



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council  
held virtually, via Zoom video conferencing app,  
at 7pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

**Present:** Councillors: Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY) Chair, Sally Blyfield (SB), 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 six members of the public.

**275. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – One member of the public raised the issue of Gill Hope Bank Wood in Wheelers Lane which residents have walked through for many years being fenced off to leave a single footpath. Their understanding was that legally if a path is used for access for more than 20 years without the owner objecting, the long usage creates a legal right of way and asked whether the pc had any more information about this.

*The Chair brought forward 288 iii.*

**288. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

iii. From resident re footpath signs being removed and footpaths no longer being accessible.

PW had looked into the process of registering footpaths as a public right of way. **Actions:** It was agreed that **PW** and the member of the public would meet to take a socially distanced walk in the area to consider the issue and **PW** would meet with the landowner to discuss the situation.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS continued: -**

The member of the public also brought to the attention of the pc that on the junction of the A267 and A272 manure was being piled close to the road which was starting to roll down the bank and would end up in the road. **Action:** **PW** would report this to Mayfield pc for them to take forward.

Another member of the public offered to lead a group of volunteers to do a village litter pick. **Action:** **JMY** to discuss with **RL** and the member of the public how to get this organised.

**276. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – none received.

**277. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – SB declared a personal interest in item 288 iii. DM declared a pecuniary interest in item 280 i. as this concerned to a property on their road. As this was not neighbouring property and it being a significant distance away, it was agreed that it was not necessary to declare this as an interest.

**278. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February were agreed and would be signed as a true record (previously circulated).

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

i. **SB & Cllr Standley** would investigate what would be required and issues with regard to the creation of a cycle path. *SB was in the process of considering the information that Cllr Standley had sent her. **Carry Forward***

ii. **JMY** would talk to Nick Allen about further accessibility work required for the website. ***To discuss under item 284 i.***

iii. **PW** would investigate the drainage issues at the Church yard. *The area that is of concern is in the top East area adjacent to main road and the school. **Action:** The Clerk would speak to the lead deputy Church Warden before forwarding the email with the drainage concerns to Cllr Dixon, as Wealden DC is responsible for the closed old burial ground and he would take this issue forward.*

iv. **Clerks report:**

a. Wealden DC have confirmed that the large bin store erected outside Marlowe House did not have planning permission and they are waiting for a response from the agent as to how they will be redressing the situation.

**280. PLANNING:**

i. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2021/0031/F – HASTINGFORD FARM COTTAGE, HASTINGFORD LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DY** – proposed swimming pool building, plant room and hard landscaping.

The pc voted unanimously against this application as the size of the pool house is considered to be too large, in line with saved policies DC19 and EN27.

b. **WD/2020/2550/F – BOLTON BUILDINGS, FIVE CHIMNEYS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DX** – extension to commercial building.

The pc voted unanimously in favour of this application provided the following conditions were met: that the historical positioning of asbestos must be investigated through a report and officially disposed of to prevent it

being disturbed and polluting water courses and nearby land; that a sustainable drainage assessment report and mitigating action to prevent an increase of drainage into ditches on surrounding land is required and that the units not be sublet.

ii. **APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2020/2135/F – DUDSLAND FARMHOUSE, HEATHFIELD ROAD, CROSS IN HAND, TN21 0UJ** – erection of Edwardian style freestanding greenhouse to be situated in a kitchen garden at the rear of main property.
- b. **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.
- c. **WD/2019/0208/FA – THE ROBINS ADJACENT FIVE BADGERS, STONEHURST LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN20 6LL** – variation or removal of conditions 1 and 2 of WD/2015/2287/FR (Change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation as a gypsy site with associated development (alter access, hard standing, utility shed/day room) – retrospective) to extend or remove the temporary consent period. This is granted for a limited time only expiring on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- d. **WD/2020/2538/F – MICKLETON COTTAGE, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HX** – single storey rear addition and the replacement of the roofing sheets to the existing side extension.

iii. **REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2020/1360/FR – PASSALLS FARM, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HB** – retention of existing bell tent glamping pitch (retrospective) and the change of use of land for the installation of one further identical pitch for seasonal holiday occupation.

**281. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR PHIL DIXON** – *Written reports from Councillors had already been submitted which would accompany the minutes on the village website.*

Cllr Standley added that he had contacted ES Highways asking for an update on County Clean lorries still not using the designated route due to trees and will report back as soon as he has more information.

**282. HIGHWAYS**

- i. Speed Indicator Signs (SID) proposal – licensing. PW said that this was a very slow process but he will keep pressing for a resolution.

**283. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - February's reconciliation was agreed.

**284. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS**

- i. Website – the level of accessibility was discussed as currently it is legally compliant, the only thing that could be improved is to have a plugin reader enabling blind people to have documents uploaded on the website read out. This would incur cost and require a change in the way minutes were loaded onto the website.

