



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held virtually, via Zoom video conferencing app,
at 7pm on Tuesday 5th May 2020**

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

In attendance: Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC), Samantha Weatherill (Clerk) and one member of the public.

26. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** – It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Michaelson-Yeates be elected as Chair, this was supported unanimously. The Chair will sign the declaration via email.
27. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** - It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Peter Weston be elected as Vice-Chairman, this was supported unanimously.
28. **REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS** – There were no amendments.
29. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
30. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Dixon.
31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None.
32. **COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES** – All councillors agreed not to claim and declarations would be signed via email.
33. **TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE TO MAYFIELD CHARITIES** – As agreed at last month's meeting, the appointment of Penny Eliot as representative to Mayfield Charities for a further four years was approved.
34. **COUNCILLOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:** The re-balancing of councillors responsibilities was deferred for two months.
35. **COUNCIL'S BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND SIGNATORIES OF BANK ACCOUNT** – It was agreed to continue with the current banking arrangements with Unity Trust. The PC agreed no changes were required to the current direct debits and standing orders.
36. **SUMMONS** – Councillors agreed for the Summons to meetings to continue to be sent electronically and will sign the declaration via email.
37. **ASSETS** – The Assets register was agreed and the Chair would sign via email.
38. **POLICY FOR DEALING WITH THE PRESS/MEDIA** – It was agreed to keep s.23 of the Standing Orders as it was.
39. **REVIEW OF GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE** – The PC agreed to continue to use the General Power of Competence.
40. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 7th April were agreed and would be signed via email as a true record (previously circulated).
41. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**
 - i. **BF** – would get confirmation in writing that the grant would cover the inclusion of cutting the grass in the bottom field. **Done.**
 - ii. **BF** – would provide quote and insurance to the Clerk re PFC carrying out the low risk tree work. **Carry Forward.**
 - iii. **The Clerk** would liaise with BF re Community Payback forms to tick boxes that the PC wants the lowest risk people. **In hand.**
 - iv. **RL** would send a draft safeguarding policy to The Clerk. **Done.**
 - v. **PW** would speak to Kit Wilson about the positioning of ESCC signs. **Carry Forward**
 - vi. **PW** would look at the large pot hole in Wheelers Lane. **Done**
 - vii. **The Clerk/JMY** would draft an article about the drone issue for the website. **Done.**
 - viii. Clerks report
 - a. Article for Parish Magazine due to cancellation of Parish Assembly – the article would be submitted for the June publication, as the deadline for an article to be submitted for May magazine was too tight.
 - b. The Clerk had reported to ESCC the hedges overhanging the pavement opposite the Church (case number 00466273).
42. **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/2020/0129/F – WOODREED VINEYARD, STONEHURST LANE, FIVE ASHES, MAYFIELD, TN20 6LJ – Construction of agricultural building for the storage of vineyard machinery and associated equipment, to include new permeable access track.** The PC voted 6/0 to support the application. The proposed site has previously been the location for a building and the track is pre-existing. If approval is granted, the Parish Council request that a condition be attached that the building be used as storage for the vineyard not for retail purposes.

b. **WD/2020/0700/MAO – LAND SOUTH OF FRAMFIELD ROAD, BLACKBOYS – outline application for the erection of up to 80 dwellings.** The PC voted 4/1 to object to the application, 1 abstained. The site is outside the core area of Blackboys in an open rural area. The size and scale of the outline application is very large relative to the village core representing an increase of 30%. The facilities provided by Blackboys are very limited making it an unsustainable location for this proposed development. The footpath connecting the proposed site to the core village area is narrow and unlit. The application acknowledges that cycling on the B2102 Framfield Road is only for the confident cyclist. There is a limited bus service during the week and no provision in the evenings. For the purposes of employment, shopping, secondary education and leisure opportunities, nearly all of these additional 380 daily trips will be by car rather than sustainable alternative means. Consequently, it is the Parish Council's view that this application falls outside of NPPF definition of sustainable. The easterly approach into Uckfield using the B2102 Framfield road is congested and frequently slow at peak times. Similarly, so is the junction of the B2102 and A267 at Cross in Hand. The generated traffic is likely to seek less congested access into Uckfield via Gun Lane and Nantuck Lane to gain a northerly or westerly approach into Uckfield. Traffic looking to travel northwards via the A267 to Tunbridge Wells and Pembury will seek to use Wilderness Lane to avoid congestion at Cross in Hand. These lanes are predominantly single carriage way and the potential for accidents and danger to other roads users and local residents will be considerably increased. For the congestion reasons stated, commuters travelling to London are likely to use Buxted or Crowborough stations rather than Uckfield station. This will further increase the car parking pressures in these locations which is already a problem for local residents. This proposed application if added to other approved developments in Uckfield, Maresfield and elsewhere places even more pressure on local infrastructure such as roads, doctors, schools, supermarkets and their respective car parks which are already at breaking point.

ii. **APPROVED 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.

iii. **REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2019/1335/O – SAXON COURT, POUND GREEN, BUXTED TN22 4DT –** Outline application for the erection of 2 no. houses, alterations to access road and part demolition of redundant care home buildings, e.g. laundry shed.

