



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council**  
**Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down**  
**at 7pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

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

**In attendance:** Samantha Weatherill (Clerk) and two members of the public.

**137. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the public (MOP) wanted to record their objection to the planning application (item 142ia) and asked for it to be noted that they felt that Wealden DC Enforcement had not dealt with the breach of planning issues there. They informed that, following the accident which had occurred outside their property, the fence had been replaced but the School and speed signs had not yet been put back up. When they had spoken to ESCC Highways to report that a sign could be re-fixed at the same time that the other signs were put back they were told that this would have to be two separate jobs despite the proximity of them which seemed like a waste of time and money. **Action: PW** would follow this up with ESCC.

Another MOP pointed out that lorries coming from the Five Chimneys Farm development were creating a lot of debris on the highways and wondered whether they should have a wheel wash on site. It was also noted that the camber on main A272 east of Five Chimneys Lane was getting much worse due to the poor quality of the subsoil beneath the road. **Action: PW** would re-raise these issues with ESCC Highways.

**138. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** were accepted from Cllrs. Dixon (WDC); Floyd; Standley (ESCC) and Wellman.

**139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – ML declared a personal interest in item 151ii.

**140. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

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

- i. **Cllr Standley** would investigate what had happened to the direction sign at the top of Five Chimneys Lane and when it would be replaced. *This had been replaced but taken down as it obstructed sightlines and was due to be re-erected in a better position.* **Carry Forward**
- ii. **DW** would look at the Waste Wood bridleway to give a rough estimate of costs and report back to the PC, copying in Cllr Standley, in order for the PC to consider whether CIL money could be used to do these repairs. **Carry Forward**
- iii. **DM** would arrange the annual site meeting with Wilderness Wood. **Carry Forward**
- iv. **Clerks report:** update passed to councillors prior to the meeting:
  - a. The Clerk had been informed that the manufacturer of the defibrillator had issued a product recall due a software issue being identified that overstates the battery status as full. She had arranged for the defibrillator to be collected and a replacement loaned whilst the software was updated by the manufacturer. Subsequent to this being organised there were issues with the courier company who had to re-schedule the collection/drop-off.
  - b. The Clerk had had notification that the mole causing problems at the burial ground had been dealt with.
  - c. The Village Hall Committee had received a request from the Valuation Agency for a copy of the Village Hall Lease which the Clerk had supplied them with.

**142. PLANNING:**

i. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2022/1871/F – 4 GRANGE COTTAGES, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HJ** – change of use from a single family dwelling to a 1 x 1 bedroom unit and a 1 x 2 bedroom unit.

The PC voted unanimously 5/0 to strongly object to this application due to the same reasons that were given when the original application was discussed and objected to: that the immediate neighbourhood is already very crowded and increasing the number of dwellings will lead in particular to even more parking congestion and there is insufficient space for waste management facilities (wheelie bins) for the additional refuse, also there is light pollution caused by excessive spotlights on the property. As previously stated, parking is already a problem which results in people parking on the pavement and footpath 29b gets blocked by cars and wheelie bins. The PC hoped that Wealden DC Enforcement would continue to pursue the issues already being caused by this development.

- ii. **APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
  - a. **WD/2022/1518/F – TOR-NA-COILLE, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HH** – single storey rear extension.
  - b. **WD/2022/0705/F – DEER LEEP, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HH** – alterations to existing property, demolition of existing garage and erection of new two-storey side extension.
- iii. **OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:**
  - a. **BREACH OF CONDITION NOTICE - 4 GRANGE COTTAGES, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, EAST SUSSEX, TN22 4HJ** - Breach of Planning Condition under reference WD/2019/1487/FR "retrospective application for the regularisation of post planning amendments to permission WD/2017/1703/F". Condition not complied with – to return the property to a single dwelling as approved.
  - b. **REQUEST BY CLLR DIXON FOR APPLICATION WD/2022/1719/FA – THE ROBINS, STONEHURST LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN20 6LL, TO GO TO A PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION** – DM or Cllr. Floyd would attend to represent the PC.
- 143. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR PHIL DIXON** – *written reports had been submitted and had been published with the agenda on the village website.*
  - i. Enforcement issues update - The Clerk read out the Cllr. Dixon's report.
- 144. HIGHWAYS:**
  - i. Speed Indicator Signs – PW updated that he now had a quote for £1,207 for the socket and excavation costs which was very expensive plus an extra two licences would be required at a cost of £120. ESCC Highways were trying to help lower the cost of the licences. **Carry Forward.**
  - ii. SLR meeting – PW updated that at the meeting the ongoing issues about drainage, lack of cats eyes (unfortunately ESCC Highways no longer supply retractable cats eyes but are considering alternatives) and poor quality repairs etc. were discussed and that Cllr Wellman was hoping to meet with a representative from ESCC Highways to do an on-site visit of the issues.
- 145. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)** - *written reports had been submitted and had been published with the agenda on the village website.*

