



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd August 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 Bob Standley (ESCC), Samantha Weatherill (Clerk) and four members of the public.

84. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public asked why the County Clean lorries contracted by ESCC were still not using the designated route and why the cutting back of the trees along the designated route had yet to be completed? Cllr Standley understood the frustration and said that ESCC are pushing ahead with the residents to get this sorted. JMY added that there was a query about ownership of the land upon which some of the problem trees sit and he would be raising the issue at the SLR meeting this week. **Action: Cllr Standley** would also seek clarification on the issue of land ownership and report back. A further problem was raised in relation to nuisance from smell caused by bins being parked close to the boundary fence on the footpath in front of Grange Cottages. The recommendation is that the resident should raise the matter with ESCC Environmental Health. **Action: JMY** would speak to the resident.

Another member of the public raised the problem that many of the village committees are in need of volunteers. It was agreed that a co-ordinated approach involving the PC and the committees is required to find new volunteers. The PC wished to express their thanks to David, who despite not being a parishioner, has been posting on Facebook the cleaning of the road signs in the village, this is much appreciated.

ML joined the meeting.

85. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – none.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - BF has a personal interest in item 97ii;

87. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 5th July were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

88. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **Cllr Standley** would give an update on the issue of drainage at the old burial ground. ***This has been dealt with.***
- ii. **Cllr Standley** would meet with County Clean to discuss them resuming using Five Chimney's Lane once progress has been made on tree trimming. ***Carry Forward.***
- iii. **JMY** would arrange a meeting between the PFC and the landowner re drain issues. ***Done.***
- iv. **JMY** would update on having an annual meeting with Wilderness Wood. ***Likely to be w/c 6th September.***
- v. **JMY** would write an article for the Parish Magazine re using hedges as dumps. ***In hand.***
- vi. **PW** would give an update once he has had a response from ES Highways re what could be done about the triangle at the bottom of Five Chimneys Lane. ***He will be raising this at the SLR meeting. Carry Forward***
- vii. **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 lorries and would raise this and the "not suitable for large vehicles" sign at one end of the road only at the SLR meeting. ***This has been reported and will be raised at the SLR meeting. Carry Forward***
- viii. **PW** would raise the following issues for discussion at the next SLR meeting: speeding; the report made to and responded by the ESCC Rights of Way Team about the poor state of the bridleway from Hadlow Down to Blackboys through Waste Wood. ***These had been added to the SLR agenda and an update would be given at the next meeting. Carry Forward***
- ix. **Clerks report:** update passed to councillors prior to the meeting/posted on website.
 - a. The Clerk had spoken to Phill Anderson about the fingerpost missing at Shepherds Hill/Pounsley Hill and he had confirmed that there had been a mistake about the fingerpost but he would replace it.
 - b. The Clerk had updated the calendar on the Hadlow Down Village website with the next two meeting dates but would continue to add them each month as the dates were agreed.
 - c. The Clerk and RL had created an Addendum to the Emergency Plan to be kept by the Clerk due to GDPR.

89. PLANNING:

i. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a. WD/2021/1428/F – SPRINGWELL COTTAGE, HALL LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HJ** – demolition of garage and erection of replacement garage with home office and domestic store on the first floor.

Standing Orders were suspended so that a member of the public could speak in support of their application.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

The PC voted 7/0 to support this application in view of it being of limited impact on the environment.

ii. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a. WD/2020/2483/F – HADLOW DOWN FARM COTTAGE, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EP** – demolition of existing property and re-build using timber frame with like for like replacement roof. External footprint of the existing building will remain unchanged, with the addition of the proposed extensions dimensioned on the drawing. External material palette will remain unchanged to ensure the aesthetics of the building are retained.

- b. WD/2019/2186/MAJ – LITTLE ENGLAND FARM, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EP** – retrospective application for re-grading and re-profiling of agricultural land together with proposed re-siting of steel framed agricultural barn previously approved under WD/2017/7047/AD and hardstanding.

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

ML brought up the issue of flash flooding and said there had been some concerns about the maintenance of drains. Cllr Standley responded that he was aware of the issues surrounding mains and ditches but given the amount of rain there was always likely to be some flooding.

