



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 7th September 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), PCSO Sue Choppin (for item 105-108 only)

- 105. PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – none.
- 106. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – apologies and reason for absence was accepted for Sally Blyfield.
- 107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – JMY declared a personal interest in item 113 iii; BF declared a personal interest in item 110 ix; ML declared a personal interest in items 110 i., 110 iv. & 113 iv.
- 108. PCSO SUE CHOPPIN** – Sue gave a brief outline of her work as a PCSO. She covers Uckfield, Hadlow Down and Buxted and works alongside her colleague Rosie who covers East Hoathly, Maresfield and Framfield. Their role involves dealing with missing people; elderly victims of crime; anti-social behaviour, Operation Blitz if she is on duty, attending meetings. They allocate work from a queue so may cover other areas if their own queue is quiet and they may also get called to jobs e.g. road traffic accidents. Contact details: ring 101 for non-emergency issues; if the issue is regarding intelligence then email Susan.Choppin@sussex.pnn.police.uk; dial 999 if need quick assistance. JMY said that he believed the top three issues for parishioners were: speeding through the village; suspicious behaviour; and vandalism to cars. With regard to speeding issues Sue said they do try to get out with the speed gun at least once a week but they do cover the whole of the Wealden District. JMY added that an area of particular concern is for parents of school children who have to cross the road to get to the bus stop which is located on a blind bend. Unfortunately, the police can only do speed checks on straight pieces of road. PW raised the issue of early Sunday morning motorbike riders speeding and Sue said that due to their agility and the difficulty in being able to see their numberplates Traffic Officers were best placed to deal with these as they have power to give endorsements on licences etc. PW added that once the SID is in place the PC will have data which may be useful for the Safer Roads contact Steve O'Connell.
- 109. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 3rd August were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).
- 110. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**
- i. Cllr Standley would meet with County Clean to discuss them resuming using Five Chimney's Lane once progress has been made on tree trimming. *He was still waiting for an updated response from County Clean. **Carry Forward***
 - ii. **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 had raised this at the SLR meeting but ESCC had said that it is not severe enough to have anything done about it but would monitor. **Done***
 - iii. **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. *ESCC said it did not currently meet the criteria. **Done***
 - iv. **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. *This is on the list of things to be done when funding is available. **Done***
 - v. **Cllr Standley** would seek clarification on the issue of land ownership at Five Chimney's Lane. *The officer dealing with this issue is currently on holiday. **Carry Forward***
 - vi. **JMY** would speak to the resident re how to report issues with bins parked along fence from Grange Cottages. **Done**
 - vii. **JMY** would get together with the heads of the village committees and others to discuss how to attract volunteers. *RL had drafted a proposal and this would be discussed under item 117. **Carry Forward***
 - viii. **JMY** would liaise with Paul James re bins at the burial ground and how to encourage people to take their rubbish away. *This action would be revised to speak to Janet Tourell about using the Church bins. **Carry Forward***
 - ix. **PW** would look into licenses for Tinkers Park Steam rally event to confirm agreed finishing times. **Carry Forward.**
 - x. **DM** would investigate the status of Five Chimneys Eggs planning application and would investigate the traffic report. **Carry Forward**

