unless someone comes forward before next March, they will have to cease publication at that time. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the treasurer over what work is required and will place an advert in the noticeboards.
  - v. Councillors insurance liability – the Clerk updated the PC on the information she had received from the insurance company.
- 133. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** - the following payments were agreed and cheques were signed:
- i. Helen Simpson-Wells. Salary £730.05 includes £18.00 mileage and £3.75 expenses, £620 already paid by standing order, therefore cheque raised for £110.05.
  - ii. Getmapping Plc £12.00 online mapping service – paid under the power given in Local Government Act 1972 s.111
  - iii. BT £133.05 phone and internet usage, paid by direct debit.
  - iv. Graham Long £93.60 mole catching – paid under the power given in Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10.
  - v. Compact Cutting £336.00, £240.00 for playing field grasscutting, £96.00 for burial ground maintenance.
- One further cheque of £15.00 to St Mark's School House Trust for the rent of the play area was also signed and will be ratified at the next meeting. This was paid under the power given in Local Government Act 1972 s.142(2a).
- 134. TRAINING:**
- i. WDC CONFERENCE – it was agreed for SR to attend the conference.
  - ii. ESCC CONFERENCE – it was agreed that the Clerk would write to CE and DW to see if one of them could attend the conference. **Clerk**

**135. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA**

- i. Newsletter topics

The meeting closed at 8:07pm