



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council**  
**Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down**  
**at 7pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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

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

**218. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the public queried the issue of the provision of a brown bin at the Church yard as, subsequent to the PC agreeing to contribute half of the cost (and the Clerk's notes being issued), The Clerk had informed them that it does not have the legal power to make any payment to a place of worship. **Action: The Clerk** would put this item on the next meeting agenda. They also said that there was a large hole forming on the driveway leading to the burial ground gates and asked who owned that piece of land in order for the hole to be dealt with. **Action: The Clerk** would investigate who owned the land. They also wanted to make the PC/residents aware that there was stonework coming loose at the Church which will require major work and the bench that had been temporarily sited under the parapet had been removed as it was at risk from falling masonry.

Another member of the public raised the issue of County Clean lorries continuing to not use their designated route. They were delighted that the SID was working but was concerned that it was positioned where there were already many calming measures and asked the PC to consider whether another post could be put on the Western end of the village where most people cross the road. Cllr Weston agreed with the observations made but added that there were conditions on siting which included how many meters were required to meet line of site requirements and how far from a junction it could be sited etc. The PC had agreed to apply for two licenses and review the data gathered to see if it backed up further sites.

Another member of the public commented that the A272 was in a very poor condition and there was a consultation from Wealden DC who were seeking to raise the council tax. **Action: The Clerk** would request that a link to the consultation be added to the News page of the village website. PW added that there was a scheduled closure of A272 for patching.

**219. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** - None.

**220. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – ML declared a personal interest in Item 225ii.

**221. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 7<sup>th</sup> December were agreed subject to an amendment to the wording of Item 203 and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

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

- i. **Cllr Standley** to make sure that County Clean resume using Five Chimney's Lane now that tree trimming has been done. *This was ongoing. Carry Forward*
- ii. **Cllr Standley** would seek clarification on the issue of land ownership at Five Chimney's Lane. **Carry Forward**
- iii. **Cllr Dixon** would continue to pursue the issue of the outline Village Hall planning application s106 query. **Carry Forward**
- iv. **BF** would investigate the requirements for getting the extension to the burial ground site cleared. BF said that there were no substantial tree work and estimated that it was a day's work. **Action: The Clerk** would investigate with BF the risk etc for using a working party to carry out this work. **Carry Forward**
- v. **Cllr Dixon & DM** would liaise re emergency two-way radio. *The radio would be passed to Cllr Dixon to return to Wealden DC. Carry Forward*
- vi. **Cllr Dixon** would follow up on the fact that you cannot leave a message on the Wealden DC noise disturbance out of hours complaint hotline. **Carry Forward**
- vii. **PW** would liaise with Paul James re erection of the SID. *PW recorded his thanks to Paul for his help with this. Done*
- viii. **PW** would look into the situation regarding overgrown footpath from Tinkers Park to Wheelers Lane. *On the agenda for SLR meeting. Carry Forward*
- ix. **RL/The Clerk/ML** would create an action plan for the "how to attract volunteers to committees" project. *This was on the agenda. Done*

- x. **Clerks report:** update passed to councillors prior to the meeting/posted on website.
  - a. The Clerk had emailed Janet Tourell to let her know that a resident had reported that the new bench in the Church yard was unstable and may need fixing. Janet had responded that the bench in question was only there on a temporary basis and would be replaced once permission had been given by the Diocese for a permanent bench.
  - b. The Clerk had informed Janet Tourell that the PC would be contributing half towards the cost of the provision of a brown bin at the Church yard for shared use with visitors to the burial ground for one year as a trial to see if it helps with the issue of rubbish left.
  - c. The Clerk had sent BF and ML a copy of the map showing the boundaries around the extension to the burial ground.
  - d. The Clerk had notified the PC's insurers to include the SID and updated the Assets Register.
- 223. 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. **APPEALS:**
    - a. **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.
  - ii. **APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
    - a. **WD/2019/1926/F – HASTINGFORD FARM, HASTINGFORD LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DY** – conversion and change of use of a cow barn used for agricultural storage, to a holiday let, including alteration of doors and windows.
    - b. **WD/2021/2705/F – 2 WEALD COTTAGES, HUT LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HD** – two storey extension to rear and first floor side extension over existing garage; loft conversion within existing roof framework.
  - iii. **REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
    - a. **WD/2021/2609/F – TINKERS WOOD, TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ES** – conversion of rural building to dwellinghouse.
- 224. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR PHIL DIXON:**
- Cllr Standley reported that: ESCC had just launched a book reading challenge for school children; the Solar Together scheme had received 2,500 responses; ESCC were currently looking at budgets and their percentage increase would be larger than Wealden DC's due to the provision of adult social care.
- Cllr Dixon reported that: Wealden DC were consulting on the proposal for a modest increase in council tax which amounted to approximately £5 p.a. for a Band D property; in terms of SHELAA, Hadlow Down was slightly protected as it is in an area of the AONB and is not a highly sustainable area; the Omicron grant programme has been put out which was aimed at the hospitality sector in addition to some discretionary grants.
- ML asked what infrastructure improvements were being put into the Local Plan given that the junction of the A272/A267 is a notorious accident black spot and with the additional housing going in all around the district would only get worse. Cllr Standley agreed that this was a well known dangerous spot and thought there would be some provision for improvements made. It was good to hear that Cllr Standley had met recently with both MPs Mr Gove and Mr Sunak and had managed to explain the challenges being faced by Wealden given the high housing targets they were expected to meet.
- 225. HIGHWAYS**
- i. Speed Indicator Signs (SID) – PW had collated data from the SID but this was an atypical period to analyse. It was noted that very fast traffic seemed to often occur at 5am or 11pm. The SID would be turned around to face the other way after three months which would allow time to gather more data in its current location after which it would be moved to the School Lane location. The PC thanked PW for all his hard work on getting the SID in place. The PCSOs had also done two speeding checks recently and issued both warnings and tickets.
  - ii. Proposed diversion of public footpath Hadlow Down 10 – PW led this discussion. The new route had suggested the diversion rather than a straight route in order to avoid saturated ground and there would be a kissing gate. It was a path created for school children to walk to school many years ago but there was no sign of anyone having used the old route for some time.  
The PC voted unanimously 5/0 to accept the proposed diversion with no objections.
- 226. BANK RECONCILIATIONS** - 25th December were agreed and signed.
- 227. REVIEW OF QUARTERLY FIGURES** – Q3 reports were agreed and signed.
- 228. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**
- i. Precept for final approval and signature – The Precept was approved and signed and would be returned to Wealden DC.
  - ii. Assets Register – the Assets Register was signed as part of the quarterly controls.
  - iii. Reserves movements – were provisionally agreed but would be reviewed again before end March.

