



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council**  
**held virtually, via Zoom video conferencing app,**  
**at 7pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Present:** Councillors: Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY) Chair, Ben Floyd (BF), Rachel Lewis (RL), Michael Lunn (ML), David Munday (DM), Peter Weston (PW)

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

**227. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the public raised 4 issues: 1) that County Clean lorries are still not using the designated route. Cllr Standley had been investigating this issue and confirmed they are using an alternative route due to low hanging trees in Five Chimney's Lane and that the Highway Steward will be looking into this and the issue will be raised at the next SLR meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 2) The wheelie bin store that has appeared outside Marlowe house is unsuitable and the planning application did not describe it to look like this. **Actions: The Clerk** would write a letter to Wealden Planning to find out if a store of this scale was envisaged and another to the builder as to whether double doors will be fitted to the side facing School Lane. 3) The A272 drain opposite the burial ground – this has been reported to ESCC Highways and will be discussed at the SLR meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 4) The lack of presence of Hadlow Down in police reports and covid-19 reports – the member of the public would enquire directly with Uckfield News as suggested.

Another member of public thanked ESCC and the pc for doing a great job of repairing Footpath 29b. They wanted to bring to the pc's attention to the blocked drains on the A272 Curtains Hill and Toll Straight and in particular the drain outside Five Chimneys Oast which is completely blocked. This results in surface water on the A272 which is very dangerous, particularly in icy conditions and this has caused serious accidents in the past– they requested that this was dealt with asap. **Action: JMY** said this was on the agenda for the SLR meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> so would be raised.

**228. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – were accepted from Sally Blyfield (SB).

**229. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none.

**230. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

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

- i. **SB** would investigate what would be required and issues with regard to the creation of a cycle path. **Carry Forward**
- ii. **JMY** would talk to Nick Allen about further accessibility work required for the website. **Carry Forward**
- iii. **BF** will sort out the zip wire. Update: Seat repaired now needs to be installed. **Carry Forward**
- iv. Cllr Standley would investigate the issues re County Clean lorries. **Update given during public questions.**
- v. Cllr Standley would discuss the pot holes at top of School Lane with Highway steward. **Carry Forward**
- vi. Cllr Dixon would investigate planning queries re Gingers Patch and Drakes Head Den. *In answer to the question about the tractor shed in Drakes Head Den field which has permission attached to the current owner - he had arranged for a note to be made on the land charges record so that the planning officer will be informed if there is a change of ownership and will write to them.* **Done.**
- vii. **BF/DM** would respond to resident, via Clerk, re Article 4 directive. **Carry Forward**
- viii. **PW** would add the following items to the SLR meeting agenda: road markings; gully in westerly direction of A272 blocked due to overflow issues; ongoing drainage issues; poor pot hole repairs. **Done**
- ix. **All Cllrs** would send their comments re Local Plan Direction of Travel document to **DM** to collate. *To be discussed under item 245 - Done*
- x. **Clerks report:**
  - a. The Clerk had informed the contractors of the outcome of their tenders for the contract for the maintenance of the burial ground and the play area and also the verges. The successful contractor had agreed to a two year contract, to be reviewed after one year.
  - b. The Clerk had informed the contractors of the outcome of the installation of rubber mats at the play area and the work was due to commence on 21<sup>st</sup> January, weather permitting.

- c. The Clerk had updated the website to include a link to 'planning notifications' beneath Parish Council on the village website and added instructions for how people could sign up to Wealden my alerts and started adding planning applications that the pc had been notified of.

**232. PLANNING:**

**i. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**a. WD/2020/2346/FA – CROUST BARN, HADLOW DOWN ROAD, FIVE ASHES, TN20 6JH** – minor material amendment to WD/2014/2537/F (change of use and conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to form a single dwellinghouse, along with additional new building works linking the two barns) involving variation of condition 10 to enable minor design changes.

The pc voted unanimously to support the application due to it being relatively modest and with changes that improve the appearance of the design.

**b. WD/2020/2451/F – LAND ADJACENT TO THE OAKS, SCHOOL LANE, HADLOW DOWN TN22 4JE** – demolition of existing milking parlour and erection of a dwelling following approval of council ref: WD/2019/1629/F, access, landscaping and other associated infrastructure.

The pc voted unanimously to approve the application subject to the removal of permitted development rights for further extensions within the residential curtilage and no tandem development on the land to the rear.

**ii. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**a. WD/2020/1786/F – COOPERS FARM, FIVE CHIMNEYS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DX** – amendments to previously approved farm dwelling under WD/2018/0120/F incorporating minor re-siting, extension to incorporate a farm store, log store and extension to master bedroom, alterations to enclose veranda, addition of solar panels on south elevation and increase in size of the residential curtilage.

**b. WD/2020/1976/F – THE WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HU** – conversion and refurbishment of outbuilding to form home office and gym.

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

Cllr Standley said covid-19 was still dominating things due to the increasing number of cases. The Sussex Resilience Forum had declared a major incident. The vaccine rollout was organised by the health service although ESCC had offered premises if needed. Schools had now closed but attendance is much higher than during the last lockdown as the criteria for attendance has changed. ESCC are in the very early stages of re-procuring the highways contract which starts in 2023.