ML updated that he had met with the local PCSO who had been carrying out patrols in the area. **Action: ML** would let the PCSO know about the problems of anti-social behaviour at the playing field and the number of bottles left behind although it was acknowledged that recent activity may have been due to the carnival held in Uckfield at the weekend.

PW was still pursuing the challenge with ESCC Highways re the request for pedestrian warning signs at the location across the A272 between the 'kissing gate' and Waste Wood.
- 146. BOUNDARY AND DRAINAGE ISSUES AT BOTTOM OF PLAYING FIELD** – **Carry Forward**
- 147. HOW TO ATTRACT VOLUNTEERS TO VILLAGE COMMITTEES** – the 'Together We Can' Project – the Big Village Picnic was going ahead on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September as were 'Walks on the Wildside'. The PC recorded a vote of thanks to all those involved with this project. **Action: The Clerk** would check that the events would be advertised on Facebook and Twitter.
- 148. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE** – this was reviewed and agreed with no changes.
- 149. DATES FOR PC MEETINGS IN 2023** – were agreed and would be added to the village website calendar.
- 150. WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2023 TO 2027 CONSULTATION** – **Action: The Clerk** agreed Cllr Floyd's suggested response with the PC and would complete this on the PC's behalf.
- 151. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
  - i. Noise complaint re Wilderness Wood – the complaints were noted.
  - ii. Public Path Diversion Order 2022 – Footpath Hadlow Down 10 (part) – ESCC had informed the PC that this had been issued and would be confirmed or referred to the Secretary of State for determination once the objection period passes on 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- 152. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
  - i. Fingerpost Survey – the repairs were still ongoing.
  - ii. Quarterly Risk Assessment – **Carry Forward.**
  - iii. ROSPA Play area inspection Report – **Carry Forward.** **Action: The Clerk** would ask Cllr. Floyd to commission a zip wire resistograph as budgeted for.
- 153. CLERKS MATTERS:**
  - i. Clerks hours for August were agreed.
  - ii. It was agreed that the Clerk should book the laptop in to the Computer Studio for them to resolve the issues with MS Teams and to give it a general health check.
- 154. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - August's bank reconciliations were agreed and signed.
- 155. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**
  - i. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2022 was reviewed and accepted. The PC recorded a vote of thanks to the Clerk for a successful audit.
  - ii. Agree whether to Opt-in or out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements – it was agreed to Opt-in.

- iii. Agree the appointment of Internal Auditors – the PC agreed to the appointment of Mulberry & Co for the internal audit but the Clerk would request that a different auditor within the team was used as the same one had been appointed for a few consecutive years.
  - iv. Review of Assets – it was agreed that there were now no benches at the burial ground so the Assets Register had been updated to reflect this.
  - v. Assets Register – this had been updated and was approved and signed.
  - vi. The following payments were ratified: ROSPA play area inspection £84 +£16.80 VAT = £100.80; PKF Littlejohn for external audit £300 + £60 VAT = £360; BT for quarterly telephone & broadband £119.85 + £23.97 VAT = £143.82 paid by DD.
- 156. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (ML & PW to authorise)**
- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
  - ii. Samantha Weatherill - £ 177.92 salary & expenses - (UT ref: 113510742)
  - iii. ES Pension Fund - £300.86 (UT ref: 264587811)
  - iv. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection August - £40 (UT ref: 951775210)
- 157. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 158. DEFIBRILLATOR**
- i. Management of defibrillator – the defibrillator was currently sited in direct sunlight which had caused the carry case to start to melt. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored.
  - ii. Battery – this had been checked on 6<sup>th</sup> September but the defibrillator had been re-called by the manufacturer which the Clerk would organise as soon as the Courier firm got in touch to arrange.
- 159. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA – NEW DATE OF NEXT MEETING AGREED**
- Proposal from `Wings to Fly' for a sensory garden at the burial ground.
  - Energy crisis – impact.
  - Due to unforeseen commitments several of the Councillors were unable to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> October PC meeting so it was agreed to re-schedule this meeting to the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

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