



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Monday 5th July 2021

Present: Councillors: Peter Weston (PW) Chair, Sally Blyfield (SB), Ben Floyd (BF), Rachel Lewis (RL), David Munday (DM)

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

63. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One member of the public re-raised the issue of the fact that he had received a letter from ESCC to get his trees cut down within 14 days but nothing seems to have been done. **Cllr Standley** responded that letters had gone out to residents with curtilage on Five Chimneys Lane and the deadline had expired so he will chase this up to find out what is happening. They also wanted to point out that the top of School Lane was very overgrown and vegetation had fallen over the footpath which is very unsightly; also the area between the Church and Waste Wood entrance had brambles leaning over the verge which means people have to walk in the road. **Actions:** This was noted by the **PC** and would be investigated. They also said they had reported several pot holes, one at the top of School Lane and another which he had reported at least four times but ESCC says it is the waterboard's responsibility which results in no-one doing a proper repair job. This was also noted and would be investigated and **PW** would raise it at the next SLR meeting.

Another member of the public asked whether two trees at the eastern end of the Church had TPOs on them as they need topping. SB advised them to go onto the Wealden website to see whether there was a TPO on them but it was unlikely that they would, in which case it would be fine to top them. They also stated that they had had difficulty finding the date of the Parish Council meeting on the Village Website. **Action: The Clerk** would update the calendar for meetings on the website.

64. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were accepted from Julian Michaelson-Yeates and Cllr Phil Dixon.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – SB and RL declared a pecuniary interest in 68 i b. BF declared a personal interest in item 68 i. a. and BF and DM declared a personal interest in 76 iv.

66. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 4th May (previously circulated) were agreed subject to the following amendments: “Annual” would be added to the title; item 45 would be amended from “..and that a footpath at Woodlands Farm has been created” to “..and that a stock fence has been erected blocking a stile on the footpath (HAD/38/1) that runs along the edge of Hole Wood; however, a rough track exists on the Hole Wood side of the stock fence, south of the stile, that links with the original path near to Hole Farm (Bridge/Culvert HAD/257).”; item 47 iii would be amended so show JMY's action was to speak to the School not the Church. With the three agreed amendments, the minutes were signed as a true record. The minutes of the meeting held on 1st June were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

67. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **Cllr Standley** would give an update on the issue of drainage at the old burial ground. *Cllr Standley is waiting for the Highway Steward to come back to him. **Carry Forward***
- ii. **Cllr Standley** would send the Clerk copies of the letters sent to residents of Five Chimney's Lane re trees causing issues for County Clean lorries for JMY to take forward. **Done.** **Cllr Standley** would meet with County Clean to discuss further. *This would be done once progress was made on tree trimming. **Carry Forward.***
- iii. **BF** would raise the issue identified in the risk report of the pathway that runs between the concrete posts and the entrance to the back of the burial ground with the contractor resurfacing the burial ground path. **Done as part of perimeter path repair.**
- iv. **JMY** would ask the School about their plans for pursuing the provision of a staff car park at St Mark's School. **Done** – *this issue is with the school to take further with the Church diocese.*
- v. **JMY and The Clerk** would organise a meeting between the PC and the new Community Centre. *This was not now required due to them having a meeting which JMY attended.*
- vi. **JMY** would arrange a meeting between the PFC and the appropriate landowners re boundary issues. **Carry Forward.**

- vii. **JMY** would forward emails to DM, BF and ML re the noise management plan for Wilderness Wood. *JMY had been in touch with Wilderness Wood and they had invited the PC to have an annual meeting to update on what is going on. Carry Forward.*
- viii. **JMY** would write an article for the Parish Magazine re using hedges as dumps. **Carry Forward**
- ix. **PW** would forward DM's report re triangle at the bottom of Five Chimneys Lane to ES Highways to see what could be done. *He had not heard back but will update when he gets a response. Carry Forward*
- x. **Cllr Standley** would investigate the poor general state of School Lane's road surface from the A272 to the playing field exasperated by the use of large Coppard lorries and why there was a "not suitable for large vehicles" sign at one end of the road only; *to be raised at SLR meeting; the sign is only advisory and linked to Rotherfield Long Vehicle ban. It should be made clear that this was not just Coppards lorries but all lorries. Carry Forward*
- xi. **JMY and RL** would create an addendum to the Emergency Plan. *The Clerk would take this forward with RL. Carry Forward*

xii. **Clerks report:** update passed to councillors prior to the meeting/posted on website.

a. The Clerk had sent around a revised schedule of PC meetings to be held on Monday's due to the lack of availability of the main hall at the Village Hall.

b. The Clerk had cancelled the PC's Zoom conferencing software subscription which took effect on 30th May.