- iv. The following payments were ratified: B Floyd for matting at play area £101.24 + £20.24 VAT (UT ref: 834232489); SWARCO Traffic Ltd for SID - £3,551 + £710.20 VAT to be paid from CIL (UT ref: 526094338)
- 229. BURIAL GROUND:**
- i. Dealing with clearing the area owned by the PC set aside for burial ground extension – it was agreed that the area should be cleared, preferably during February, to make it more open but the perimeter trees would be kept.  
**Action: The Clerk** would investigate the process for managing risk/insurance issues when using a group of volunteers to do the work.
- 230. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES) - *Written reports from Councillors had already been submitted which will accompany the minutes on the village website.***  
DM reported that ESCC are repairing the triangle at Hastingford Lane.  
BF had replaced the matting at the play area.  
PW had done some training on the ESCC highway network which showed future work planned.  
ML had offered to attend a meeting with the Trustees of the Village Hall to hear the issues being raised and had made a similar offer to the new Community Centre. Once the issues from both parties were understood they would be put on the agenda for discussion at a PC meeting.
- 231. HOW TO ATTRACT VOLUNTEERS TO VILLAGE COMMITTEES – *Carry Forward***
- 232. REVIEW COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES** – it was agreed that responsibilities would remain the same until a new councillor is recruited. It was agreed that PW should train someone else in how to deal with the SID. **Actions: The Clerk** would work with PW to produce a Risk Assessment and a basic procedure for the SID and also draw up a rota for when the SID needed to be moved/batteries changed as two people should do this.
- 233. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** – Request for additional siting of SID. **Action:** This had been covered within 'Public Questions' but **PW** would draft a formal response to this.
- 234. NOTICEBOARD** – the Clerk confirmed that she had checked the noticeboard after the last heavy downpour of rain and it was dry so payment for the board would be made and the Clerk would get the insurance claim processed. The insurance excess of £250 would be taken from EMR Property Maintenance as previously agreed.
- 235. RISK ASSESSMENTS:**
- i. Quarterly Risk Assessment – no issues were raised that required action.
- 236. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Clerks hours for December were agreed.
- 237. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** – were agreed and DM and RL would authorise.
- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO  
ii. Samantha Weatherill - £273.11 salary & expenses, includes £9.99 for HP ink - (UT ref: 232230679)  
iii. Lucy McConachie for December play area inspection - £40 (UT ref: 514325522)  
iv. ES Pension Fund - £364.96 (UT ref: 286823330)  
v. HMRC - £450.43 (UT ref: 701092905)  
vi. SLCC annual membership - £226 (UT ref: 89881445)  
vii. Hitachi Finance for noticeboard - £720 + £144 VAT (UT ref: 432456078)  
viii. Wealden DC for litter bins - £390 + £78 VAT to be paid by DD on 15/1/22
- 238. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 239. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 11<sup>th</sup> January.
- 240. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**
- Provision of a bin at the burial ground
  - Progress on clearing the extension to the burial ground
  - SLR meeting feedback
  - Risk Assessment training for playground inspector
  - SID Risk Assessment and Policy
  - s106 agreement for Village Hall

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.33pm.