



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 5th July 2022

Present: Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chair, Rachel Lewis (RL), David Munday (DM), Damon Wellman (DW), Peter Weston (PW)

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

96. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One member of the public updated that work had started on the bin storage unit at Marlowe House. They also raised the issue of the nasty crash involving a police vehicle which had destroyed some street signs. The 'long vehicle' sign had been replaced with a very large sign and they felt that an opportunity had been missed to have the school sign put up in a better position. They added that they were shocked that the police had told the resident who suffered damage to their property to make their own arrangements for repairs to be done and send them the bill which meant they had all the inconvenience of sourcing quotes and contractors which seemed unfair given that it was the police who had caused the damage. They added that as soon as the parked vehicles move on in School Lane, the speed of vehicles will increase.

97. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – were accepted from Cllrs. Blyfield and Floyd.

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none.

99. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 7th June and 21st June were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

100. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **PW** had sent a challenge to the decision by ESCC Highways that pedestrian warning signs were not considered a necessity at the location across the A272 between the 'kissing gate' and Waste Wood. This is still with ESCC Highways. **Action: Cllr Standley would look into this. Carry Forward**
- ii. **SB** would liaise with the Deputy Church Warden to discuss a way forward to discourage people visiting the burial ground from using the Church's bins for their rubbish, including establishing a rota for the PC to visit and clear the area at regular intervals. **Carry Forward**
- iii. **DW** would take forward the issue of the licensed footpath that had been severely affected by the coppice work being undertaken near Wheelers Lane. *DW would apply to see the licence under a FOI and would pass it to the Clerk for information. Individuals can apply to ESCC for this to be turned into a Right of Way. Done*
- iv. **Cllr Standley** would investigate what had happened to the direction sign at the top of Five Chimneys Lane and when it would be replaced. **Carry Forward**
- v. **ML** would ask the equestrian community to email Cllr Standley with their concerns about Waste Wood bridleway, copying in the Clerk. **Action: Cllr Standley would report back on this.**
- vi. **Clerks report:** update passed to councillors prior to the meeting.
 - a. The Clerk had enquired about the padlock code on the track gate by Waghorns Lane and been given the code for safekeeping.
 - b. The Clerk had sent the AGAR and supporting papers to the External Auditor and put up the Notice of Commencement date for the exercise of public rights.
 - c. The PC had received £145 for the new memorial agreed at the 7th June PC meeting.
 - d. The Clerk had asked the mole exterminator to visit both the burial ground again and the play area.

101. PLANNING:

i. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2022/1518/F – TOR-NA-COILLE, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HH** – single storey rear extension. The PC voted 5/0 to object to the application due to the increase in light pollution caused by the design of the skylights and the windows which faced into the wood having an impact on wildlife and also due to the mass and scale of the design having an impact on both the environment and neighbours.

ii. **APPEALS ALLOWED:**

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

- 102. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR PHIL DIXON:** *written reports had been submitted and had been published with the minutes on the village website.*
 Cllr Standley ran through his report and added that budgeting for 2023/24 would be difficult due to both the cap on council tax increases and increased costs resulting from inflation.
 Cllr Dixon ran through his report. He advised residents to leave their bins out in order for BIFFA to catch up with collections missed due to the strike. **Action: Cllr Dixon** would follow up the issue of the Wilderness Wood site bins not being emptied.
- 103. HIGHWAYS:**
- i. Speed Indicator Signs – including costings for a new retention socket and license. PW had exhausted all the approved contractors on the ESCC list so he is exploring other contractors. **Carry Forward**
 - ii. SLR meeting 11th August – additional items for the agenda: The camber of Curtains Hill on the A272 was very dangerous and the A267/A272 junction having the worst accident record in East Sussex.
- 104. ENFORCEMENT MATTERS** – the Clerk informed that there were two outstanding matters with Enforcement: Drakes Head Den, where the Case Officer was in negotiation with the owner, and, Marlowe House bin storage unit, where work was due to commence on 5th July and finish by 15th July. New Enforcement officers had been recruited to Wealden DC to help the team with their heavy workload.
- 105. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)** – *written reports had been submitted and had been published with the minutes on the village website.*
- i. GACC's proposed response re Gatwick's Noise Envelope (DW) – noise, traffic and air quality were the issues. Gatwick were saying that technology would reduce airplane noise, however, this would be counteracted by the increase in the number of airplanes. **Action: The Clerk** would respond that the PC supported the proposal.
 - ii. Parish Cluster meeting update (DM) – DM had attended the meeting on behalf of the PC and summarised that the Government continues to propose changes to planning; the National Planning Policy Framework is to change, and, some guidance is proposed that moves to central government away from Wealden.
 - iii. ML had received multiple complaints about the continuing issues with power outage. **Action: The Clerk** would ask if UKPN would explain why Hadlow Down are experiencing so many power outage issues and see if we can get some projected resolution to the problems. Ideally they would be invited to attend the September PC meeting.
 - iv. **Action: DW** would email the Clerk with details of grass cuttings being fly tipped which he was aware of, which she would report to Wealden DC Enforcement.
- 106. BOUNDARY AND DRAINAGE ISSUES AT BOTTOM OF PLAYING FIELD** – **Carry Forward** to September meeting.
- 107. HOW TO ATTRACT VOLUNTEERS TO VILLAGE COMMITTEES** – the 'Together We Can' Project – as far as we are aware the project was going ahead.
- 108. PLAY AREA UPGRADE PROJECT** – RL was investigating funding with a view to doing the work next year.
- 109. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
- i. Quarterly Risk Assessment – **Carry Forward.**
 - ii. Review of Assets – **Carry Forward.**
 - iii. Fingerpost Survey – the repairs were still ongoing.
 - iv. Burial Ground Annual Risk Assessment – **Carry Forward.**
- 110. INFORMATION AND DATA PROTECTION POLICY** – this was reviewed and agreed.
- 111. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Clerks hours for June were agreed. The Clerk would be on leave for one week so any urgent matters should be sent to ML or PW.
- 112. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - June's reconciliations were agreed and signed.
- 113. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**
- i. Quarter 1 Reconciliation to end June were reviewed. It was agreed that £460 would be moved from the IT Earmarked Reserve to cover the cost of the Clerk's printer which had not been budgeted for and £225 would be transferred into the Pension Earmarked Reserve as agreed when the precept was set.
 - ii. Assets Register – this was approved.
 - iii. The following payment was ratified: Wealden DC for litter bins paid by DD on 15th June - £390 + £78 VAT.
- 114. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (UT ref = Unity Trust Bank reference number)** – **ML & PW would authorise.**
- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
 - ii. Samantha Weatherill - £212.39 salary & expenses, includes £9.99 for HP ink – (UT ref: 787536075)
 - iii. ES Pension Fund - £324 (UT ref: 452102458)
 - iv. HMRC - £568.48 (UT ref: 441089497)
 - v. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection June - £40 (UT ref: 785836242)
- 115. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17-** nothing raised.
- 116. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 5th July.
- 117. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA** – no additional items.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:09pm.