68. 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.

BF left the room.

i. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2021/1264/F – 2 BEECH TREE COTTAGE, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ER** – raise height of two windows to front elevation, with dormer roofs over.

The PC voted 4/0 to support this as the proposed alterations safeguards the appearance of the premises and the character of the area generally.

RL and SB left the room. BF returned.

b. **WD/2021/0435/F – LITTLE MANOR LODGE, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HH** – replacement garage.

The PC voted 3/0 to support this application.

RL and SB returned.

ii. **APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2021/0349/F – SCOCUS FARM, HEATHFIELD ROAD, FIVE ASHES, TN20 6JJ** – proposed new garage building.

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.

c. **WD/2021/1207/OH – TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN** – overhead line refurbishment project, which is necessary to resolve a localised voltage complaint. The proposal is to refurbish the overhead line to aerial bundled conductor (ABC).

d. **WD/2021/0506/F – THE OLD COTTAGE, CURTAINS HILL, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DU** – erection of a detached single storey garden log cabin for home office use.

iii. **REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2020/2163/F – 4 GRANGE COTTAGES, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HJ** – conversion of the existing house into two self contained units.

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

c. **WD/2021/0482/PIP – THE PADDOCKS, SUMMER HILL, FIVE ASHES, MAYFIELD, TN20 6JL** – residential development for a minimum of 1 residential dwelling or a maximum of 3 residential dwellings.

69. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC

Cllr Standley gave a quick summary of the report circulated.

70. HIGHWAYS

i. Speed Indicator Signs (SID) proposal – we now have two licenses and are waiting for ESCC to erect the poles; then we will wait for SWARCO to install the SID.

71. BANK RECONCILIATIONS: - 25th May were ratified and 25th June were agreed and signed.

72. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS

i. Quarter 1 reconciliation to end June – was approved and signed.

ii. Village Hall – it was agreed to pay the commercial rate for the main hall for 1st June and 5th July meetings as the precept which had been agreed last year had been based on booking the Committee Room. It was also agreed to revert to Tuesday meetings held in the Committee Room wherever possible, assuming Covid-19 rules were lifted, with the caveat that if more than 6 members of the public attended a meeting it would be held outside. However,

there was a need to be flexible and so the date of the following meeting would be agreed on a monthly basis at the PC meeting.