- xi. **Clerks report:** update passed to councillors prior to the meeting/posted on website.
 - a. The Clerk had written to the owners of the two gravestones which were unstable at the base and had received a response from one who had dealt with the issue.
 - b. The Clerk had received notification from East Sussex County Council that the Public Path Diversion Order for Public Footpath Buxted 81a & Hadlow Down 4 (part) had been confirmed.
 - 111. **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/2021/1875/F – TREE TOPS, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HU** – new log store adjacent to existing outbuilding.
The PC voted 6/0 against the application, due to the size and scale of the proposed structure which is inconsistent with the purpose of a log store, as per saved policy EN27.
 - b. **WD/2021/1937/FR – PLOT 1, BURNT HOUSE FARM BARN, BRICK KILN LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EJ** – erection of a detached single storey dwelling and a detached triple garage.
The PC voted 6/0 in favour of the application due to the reduced impact in terms of traffic movements and the overall reduction in build mass and light pollution.
 - c. **WD/2021/2063/LB – CLAYLANDS, THE KIT WILSON TRUST FOR ANIMAL WELFARE, STONEHURST LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ED** – full removal of existing plain clay tile roof and full reroofing with matching 'heritage' type handmade clay tiles including roof insulation installed from the outside as required by the building regulations.
The PC voted 6/0 in favour of the application which is to upgrade the building with like for like in keeping with its listed status.
 - ii. **APPROVED 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.
 - b. **WD/2021/0435/F – LITTLE MANOR LODGE, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HH** – replacement garage.
 - c. **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.
 - iii. **APPEALS:**
Since posting the agenda the PC had been notified of the following appeal against a planning decision, details had been posted on the website:
 - d. **LE/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.
 - 112. **REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC** – *Written reports from Councillors had already been submitted which will accompany the minutes on the village website.*
Cllr Standley added that ESCC were currently considering budgets. **Action: The Clerk** would ask Eddie Westfield to add the Solar Scheme outlined in Cllr Standley's report to the village website.
 - 113. **HIGHWAYS**
 - i. Speed Indicator Signs (SID) proposal – PW updated that ESCC are to erect the poles for the SID but there has been no response from them regarding timescale. **Action: PW** would forward the emails to Cllr Standley.
 - ii. SLR meeting – update – ML asked about the A272 junction which is very dangerous. JMY said that the PC were told that the work had gone ahead in terms of hatchings and red paint but there was no other work being done.
Action: PW would raise this at the next SLR meeting. ESCC had also said that the cats eyes along the A272 would be replaced as so many were missing and that a solution for the drainage issues in Five Chimneys Lane was being sought. JMY had logged all blocked gullies.
- The Chair brought forward item 116.*
116. **VILLAGE HALL PLANNING APPLICATION**
JMY updated that the PC have now been advised that we will be charged a further £1,000 for Wealden DC legal department to cover the preparation of the s106 for the SAMMS and SANGS contributions, which the PC had not been aware of. **Action: The Clerk** would email our appeal to Stacey Robbins, copying in Cllrs Dixon and Standley.
113. **HIGHWAYS continued:**
 - iii. Request for memorial bench – a number of parishioners would like to put a community funded memorial bench on the Footpath 27. The PC had been advised that as this is not PC owned land it does not have the authority to approve or otherwise. Therefore, whilst the PC was very sympathetic to this request it is not within its jurisdiction.
 - iv. Re-issue of letters to residents with private access to playing field – this was done in 2013 and should be repeated every five years or so. This is to advise the few residents who have access from their property onto the playing field that whilst the PC are happy for them to use the access it does not represent a right to use it.

- 114. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - 25th August were agreed and signed.
- 115. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS**
- i. The following payments were ratified: PKF Littlejohn for External Audit £300 + £60 VAT; BT telephone & broadband paid by DD £120.35 + £24.07 VAT; SLCC training seminar £45 + £9 VAT; SLCC training £30 + £6 VAT;
 - ii. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2021 was reviewed and accepted.
 - iii. Agree the appointment of Internal and External Auditors – the PC agreed to the appointment of Mulberry & Co for the internal audit and PKF Littlejohn LLP for the external audit.
- 117. 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.
- RL had put together various ideas for how to encourage volunteers to come forward for all the Committees and the PC which really needed new volunteers to join them. **Action:** RL would circulate the proposal and it would be discussed at the next meeting. JMY had been contacted by a parishioner about the telephone pole which had been struck by a lorry and taken down again and BT had now put the electricity lines the other side of the pole to protect them.
- 118. BURIAL GROUND PATH REPAIR** – the PC would review the specification.
- 119. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**
- i. Complaint to Wilderness Wood re wedding party noise. This happened at 10pm but there was a question about the limit of noise allowed. This issue was noted by the PC.
- 120. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
- i. July Quarterly Risk Assessment update – the following actions had been identified:
 - a. BF would look at the village sign as it was now wobbly and report back. *This would continue to be monitored.* **Done.**
 - b. PW would cut back the overhanging trees from the noticeboard on the main road. **Done**
 - c. BF would remove the hanging cable at the playing field. *This has been tied up.* **Done.**
 - d. 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. **Carry Forward**
 - e. JMY would oak oil the bus shelter before the schools go back, the cost of this would be reimbursed by the PC. **Carry Forward**
 - ii. September Quarterly Risk Assessment – BF would do this.
 - iii. Fingerpost Survey review – **Action: The Clerk** would commission the work to be done for any fingerposts with a risk score of 3.
 - iv. ROSPA play area inspection report for 2021 – **Action: The Clerk** would look at whether we needed to continue to have covid-19 notices and arrange for them to either be removed or replaced.
- 121. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Clerks hours for August were agreed.
- 122. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – PW + DM to authorise**
- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
 - ii. Samantha Weatherill - £112.79 salary & expenses, includes £9.99 for HP ink - (UT ref:452267391)
 - iii. Samantha Weatherill - £35 for Bitdefender anti-virus – (UT ref: 986701023)
 - iv. Lucy McConachie for August play area inspection - £40 (UT ref: 273374108)
 - v. ES Pension Fund - £295.09 (UT ref: 306225678)
 - vi. Hadlow Down Village Hall - £24 (UT ref: 18728306)
 - vii. Playsafety LTD for ROSPA play area inspection - £89.50 + £17.90 VAT (UT ref: 175338291)
- 123. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 5th October in the Committee Room.
- 124. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 125. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 1st September.
- 126. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**
- Notes from meeting with Wilderness Wood
 - How to attract volunteers

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:04 pm.