



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2020

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

In attendance: Cllr Phil Dixon (WDC), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC), Scott McCallum (PCSO), Samantha Weatherill (Clerk) and members of the public.

The Chair moved item 301 forward.

301. SCOTT MCCALLUM, PCSO FOR SUSSEX POLICE

Scott is one of three named PCSO's who cover the Uckfield area and there should always be one of the three PCSO on duty.

RL joined the meeting.

Scott is involved with Operation Blitz, set up to deal with anti-social behaviour, as well as low level neighbour disputes and working in partnership with local authorities etc. to try to make things better for the local community. RL reported that there had been incidents of markers put outside houses so Scott said he would look into this and give out some information to the public about what they can do if this happens. The easiest way to report crime was to either ring 101 or report via the website. To report things to the local team without needing a crime reference number, email: Wealden@sussex.pnn.police.uk (local team based at Hailsham so the call will go to whoever is on duty). There is also a community messaging service which can be signed up to: www.intheknow.community Youth interaction is part of Operation Compass. With issues of domestic violence, schools were automatically informed and the policy had now changed so that, in future, schools would also be informed when a youngster has been involved with knife crime. There were six rural crime officers across Sussex and people should use the Wealden email address to get in touch re rural crime.

295. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public said there was a particularly large pot hole in Wheelers Lane. **PW would look at this.** Cllr Standley asked people to keep reporting potholes, even if they think it has already been reported.

SB joined the meeting.

A member of the public questioned what was happening with regard to the retrospective planning application at Drake's Head Den and Gingers Patch. **JMY will follow this up with Enforcement and get in touch with that member of the public.** Another member of the public also reported that the Wheelers Lane pothole had been repaired several times but there are a lot of large pieces of rubble in the road that is very dangerous. They also raised the issue of the hedges on the un-consecrated part of the burial ground that need cutting back before the birds start nesting as they are overhanging the footpath and covering speed signs. **The Clerk will get a quote from the existing contractor to cut the overhanging hedge from the burial ground sty to the boundary with The Vicarage. The PC took a formal resolution to get this cut and a maximum cost was agreed, due to the urgency of the issue.**

The Clerk will have a look at the notices in the notice board on the main road as some of them look very old due to the damp.

296. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – Received from: Cllr Sandra Richards

297. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – JMY declared a pecuniary interest on 300 i. b.

298. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 4th February were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

299. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **BF** - would confirm with the Playing Field Committee (PFC) that the grant would include cutting the grass in the bottom field. *The quote had not included this so the PFC are working on getting updated quotes.* **Carry Forward**
- ii. **BF** – would provide quote and insurance to the Clerk re PFC carrying out the low risk tree work. **Carry Forward**
- iii. **BF** would send another email to the PFBC re cleaning up bonfire debris. *The cleaning up had been done but there were several bags left to disperse.* **Carry Forward**
- iv. **BF** would send the Clerk the Community Payback forms. *Postponed until weather is better.* **Carry Forward**
- v. **PW** would speak to Kit Wilson re positioning of ESCC signs. *This was in hand.* **Carry Forward.**

vi. **The Clerk** would find out whether the mole exterminator had dealt with the moles at the burial ground. *The moles had been dealt with.*

vii. Clerks report:

- a. Housing Needs Survey – distributed with Parish Magazine and sent to school parents on 24th Feb with deadline of 31st March. Link on website under “news”.
- b. Email from Team Rubicon re getting skate parks into villages that was sent to Sally Blyfield who forwarded it to the clerk, has been sent to the Playing Field Committee for consideration.
- c. Wealden DC Enforcement are looking into possible breaches of planning control re planning application - WD/2015/0877 Field Gate and improved access onto A272 – land at Hadlow Oast Farm, Curtains Hill.