Cllr Dixon's report – Covid-19 - We are now in a full lockdown and Wealden has currently a very high rate of transmission. There is now a local testing centre at Crowborough until the end of April and the vaccine distribution is accelerating so hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel. WDC Covid hub is still open and receiving calls from residents. The council office is only operating on a skeleton staff basis and all contact should be by email or through the website. Site visits will be restricted over the lockdown period to urgent visits and where contact with residents can be avoided. Planning - The local plan 'Direction of Travel' document consultation ends next Monday 18th January. We are encouraging as many as possible to make responses. There is no need to respond to all the questions!

**234. HIGHWAYS**

i. Speed Indicator Signs (SID) proposal – licensing. Update given in the Cllr reports within PW's section.

ii. Footpath 29b – ESCC reimbursement of £427.50 has been received – the remainder of £997.50+VAT would be paid from the CIL money.

***The chair brought forward item 243:***

**243. RENEWAL OF OLD VILLAGE HALL OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION** – this is an outline planning application and linked to the Community Centre on the playing field. The Community Centre application is for 5 years but the application for the old village hall is only 3 years and runs out on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The pc voted to renew the outline planning application using unrestricted funds and not the precept. To avoid delay, a delegated limit of up to £700 would be available subject to approval by 2 Cllr's. **Action: The Clerk** to renew the application.

**235. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - December's reconciliation was agreed.

**236. REVIEW OF QUARTERLY FIGURES** – Q3 reports were agreed and would be signed by email.

**237. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS**

i. Website – Carry Forward

ii. Precept for final approval and signature – the precept requirement of £37,234 for 2021/22 which was the same as the previous year, resulting in a slight decrease in the cost to tax payers was agreed and the form signed.

iii. Assets Register – this was signed as part of the quarterly financial controls.

iv. The following payments were ratified: £1,425 + VAT to Warren Drives for repair of footpath 29b; Wealden DC for litter bins £375+VAT.

**238. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)** – *a written report from councillors had already been circulated and would be included with the minutes on the website.*

ML added that he meets with the local PCSO so if any residents have any policing concerns they can contact him. The PCSO had issued some parking tickets and has mentioned issues around rural crime and people coming into

the county from elsewhere approaching farms and rural dwellings to steal tools but he was not aware of any incidents in the Hadlow Down area.

- 239. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED RE DRAINAGE AT CHURCHYARD** – The Church warden had reported concerns that the grassy area by the double gates at the Churchyard had been flooded and the water seemed to be coming partly from the A272 and there was a question about whether there should be a drain on the A272. The flooding might also be due to a burst water main which occurred there recently. **Action: PW** will investigate this matter.
- 240. COMMUNITY PAYBACK** – BF had had a meeting with them today to go through the risk assessments. They will be sending through new documents so that, hopefully, the first visit from the team will be mid-February. They will start by cutting back the brambles and clearing the ditches around the football and cricket pitches.
- 241. DISAPPEARANCE OF ROADS FROM GOOGLE MAPS** – unfortunately the problem remains but there is nothing that can be done.
- 242. EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE TO INCLUDE S.E WATER ISSUES** – **Action: DM** would re-circulate the plan with a deadline for comments and would do a final review/sign off the document with RL and JMY.
- 244. REPLACEMENT OF NOTICE BOARD ON MAIN ROAD** – it was agreed to go ahead with Notice Board option 1 as this seemed to be a suitable like for like replacement costing approximately £930 + fitting costs. **Action: The Clerk** would let the insurance company know and find out whether/how much they will pay.
- 245. LOCAL PLAN – DIRECTION OF TRAVEL CONSULTATION** – **Action: DM** would consolidate the comments from Cllrs and submit them.
- 246. SCHEME OF DELEGATION – UPDATED** – the pc voted unanimously to adopt the updated Scheme of Delegation.
- 247. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
- i. Quarterly risk assessment issues:
    - a. burial ground wall (SB) – **Carry Forward**
    - b. pathway that runs between concrete posts and entrance to the back of the burial ground (JMY) – **Carry Forward**
- 248. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Clerks hours for December were agreed.
  - ii. Clerk has passed CiLCA and is now fully qualified.
- 249. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** – RL will authorise payments below:
- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
  - ii. Samantha Weatherill - £305.46 salary & expenses, includes £14.39 for Zoom, £9 for spare keys to VH notice board cut (UT ref: 38084317)
  - iii. Lucy McConachie for December play area inspection - £40 (UT ref: 881684332)
  - iv. ES Pension Fund - £384.03 (UT ref: 900527795)
  - v. HMRC - £656.65 (UT ref: 187048713)
  - vi. D Fears for Maintenance of burial ground and play area 2020 - £1440 + VAT; verge cutting for 2020 - £400 + VAT (UT ref: 723873917)
  - vii. SLCC annual membership - £166 (UT ref: 34438460)
  - viii. Unity Trust Bank quarterly charge - £18 by DD 30/12/20
- 250. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 251. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 6<sup>th</sup> January.
- 252. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA –**
- Correspondence from resident in Wilderness Lane
  - Community Centre

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:56pm.