- iii. Assets Register – was approved and signed as part of quarterly controls.
- iv. Receipt of VAT rebate for year end 31st March 2021 - £1,807.68 was acknowledged.
- v. The following decision was ratified: Annual Insurance renewal, increase due to claim for notice board;
- vi. The following payments were ratified:
 - a. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
 - b. Samantha Weatherill - £159.78 salary & expenses, includes £14.39 for Zoom (final payment), £9.99 for HP ink - (UT ref: 158086275)
 - c. Lucy McConachie for May play area inspection - £40 (UT ref: 751626477)
 - d. ES Pension Fund - £309.43 (UT ref: 26819355)
 - e. BT for telephone & broadband - £125.71 + VAT (paid by DD)
 - f. Mulberry & Co for Chairman training - £50 + VAT (UT ref: 743204751)
 - g. SLCC for upgrade of membership to Principal - £41.25 (UT ref: 919608965)
 - h. PWLB for loan repayment - £567.07 (paid by DD)
 - i. ES Highways for part of SID licenses - £503.78 (UT ref: 199194967) – Internal transfer from Savings to Current account to cover cost of this which is to be paid from CIL 2020
 - j. Came & Co for pc insurance - £730.87 (UT ref: 297042486)
- 73. BURIAL GROUND PERIMETER PATH REPAIR** – the path had been repaired however there were two areas where the inner edging stones had in two sections been replaced with wood not concrete, which was not what had been agreed; some other areas of concerns were also raised. **Actions: SB** would take photos of the path where there were issues and **The Clerk** would discuss them with the contractor.
SB asked about adding rose bushes to the entrance to the burial ground to make it more aesthetically pleasing.
Action: The Clerk would add this to the next meeting agenda.
- 74. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)** – reports had been sent.
- 75. REPLACEMENT OF NOTICE BOARD ON MAIN ROAD** – this should be done within the next week or so.
- 76. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**
 - i. Speeding through the village – PW said that this seemed to be an increasing concern and added that the SID would be going up. **Action: PW** would also raise the issue at the next SLR meeting.
 - ii. State of A272 and pot holes – some have been reported to East Sussex Highways, and a few are in the process of repair. The general state of local roads will be discussed at the next SLR meeting.
 - iii. Lorries using School Lane/Hastingford contrary to the advisory that the road is unsuitable for lorries – discussed under Item 67x.
 - iv. Issues re Tinkers Park Steam Rally 5-6th June – the signage for the fair; some problems over traffic, particularly on the Saturday, which was backed up and satnav redirected people to use the back lanes/Tinkers Lane and this was exasperated by an accident on the A267. Also an issue about a steam engine which reportedly arrived at 2:30am accompanied by a very loud steam whistle. **Action: The Clerk** would write to the Trustees with these concerns about signage and traffic control and whether guidance is issued to people about the timing of the arrival of heavy vehicles at the site but also to pass on praise from residents that the event finished on time at 11pm. It had been a very successful money raising event for charity.
 - v. Hedgerow Replacement Notice – the PC had been informed that a notice had been issued by Wealden DC to Crowpits House, Wilderness Lane, that they must replace the hedge that they removed.
 - vi. Public Diversion Order Buxted 81a – Hadlow Down 4 – ESCC had informed the PC that this has been issued and would be confirmed or referred to the Secretary of State for determination once the objection period passes on 2nd July.
 - vii. Report to Rights of Way team of bridleway from Hadlow Down to Blackboys through Waste Wood - The Rights of Way team had agreed that this does need dealing with but that it may not get done due to limited resources.
Action: PW would raise this at the next SLR meeting.
- 77. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
 - i. Commission Quarterly Risk Assessment to be done in July – **Action: PW** would do this.
 - ii. Fingerpost Survey – BF had done this but there was one missing at Shepherds Hill/Pounsley Hill. **Actions: PW** would investigate. **The Clerk** would speak to Phill Anderson to clarify that he had repaired this one. The rotted fingerpost at Curtains Hill would be removed and stored as it was propped up by the hedge which may prove to be a hazard.
- 78. CLERKS MATTERS:**
 - i. Clerks hours for May were ratified and clerks hours for June were agreed.
- 79. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
 - i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
 - ii. Samantha Weatherill - £104.51 salary & expenses, includes £9.99 for HP ink - (UT ref: 71165043)
 - iii. Lucy McConachie for June play area inspection - £40 (UT ref: 749027718)

- iv. ES Pension Fund - £295.09 (UT ref: 447028241)
 - v. HMRC April-June - £257.92 (UT ref: 657195219)
 - vi. Wealden DC for litter bins - £390 + £78 VAT = £468 (increase of £15 + VAT per quarter, paid by DD)
 - vii. G.W.Allen Contractors - £8,875 + £1,775 VAT (UT ref: 164430532) – Internal transfer from savings to current account to cover the cost of this which is to be paid from CIL 2020. This would not be paid until issues has been clarified.
 - viii. PhillSigns for fingerpost repairs £2,660 (UT ref: 102851413) (£1,330 to be paid by ESCC Highways and £1,330 to be paid from Fingerpost EMR. Payment would be made once the whereabouts of the Shepherds Hill/Pounsley Hill fingerpost, which seemed to be missing but had been invoiced for, had been established.
- 80. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 3rd August in the Committee Room of the Village Hall at 7pm.
- 81. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 82. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 29th June.
- 83. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**
- Whether roses should be planted at the burial ground and be a consideration for Precept 2021/22

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:17 pm.