300. PLANNING: any applications received between the date of issue of the agenda and the date of the meeting may be discussed and a response agreed at the meeting. Details of the application will appear on the village website.

i. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2020/0188/F – MOONS MILL, TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ET. Addition of a pool house separate and adjacent to the main house.** Two votes were taken. The first vote resulted in 5/1 to approve the application. A second vote was taken and 6/0 voted that this approve be subject to the condition of the removal of the roof lights to maintain dark sky's in support of policy EN29 light pollution.

JMY left the room.

- b. **WD/2020/0244/F – GATE HOUSE FARM, STOCKLANDS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EA. Upgrading of existing access and crossover from hardcore surfacing with no formal kerb to permeable paving to match that being constructed on development subject to approval WD/2016/2285/F, in order to provide separate vehicular access to plot 2 of approval WD/2016/2285/F.** The PC voted to support the application (5/0).

JMY returned to the room.

ii. **APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2019/2617/F C – MOONS MILL, TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN TN22 4ET.** Construction of new oak framed detached garage.
- b. **W/2020/0001/F – WEST TOLL COTTAGE, POUND GREEN LANE, BUXTED TN22 4PJ.** Ground floor kitchen extension.

iii. **WITHDRAWN PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2019/2215/LDE - THE STABLES, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HB.** Continued and ongoing use of the stables and associated land as a separate and independent dwelling for a period in excess of the last 4 years.

302. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR PHIL DIXON

Cllr Standley reported that last month a council tax increase of 3.99% (1.99% general fund/2% for social care) had been approved. Re potholes, it had been very wet and the road drainage for recent weather conditions is not always sufficient, some drains will need to be rebuilt. This year 11,000 pot holes had been filled in up from 4,000 last year. Potholes are no longer being cut out and filled in but are being quickly patched repaired due to the necessity to get onto the next one. He urged people to keep reporting potholes. ES are trying to find other ways to deal with, what is, a national problem, due to a lack of funding. JMY asked when the potholes are repaired, whether the teams can take the loose debris away rather than leave it lying in the gutter - Cllr Standley would pass this on. With regard to an emergency plan for the corona virus issue, Cllr Standley explained that the Sussex Resilience Forum was dealing with this and ES would follow their plan. BF raised that when gulleys are cleaned the teams appear to dig them out and place the spoil immediately adjacent to the gully where the heavy rain can wash it back into the gully. Cllr Standley replied that they are supposed to put the debris further away from the gully, sometimes the gulleys are owned by the farmer. He suggested that if debris had been dumped next to the gully, to take a photo, report it to Highways and copy in Cllr Standley. PW reported that the top of School Lane road surface was very bad. **PW and SR will be going around the village to look at drainage and gulleys.**

Cllr Dixon gave a brief update. With regard to the Wilderness Wood recycling point, the bins had not yet been replaced but he had been assured that they would very soon and he has asked for new signage. The site would be reviewed in terms of what should be recycled. He also reported that the local plan had formally been withdrawn which meant we were back to the 1998 local plan and 2013 Core Strategy. There was a working party looking at the homelessness strategy and a plan will be produced soon.

303. BANK RECONCILIATIONS: - February reconciliation was agreed and signed.

304. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS

- i. Financial Regulations. The PC ran through the suggested amendments to the regulations. **The Clerk** would produce a new document with the changes incorporated for the PC to approve at the next meeting.
- ii. Reserves movements. These were agreed: £225 into Pension Earmarked Reserve; £750 into a Tree Work Earmarked Reserve; £400 into Fingerpost Earmarked Reserve and up to £800 into Unearmarked Reserves depending on bank account position as at end March. Quarter three reconciliation would be signed at the next PC meeting.
- iii. End Year reconciliation – RBS. The PC voted unanimously to approve the engagement of RBS to do the end year roll out service at a cost of £360 + VAT.
- iv. Website. JMY will meet with Nick Allen to discuss improvements to website including Accessibility.

305. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)

RL reported that the HDCC have got a meeting with the architect booked.

PW was dealing with the many pot holes and drainage issues.