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

Cllr Standley reported the issues being dealt with as a result of the Covid-19 crisis including that WDC have now processed over £25m in claims to local businesses and they had also dealt with a number of queries, particularly from those who do not qualify for a business grant but he was hopeful that the criteria would be widened. JMY thanked him for the speeding report from ESCC and asked him to follow-up whether the criteria for erecting electronic signs within the speed control area was a recommendation rather than firm policy in which case the PC could robustly challenge it and perhaps might use CIL money to fund the signs. ML added that the criteria had been set by the previous road contractor and this had prevented the PC from proceeding further with signage within the 30mph area of the village because this area failed to meet the historic accident criteria. There is now a new contractor for East Sussex who may have different criteria for match-funding and full-funding electronic signage. Do they permit contractors other than themselves to erect electronic signage? **Actions: Cllr Standley** would do further investigation into the speeding sign criteria and would also get an update on the number of covid-19 related deaths in Wealden.

44. **BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - The April reconciliation was agreed and would be signed via email and backing papers to be signed when able.

45. **OTHER FINANCE MATTERS**

- i. The Statement of Internal Control was approved subject to the amendment of the Asset Control section to reflect that a member of the Parish Council would check the existence and condition of assets on a three monthly basis.
- ii. CIL - This money would be moved into Earmarked Reserves. The PC had five years in which to spend this money so it would consider options for the ways in which it could be spent, in line with government guidelines, including the cost of speeding signage.

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

SB – had visited the burial ground and thought it needed some work done to make it more inviting, some areas of the hedging are becoming overgrown. **ACTIONS: SB** would forward the photos she has taken to **The Clerk** who would speak to the current contractor to make sure the overgrown area was included in their maintenance remit. **JMY & SB** would go to the burial ground to see what other action might be required.

PW – had been contacted from concerned parishioners re the increased speeding in the village since the covid-19 crisis and also with queries relating to bridleways. He had reported these issues to ESCC Highways.

JMY – had reported the potholes in Stockland and some of these had been filled. The "Give Way" sign had been re-erected. He had repaired the bench that he had been tasked with removing so this item would be removed from the risk register.

- 47. HIGHWAYS:**
- i. Speed Indicator Signs – covered in agenda Item 43.
- 48. PLAYING FIELD:**
- i. Update on tree work and additional work identified – all work except for the removal of one ash tree, which was due to be done this week, had been done.
 - ii. ROSPA report actions. BF will be doing the outstanding actions over the next few weeks.
 - iii. Play area closure. Still closed and signs still up.
- 49. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
- i. Quarterly Risk Assessment. The bench due to be removed had been repaired so was no longer a risk.
 - ii. Play area tunnel collapse. RL had been going to apply for some money from the lottery to do the repairs but due to the current situation all money was going to covid-related charities so was not currently an option. One tunnel was shut and the retaining stockade is collapsing in areas which made it dangerous. **ACTIONS: BF and JMY** would discuss the exact work that needs to be undertaken and let **The Clerk** know, who would get three quotes for the work.
 - iii. Fingerpost Survey – **ACTIONS: The Clerk** would send the list of fingerposts and criteria to **PW** who would do the survey.
- 50. CO-OPTION PROCEDURE** – this was approved unanimously.
- 51. SAFEGUARDING POLICY** – this was approved subject to amending the wording within responsibilities and procedures from “Committee member or volunteer” to “Parish Councillor”. The policy would be posted on the website.
- 52. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY** – extra survey responses had been received after the closing date and these had now been included. However, they had not changed the outcome in terms of housing needs. The survey could be referenced when the PC renews the outline application for the Village Hall which needs to be done within the next year. People with housing needs should be reminded that to find out how to get on the Housing Register they should go to the Wealden DC website. **ACTION: The Clerk** would put a link to the housing needs survey on the website.
- 53. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. The Clerks hours for April were approved.
- 54. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (UT ref = Unity Trust Bank reference number)**
- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 paid by SO, Salary & expenses £213.92 (UT ref: 754160648)
 - ii. ES Pension Fund £341.74 (UT ref: 867718846)
 - iii. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection April £40 (UT ref: 584407975)
 - iv. D Fears for burial ground hedge cutting £180 (UT ref: 259792708)
 - v. Simon Goacher for payroll services £209.04 (UT ref: 286652835)
 - vi. The following payments were ratified: ESALC & NALC subscription for 2020/21 £251.97 (UT ref: 665675672); PFC grant payment £1,800 (UT ref: 30522822).
 - vii. The following additional invoices received after the agenda had been issued were agreed and paid and would be ratified at the meeting to be held on 2nd June:
£780 for high and medium risk tree work (UT ref: 188833279); £432 Rialtas software for end year close down (UT ref: 203817389); £151.70 by DD to BT; £114.98 Viking stationery (UT ref: 555152235); £369.90 to Came & Co for annual PC insurance.
- 55. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 56. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – **ACTION: BF** would check this and let the Clerk know.
- 57. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA**
- i. Village volunteer scheme (RL).

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:59pm.