



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council**  
**held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down**  
**at 7pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Present:** Councillors: Sandra Richards (SR) Chair, Sally Blyfield (SB), Ben Floyd (BF), Rachel Lewis (RL), Michael Lunn (ML), Peter Weston (PW), Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY)

**In attendance:** Samantha Weatherill (Clerk) and one member of the public.

**275. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the public pointed out that the police had had to be called to ask them to park over the top of a pothole in the middle of the village o/a a car that had been wrecked by it. They also raised serious concerns about the risk being caused by debris that is still present at the playfield field as a result of the bonfire and asked whether the bonfire risk assessment should include the clean up after the bonfire. **This item would be discussed further under Item 288 of the agenda.**

*ML joined the meeting.*

**276. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – Received from: District Cllr Dixon.

**277. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - JMY declared a personal interest in item 280 i b.

**278. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 14<sup>th</sup> January were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

**279. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

- i. **PW** - to email Clerk with potential amendments to website. **Done.**
- ii. **BF** - would confirm with the Playing Field Committee (PFC) that the grant would include cutting the grass in the bottom field. **Carry Forward.**
- iii. **BF** - would confirm what the PFC would be prepared to do re low risk tree work and provide quote and insurance paperwork to the Clerk. They PFC have confirmed they would do this. **ACTION: BF** will provide paperwork to The Clerk asap.
- iv. Clerks report:
  - a. Cllr Dixon had responded to the Clerk's query re likely CIL payment due, to say that early indications were that HD would receive a relatively large amount, due to the fact that various developments have now started in the village. This would not be received until April so it will be on the May agenda together with the guidelines of how it is to be spent.
  - b. Recycling compound at Wilderness Wood – following the meeting on the 14th January the Clerk reported the concerns raised to Cllr Dixon and asked him to arrange a site visit. Cllr Dixon has arranged for a cleansing team to go to the site and sweep it; to replace the bins and jet wash the old bins and also to do something about the sign. He pointed out that this won't all happen at the same time.
  - c. The clerk had invited the new rural Crime PCSO for Sussex Policy to attend and give a talk at the Parish Assembly but she has another commitment that evening so cannot attend. Another of the PCSO's had been asked to attend the PC meeting on 3rd March to discuss dangerous parking issues but he had responded that this was not something he would be able to report on so the Clerk had asked if he would attend to introduce himself and explain the difference between the PCSO and rural PCSO and give a more general talk; he had not yet responded.

**280. PLANNING:.**

**i. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2020/0001/F – WEST TOLL COTTAGE, POUND GREEN LANE, BUXTED, TN22 4PJ – Ground floor kitchen extension.** The PC voted unanimously (7/0) to support this for what is a modest application.
- b. **WD/2019/2186/MAJ – LITTLE ENGLAND FARM, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EP – Retrospective application for re-grading and re-profiling of agricultural land together with proposed re-siting of steel framed agricultural barn previously approved under WD/2017/7047/AD and hardstanding.** The PC voted unanimously (7/0) to strongly object to this application due to the extensive hardcored forecourt and surrounding area is indicative of a potential purpose in extent of just the storage of hay and straw along with the access improvements that have already been made to the track. If the access is to be used by a large quantity of agricultural vehicles the PC believe this would be very dangerous going out onto the A267 and it is

within 250m of a junction that has the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest accident rate in Sussex. If Wealden DC were minded to approve this then conditions should be made on the number of trips to the site and the hours of use, as a commercial contracting business could be active at all hours and would have a negative impact due to the proximity of neighbours.

**281. PARISH PANEL MEETINGS.**

It was agreed that BF would attend these meeting which take place on a quarterly basis to discuss planning. The Chair moved agenda item 288 forward.

**288. PLAYING FIELD:**

BF confirmed that following the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January, at which it had been agreed that the playing field committee (PFC) would be asked to clear the debris within four weeks from then, he had emailed them to ask them to prioritise the clearing but they had said that it had been too wet. The PC requested that this was done regardless and he said that he would ask the PFC to try to get this cleared within two weeks. He also reported that the PFC had agreed that in future there will be a four week limit for clearing debris after the bonfire event. The Clerk would also remind them of the deadline, before the event.

**ACTION: BF would send another email re the urgency of this action.**

- i. Update on tree work and additional work identified. The ground was still too wet to do any of the work.
- ii. ROSPA report actions. **Carry Forward.**
- iii. Dog Fouling Signage. BF confirmed that he had two signs ready to be erected. The PC suggested one of the signs should be by the gate and the other up on the bank where the cricket pitch leads to the football pitch.