ML said that the Wealden railway parishes committee had raised the ongoing issues re trains terminating at Crowborough and also the concerns re embankments. It had also been reported that Maria Caulfield has made a bid for re-opening the Lewes to Uckfield line. Finally, there were issues surrounding de-carbonisation of the line and removing diesel trains and there was discussion about testing battery-operated trains on the Uckfield line. BF reported that Stacey Robins from Wealden DC has offered to come and meet every Parish in groups so if we could get three local parishes together he would come along to talk about anything to do with planning. It was agreed that when **The Clerk** receives the minutes of the Parish Panel meeting she will email the Clerks at Buxted and Rotherfield to see if their PC would be interested in getting a meeting together.

SB reported that a resident had asked her whether it was OK to remove three large conifer trees from their garden that were overhanging the public footpath. **SB** would inform them that it was fine to go ahead. SB also raised the issue of drones being flown in the area and whether they were being used for criminal purposes. **JMY will investigate what legal issues surround the use of drones.**

JMY will be doing litter picking when the weather improves.

306. HADLOW DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE – Nothing more to report on this at the moment.

307. HIGHWAYS:

- i. Speed Indicator Signs - ML said that the PC had tried in the past to get a speed indicator sign placed on the main A272 but at that time were told that the contractor for Highways had to do this. Since then there is a new contractor and ML had sourced a company providing speed indicator signs which he had shown to the new contractor. ESCC approval would be needed but this company would do that on the PC's behalf. ML suggested that this may be a possible use for the CIL money. **PW will get in touch with the company to investigate a site visit to discuss feasibility.**
- ii. Pot holes and drainage - The Clerk gave an update re County Clean lorries, now that the issue of overhanging trees along Five Chimneys had been dealt with, ES highways had been in back contact with County Clean to say that they must use this designated route. **The Clerk** will respond to the resident who had queried this. Multiple pothole issues had been reported to the PC and would be followed through. **JMY** would report that the give-way sign at the Stocklands Lane and School Lane junction had fallen in the recent winds.

308. GATWICK AIRPORT - PW reported that GACC were optimistic about the recent court of appeal decision over the Heathrow 3rd runway and whether this might also have a bearing over Gatwick's attempt for a second runway.

309. PLAYING FIELD:

- i. Update on tree work and additional work identified. The work cannot be done yet due to the poor weather. **Carry Forward.**
- ii. ROSPA report actions. **Carry Forward.**
- iii. Dog Fouling Signage – update on location. One sign would be positioned near the picnic benches and another on the bank.

310. RISK ASSESSMENT

- i. Quarterly Risk Assessment. A new report had been done. **Carry Forward**
- ii. Play area tunnel collapse. **Carry Forward**

311. PARISH ASSEMBLY

All members of the PC would give a maximum of 5 minute speech at the Parish Assembly. **The deadline for speeches to be sent to the Clerk was 14th April.** The PC voted unanimously to provide nibbles and wine which **JMY** would provide.

312. HANDLING CORRESPONDENCE AND RESPONDING TO CONSULTATIONS POLICY. This was approved.

313. CLERKS MATTERS:

- i. Clerks hours for February were approved..
- ii. Condolence Book. **BF** would get in contact with Anne Yarrow re area for flowers.
- iii. Essential VAT training course – approval for the Clerk to attend this when the course was reinstated was given.

314. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i. ES Pension Fund £350.51 cheque no 1870
- ii. Peter Weston for GACC membership £10 cheque no 1871
- iii. ICO for GDPR/Data Protection £40 cheque no 1872
- iv. Hadlow Down Village Hall £200 cheque no 1873
- v. BT by DD £121.46
- vi. Lucy McConachie for February play area inspection £40 cheque no 1874
- vii. Stationery £77.58 cheque no 1875
- viii. Newman Business Solution Ltd for HNS printing £28 cheque no 1876
- ix. Samantha Weatherill - £920 paid by SO, Salary/mileage/expenses for February £135.96 cheque no 1877
- x. Payments for ratification: Mulberry & Co for End Year Finance training £84 cheque no 1869

315. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17

316. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this was checked on 27th February.

317. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA - no additional items.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:16pm