91. HIGHWAYS

- i.** Speed Indicator Signs (SID) proposal – we now have all licenses and are waiting for ESCC to erect the poles; then we will wait for SWARCO to install the SID. ESCC have granted an extension of the licenses as it had taken so long to progress this and SID is on the agenda for the SLR meeting.

92. BANK RECONCILIATIONS: - 25th July were agreed and signed.

93. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS

- i.** Decisions that were ratified: fingerpost partial payment due to misunderstanding with one fingerpost still to be done £2,140 paid, £520 still to be paid upon completion.
- ii.** Income received: £3.61 from UKPN for annual rent of playing field.
- iii.** Reserves movements update – half of the total transfer to reserves would be made as agreed when Precept was set (in line with first half of precept being received).

94. 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 had attended ongoing meetings with the PCSO. BF had spoken to the Playing Field Committee re drainage and boundaries. PW said that much patching of road surfaces had been done which made for a bouncier ride along the A272. The SLR meeting was scheduled for 6th August. DM had been monitoring undecided planning applications. It was agreed that the PC might add the issue of the Hastingford Lane triangle to the September meeting agenda if it does not get dealt with at the SLR meeting, however more utility works have been scheduled to take place shortly which may result in further damage by diverted traffic. JMY added that on behalf of the PC, he would like to thank David who has been cleaning the road signs in village, this was greatly appreciated. He also believed that the PC should work with the village committees to co-ordinate getting more volunteers. He thanked Paul James for stepping forward to help with the assisting the Village Hall. **Action: JMY** would get together with the heads of the village committees and others who may have some ideas about how to address the volunteer crisis.

95. BURIAL GROUND

- i.** Consideration of planting roses and adding to budget discussions in October. SB thought it would look nice to have some roses along the front bit of the burial ground. This would be considered once various works had been completed.
- ii.** Burial ground risk assessment findings. There are two wobbly graves broken at the joint. **Action: The Clerk** would let the owners know. JMY had cleared up the burial ground but it could do with a bin. **Action: JMY** would liaise with Paul James concerning the mounting debris immediately to the right of the entrance gate, raise the matter of the bins with the PCC and what could be done to encourage people to remove old wreaths and dead flowers.
- iii.** Burial ground perimeter path repair issues and payment. It was agreed that the path had to have concrete edging all the way around even though this may involve disturbing some yew tree roots. The PC prefer the corners to be mitred and the gaps along the sweeping curve to be pugged. It was agreed to pay 80% of the bill for the works completed and the final amount once it had been finished to the PC's satisfaction. **Action: The Clerk** would raise a payment for £8,520.

96. REPLACEMENT OF NOTICE BOARD ON MAIN ROAD – this should be done within the next week or so.

97. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

- i. Request for pedestrian crossing warning sign at kissing gate end of burial ground. This had been put on the SLR agenda. JMY had cut back the vegetation around the kissing gate in the burial ground to improve visibility on to the A272.
- ii. Response from Claude Jessett Trust re Tinkers Park Steam Rally event. It was acknowledged that the traffic had been exceptional occurrence this year and the late arrival of a heavy vehicle was due to a breakdown. **Action: PW** would look into the licenses for the event to confirm agreed finishing times.

98. RISK ASSESSMENTS

- i. Quarterly Risk Assessment update – the following actions had been identified:
 - **BF** would look at the village sign as it was now wobbly and report back.
 - **PW** would cut back the overhanging trees from the noticeboard on the main road.
 - **BF** would remove the hanging cable at the playing field.
 - **JMY** would have a look at the manhole cover at the junction of the 'service road' leading to the east gate of the burial ground.
 - **JMY** would oak oil the bus shelter before the schools go back, the cost of this would be reimbursed by the PC.

99. CLERKS MATTERS:

- i. Clerks hours for July were agreed.
- ii. Training courses to be booked – the courses listed on the training spreadsheet were agreed.

100. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JMY + DM to authorise

- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
- ii. Samantha Weatherill - £102.71 salary & expenses, includes £9.99 for HP ink - (UT ref:669668012)
- iii. Lucy McConachie for July play area inspection - £40 (UT ref: 94606495)
- iv. ES Pension Fund - £295.09 (UT ref: 326616323)
- v. Hadlow Down Village Hall - £24 (UT ref: 456651425)

101. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 7th September in the Committee Room.

102. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17 – nothing raised.

103. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this had been checked on 28th July.

104. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- PCSO to attend the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:24 pm.