**282. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR PHIL DIXON**

SR read out the report from Cllr Dixon. The local recycling point at Wilderness Wood is going to be tidied up; broken bins replaced and the site will be cleaned, within the next two to three weeks. The CIL payment due in April will total £15.9k, which is Hadlow Down's share of the payment of £106k. Regarding the local plan - the submission plan which was found to be unsound by the Inspector will be withdrawn by the Council and we now have to work on a new plan. There had been various personnel changes including the head of services responsible for the plan leaving the council. He added that the policies that the planning officers consider when they determine applications are not affected by the plan withdrawal; the 1998 local plan and the 2013 core strategy are still current and the NPPF provides the overarching policy framework. Without a current five year housing land supply, there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, as long as there is no significant adverse impact on the AONB.

**283. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - January reconciliation was agreed and signed.

**284. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS**

- i. Website – JMY is going to meet with the current website administrator to get a quote for specific work required for making the site accessible and to include a Privacy notice and a Cookie policy. PW had given some consideration to potential improvements to the site, including adding links to other websites, e.g. ways to report potholes. These would be considered at the time any website changes were agreed.
- ii. Quarterly Financial Report - was agreed and signed.
- iii. Asset Register was signed. Once the dog fouling signs were erected they would be added to the register.

**285. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)**

ML reported that last week there had been a suspicious vehicle, with its front number plate obscured, driving around and also some residents had reported that they had found what could be 'markers' for burglars such as sticks stuck in verges or orange painted spots at entrances. Residents should be vigilant and if anyone has this happen to their property they should report it online or ring 101 and get a crime reference number so that the police can establish a pattern.

SB said that people had been complaining that the area outside the village hall was too dark and the Village Hall Committee were looking into what could be done.

**ACTION: BF** had the completed community payback forms for work on the playing field and village hall and would send them to the Clerk.

SR had made progress with an application for a lottery grant of £10k to finish off the new play area (which would cost approx. £6k). One idea for how the rest of the grant money could be usefully spent was to upgrade footpath 29b (Springwell cottage/Grange Cottages). ESCC had visited the site to look at the drainage and given a specification of what is needed to upgrade the path and said they would pay 25% of the cost.

SR reported that there was going to be a meeting in early March at the playing field to establish again the boundaries and to look at the ditch system. The meeting would be between the adjacent landowners, PC and PFC.

**286. HIGHWAYS:**

- i. SLR meeting update. ESCC were overwhelmed with the amount of potholes caused by the weather and were having to prioritise the worst ones. PW and SR had agreed to go around the village at the end of March/ beginning of April to report on the potholes and general state of the roads to give to ESCC. Re Junction A267 – ESCC acknowledge that there is a high accident rate at this junction and will be assessing what additional measures need to be taken to improve the situation. They have now completed the study regarding reducing the speed limit between Buxted and Hadlow Down and this will not be done - they will be considering other measures to try to improve the safety of traffic in this area. The PC were informed there was no way that further measures to reduce speeding could be done around the Tinkers Lane junction or between A267 junction and Hadlow Down.

**ACTION: PW** will speak to Kit Wilson about where they would like the signs that ESCC have offered to be put up.

- 287. GATWICK AIRPORT** - It was agreed that PW, on behalf of the PC would join the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) at a cost of £10 in order to get updates and be aware of who they are consulting and when.
- 289. RISK ASSESSMENT**
- i. Quarterly Risk Assessment – **Carry Forward.**  
The footpath around the burial ground is not good so this might be another area that the PC could try to get a grant for. **ACTION: The Clerk** would find out whether the mole exterminator had dealt with the burial ground yet.
  - ii. Play area tunnel collapse. Nothing more to report on this.
  - iii. Telephone Box – the Clerk was waiting for a quote for planing the door but this was not urgent. BF reported that there is a kit that can be bought to transform the whole telephone box into a defibrillator.
- 290. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Clerks hours for January were agreed.
- 291. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 paid by SO, Salary/mileage/expenses for January £138.87 incl. fireproof bag cheque no 1864.
  - ii. ES Pension Fund £328.66 cheque no 1865.
  - iii. Lucy McConachie for January play area inspection £40 cheque no 1866.
  - iv. Friends of the Keep Archives subscription £30 cheque no 1867.
  - v. Hirst Signs for dog fouling sign £178.80 cheque no 1868
  - vi. Payments for ratification: ES Pension Fund for cessation valuation £250; erection of memorial income £270.
- 292. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 293. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – checked.
- 294. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**
- i. Parish Assembly.
  - ii. Hadlow Down Community Centre.
  - iii. Speed indicator signs (ML).

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm**