



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd November 2021

Present: Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chair, Sally Blyfield (SB), Ben Floyd (BF), Rachel Lewis (RL), David Munday (DM).

In attendance: Cllr Phil Dixon (WDC), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) and five members of the public.

Clerk: none

168. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One member of the public said that they were concerned that tax payers money was being spent on the Village Hall outline planning application and questioned whether there was a business plan for the new Community Centre. ML responded that it was not tax payer's money being used to pay for the outline Village Hall planning application and this subject was on the agenda for discussion. They also raised the dangerous state of the roads for cyclists and motorbikes to which Cllr Standley urged people to report the issues and if they fit the criteria they would get dealt with. Another member of the public raised several issues: where the post for the Speed Indicator Device located in School Lane was situated would require trees to be cut back; there were no places for people to sit in either the main church yard or the part of the burial ground owned by the PC; they advised that the traffic in School Lane was terrible at school drop off and pick up time which would only get worse in winter. A Church representative asked for the PC to contribute to the cost of providing a green waste bin at the Church yard and also to put up signs for its use.

The agent for application WD/2021/2609/F – TINKERS WOOD, TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ES gave a short verbal presentation.

169. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – apologies were accepted from Peter Weston and the Clerk.

170. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – BF declared a personal interest in items 172 iv, 173 i. a. and 173 i. c.; DM declared a personal interest in item 172 iii and a pecuniary interest in item 173 ii. a.

171. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 5th and 19th October were agreed and would be signed as a true record (previously circulated).

172. 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. *This is ongoing but progress is being made.* **Carry Forward.**
- ii. **Cllr Standley** would seek clarification on the issue of land ownership at Five Chimney's Lane. **Carry Forward.**
- iii. **ML** would liaise with Janet Tourell re bins at the burial ground and how to encourage people to take their rubbish away. *The Church is not comfortable with the PC using their bins and they have asked for us to contribute to the cost of getting a recycling bin for us to use – to include in discussions re precept.* **Done.**
- iv. **PW** would look into licenses for Tinkers Park Steam rally event to confirm agreed finishing times. **Carry Forward**
- v. **RL** would apply for funding to hold an event to attract new volunteers to village committees. *Funding had been secured and RL would prepare for an item to be added onto the agenda for 7th December meeting for discussion.* **Done**
- vi. **DM** would contact someone at Wealden DC to see if two way radios are still in use and whether there is a requirement for us to keep the radio if not. *The PC agreed that, as we are not part of the group of volunteers using this system, we should no longer maintain the radio.* **Done**
- vii. **BF** would forward to RL the letter from Claude Jessett Trust re them funding new play equipment. **Done**
- viii. **RL** would investigate whether there were any funding opportunities for provision of new play equipment at the play area in order to secure match funding from Claude Jessett Trust. *RL had applied for funding.* **Carry Forward.**
- ix. **Clerks report:** update passed to councillors prior to the meeting/posted on website.
 - a. The Clerk had submitted the paperwork in order to get Michael Lunn added to the list of Unity Trust Bank signatories.
 - b. The Clerk had sent the minutes of the last SLR meeting to Trevor Leggo as evidence of the poor state of roads, pot holes etc.
 - c. The Clerk had commissioned the mole exterminator to treat the burial ground.

- d. The Clerk had spoken to the contractor to let him know that the PC were very happy to continue for the final year of the contract to maintain the play area, burial ground and verges and to ask him to strim beneath the picnic benches.
- e. The Clerk had informed ESCC that the PC would be opting for 'Option 1 Standard' two cuts to be carried out per year.
- f. The Clerk had spoken to the contractor for the burial ground path repair to update re yew tree removal and to go ahead with the completion of the work.
- g. The Clerk had advertised the Councillor Vacancy as directed, with a closing date for applications of 18th November.
- h. The Clerk had informed the noticeboard contractor that it was not currently fit for purpose and this was being investigated.
- i. The Clerk had engaged the PC in a three year contract with RBS accounting for the end-year roll out service at a rate reduced by 7% for each of the three years commencing April 2022.
- j. The Clerk had informed the Village Hall that the suggested invoicing process and costs proposed for the current and next financial year had been agreed by the PC.
- k. The Clerk had updated and circulated to the PC the Precept spreadsheet post 19th October Precept & Finance meeting.
- l. The Clerk had notified the PC insurers of the addition of SID poles to the assets register and they had confirmed the insurance had been updated to include them.

173. PLANNING:

i. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a. WD/2021/2122/LDE – HADLOW DOWN PLAYING FIELD, SCHOOL LANE, HADLOW DOWN – siting of 2NO (6m) shipping containers for secure storage of ground care machinery for use on the playing field (the site) by the trustees or volunteers.

The PC voted unanimously 4/0 to support the application presented for a lawful development certificate.

b. WD/2021/2507/F – 8 SCHOOL LANE COTTAGES, SCHOOL LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4JD – proposed single storey rear extension (sunroom). Existing conservatory to be removed.

The PC voted unanimously 5/0 to support this application because it is reasonable in size and in keeping with the location, has minimal impact and will benefit the wellbeing of the residents.

c. WD/2021/2609/F – TINKERS WOOD, TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ES – conversion of rural building to dwellinghouse.