*ML joined the meeting and apologised for being late.*

**Actions:** If anyone reading these minutes knows of someone who would benefit from upgrading the website in this way please would they email the Clerk to let her know. **The Clerk** would also modify the Accessibility Statement to canvass opinion as to whether we should upgrade the site in this manner.

- ii. Financial Regulations – were approved.

iii. Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit – this was agreed.

- iv. Reserves – The following movements to reserves were agreed: £1330 to Fingerpost EMR; £300 to Tree Work ENR and up to approx. £1400 to Unallocated Reserves depending on what is left in the current Bank account as at end March. **Action:** **The Clerk** would contact Wealden DC to find out the cost of the Village Hall Planning application and pay it in order for the application to be processed as quickly as possible.

- v. Payments/Decisions ratified: £276 for bat appraisal at Village Hall; £269.50 +VAT for advert for Village Hall outline planning application; £40 to ICO for data protection renewal; £43.65 for website plugin to make compliant with GDPR; £30 + VAT to SSALC for Transparency Training for Clerk; £31.22 + VAT to Viking for stationery.

**285. GRIEVANCE & DISCIPLINARY POLICY** – was approved.

**286. BURIAL GROUND PERIMETER PATH REPAIR** – **Action:** **The Clerk** would ask those Contractors who had not supplied a quote for both a concrete and timber edging options in the previous submissions to do so. The quotes with both edging options would be reconsidered at the next meeting. Once the contractor had been appointed and before work was undertaken a conversation would be had to discuss the nature of how to do the path to improve water run-off.

**287. 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 village website.*

ML updated that he had been working on the proposal to have an equestrian crossing opposite Waste Wood and would update the pc when further work had been agreed.

**288. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- i. From resident re overhanging oak tree in Hut Lane (case no: 00543635) – no further update on this.
- ii. From resident re exposed electricity cables at footpath by Waste Wood – PW had reported this and is waiting for a response.

- iii. From resident re footpath signs being removed and footpaths no longer being accessible. Dealt with under item 275. Public Questions. **Action: The Clerk** would contact the lead deputy Church Warden to let them know that the footpath fingerpost opposite the back entrance to the burial ground had broken.
- 289. COMMUNITY PAYBACK** – still waiting for a response.
- 290. RENEWAL OF OLD VILLAGE HALL PLANNING APPLICATION** – The Clerk informed that the planning application had been submitted to Wealden DC but as yet there had been no response. **Action: The Clerk** would thank Kelvin Williams and Doug Moss, both of whom were retiring from Wealden DC, for their service to the pc.
- 291. REPLACEMENT OF NOTICE BOARD ON MAIN ROAD** – the contractor was due to do a site visit and confirm exact costs and then work would commence.
- 292. PARISH ASSEMBLY** – the pc voted not to hold a virtual event but instead to put an article in the Parish Magazine. **Action: The Clerk** would contact Peter Smyth to see if this would be possible.
- 293. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
  - i. Outstanding Quarterly Risk Assessment issues:
    - a. burial ground wall – SB had looked at this and thought it did not pose a risk.
    - b. pathway that runs between concrete posts and entrance to the back of the burial ground – JMY reported that the pathway was undulating but not broken up, however there is a developing pot hole which may present a trip hazard, that the pc would ask the contractor (once appointed) to fill when repairing the burial ground perimeter path.
  - ii. March Quarterly Risk Assessment – BF has this in progress.
  - iii. Annual Financial Risk Assessment – This was agreed and JMY would sign.
- 294. CLERKS MATTERS:**
  - i. Clerks hours for February were agreed.
- 295. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JMY & RL** would authorise payments below:
  - i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
  - ii. Samantha Weatherill - £519.24 salary & expenses, includes £9.99 for HP ink; £323.40 incl. VAT for advert in Sussex Express for village hall planning application, £43.65 for plugin for website compliance - (UT ref: 92265361)
  - iii. Samantha Weatherill - £54.39 expenses - £14.39 for Zoom + £40 to ICO – (UT ref: 12706303)
  - iv. Lucy McConachie for February play area inspection - £40 (UT ref: 41952441)
  - v. ES Pension Fund - £345.49 (UT ref: 142191752)
  - vi. Ash Partnership for bat appraisal at Village Hall - £276 (UT ref: 333791406)
  - vii. Viking stationery - £31.22 + VAT (UT ref: 698444301)
  - viii. SSALC Ltd Clerks training - £30 + VAT (UT ref: 525931395)
  - ix. B Hammond for Rubber matting replacement at Playing Field - £519.24
  - x. BT by DD £132.27 + VAT
  - xi. UT Bank quarterly charges £18
- 296. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 297. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 24<sup>th</sup> February.
- 298. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**
  - Gill Hope Bank wood.

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