The PC voted unanimously to support this application 4/0 as they believed it to be sustainable, had considered paragraph 79 of NPPF and that policy DC8 was met in full. They had also taken into consideration the Planning Inspectors comments regarding Huggetts Farm which sets a precedent and in their opinion it is a convertible building for domestic purposes.

ii. APPEALS:

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

iii. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a. WD/2021/1937/FR- PLOT 1, BURNT HOUSE FARM BARN, BRICK KILN LANE, UCKFIELD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EJ – erection of a detached single storey dwelling and a detached triple garage.

b. WD/2020/0290/F – CROWPITS HOUSE, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HB – conversion of curtilage listed barn to residential annexe. New car port, terrace and outdoor swimming pool.

c. WD/2020/0291/LB – CROWPITS HOUSE, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HB – conversion of curtilage listed barn to residential annexe. New car port, terrace and outdoor swimming pool.

d. 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. Full re roofing to include dormer window with matching 'heritage' type handmade clay tiles, the insertion of roof insulation and other associated works.

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

Cllr Standley urged people to report any issues regarding poor state of roads/road signage via the ESCC website but added that there was a finite amount of money that had to be allocated accordingly. Poor parking causing issues for both pedestrians and other cars was discussed. Any issues should be reported under "dangerous parking" on the ESCC website. ML would also pass on details to the PCSO.

Cllr Dixon updated that, with regard to the planning application for Five Chimney's Farm, Highways are happy with the proposal but the planning officer had identified some problems such as the parking arrangement on site and landscaping. If the applicant makes the changes as suggested by the planning officer it is likely to go ahead.

175. RENEWAL OF OLD VILLAGE HALL OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION

The PC had been notified of legal fees attached to this outline application for a S106 agreement which when challenged had been reduced to £750 rather than being waived. There had been no S106 agreement previously as there had been a planning condition which attached the outline application to the new Village Hall application. It was agreed that the PC could not move forward with this application until this issue was resolved. **Action: Cllr Standley** would continue to talk to Wealden DC about this issue.

176. HIGHWAYS

- i. Speed Indicator Signs (SID) proposal – the poles were in place and we were waiting for a date for the SID to be delivered.

177. BANK RECONCILIATIONS: - 25th October reconciliation would be signed at the next meeting.

178. PAYROLL SERVICES CONTRACT – the quotes provided for services with new provider from April 2022 were discussed and agreed. **Action: The Clerk** would engage the services of Contractor A.

179. NOTICEBOARD – The contractor had acknowledged that there was a problem with the board and was investigating how to rectify this.

180. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)

Action: The Clerk would submit the survey on the PC's behalf according to DM's recommendations.

SB raised the issue of the policy consultation briefing on the DEFRA consultation into the Environmental Permitting Regulations which if they came into effect would have an impact on the burial ground as the PC would need to look at drainage and increase the size of plots. **Action: The Clerk** would forward the consultation to the PC for them to formulate a response.

181. BURIAL GROUND:

- i. Path repair – Carry Forward to next meeting when all councillors present. **Action: all Cllrs** to view the repair.
- ii. Dealing with clearing the area owned by the PC set aside for burial ground extension. **Action: BF** would have a look at the area to try to determine what could be done and how much it is likely to cost to clear it.

182. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

- i. Review Precept prior to approval in December – **Carry Forward**

183. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- i. Poor parking in Hut Lane- the Clerk had sent a link to the resident to report this issue to ESCC.
- ii. Poor state of the Footpath that leads from Wheelers Lane to Tinkers Park and overgrown hedge – this had been reported to ESCC and Wealden who were taking action.

184. DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY – the policy was agreed.

185. RISK ASSESSMENTS:

- i. ROSPA play area inspection report – BF had ordered the matting which complied with BS regulations. He had made this area safe.

186. CLERKS MATTERS:

- i. Clerks hours for October were agreed.

187. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – RL & DM would authorise – invoices would be signed at the next meeting.

- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
- ii. Samantha Weatherill - £422.74 salary & expenses, includes £9.99 for HP ink, £189.95 + £37.99 VAT for defibrillator battery - (UT ref: 189026311)
- iii. Lucy McConachie for October play area inspection - £40 (UT ref: 979667348)
- iv. ES Pension Fund - £323.62 (UT ref: 261216657)
- v. D Fears for total of 3 annual contracts for maintenance of play area, burial ground and verges - £1840 + £368 VAT (UT ref: 60617633)
- vi. Wealden District Association of Local Councils annual subscription for 2021/22 - £21 (UT ref: 235451962)
- vii. ESALC Ltd for BF planning training - £40 + £8 VAT (UT ref: 983929756)
- viii. SLCC for clerk planning training - £30 + £6 VAT (UT ref: 412999619)

188. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 7th December.

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

190. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this was checked on 19th October.

191. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- How to attract new volunteers – plan of action
- Burial Ground path repair
- Dealing with clearing the area owned by the PC set aside for burial ground extension
- Footpath from Tinkers Park to Wheelers Lane

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:22pm.