



**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> October 2022**

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

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

**160. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the public (MOP) wanted to thank the PC for the correspondence re Big Village Picnic and hoped the funding could be carried forward to next year and wanted to acknowledge the hard work done by the volunteers; they hoped the issues surrounding communication and the decision to cancel the event would be rectified going forward. Another MOP raised their concern about why no decision had been made about the issue of Grange Cottages. They also asked whether crowd funding for money to pay to enable an additional SID location was an option to which the Chair responded that other avenues for funding were still being explored but it may be a useful option to consider if these were not realised. Another MOP re-raised the issue of the camber on main A272 east of Five Chimneys Lane that had already been raised with ESCC and also the dangerous junction with the A267. PW updated that with regard to the A267 junction, at the last SLR meeting the PC had been told that ESCC Highways needed two year's worth of data since the last changes to highways were made there before it would be considered but it should be two year's by the time of the next SLR meeting. The MOP was also concerned that a worrying precedent had been set by the Cherry Tree Cottage application approval and Cllr Dixon responded that Wealden DC had to work within set rules.

**161. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** were accepted from Cllrs. Blyfield and Standley (ESCC).

**162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – BF declared a personal interest in item 165i b.

**163. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on 6<sup>th</sup> September were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

**164. 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. ESCC had asked for more information which PW would provide. *Nothing more can be done.*
- 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. *DW had looked at this and updated that there was an issue with where the water would go; it could be levelled but it wouldn't last. ML added that although he accepted it would not be much work to regrade, it was not the responsibility of the Parish Council but ESCC Highways. ML added that horses were being forced into the middle of the eroded gully on the bridleway and this was a major strategic bridleway linking Hadlow Down with Blackboys so it was important to keep up the pressure on ESCC to do something about this. Carry Forward*
- iii. **DM** would arrange the annual site meeting with Wilderness Wood. *The meeting had taken place on 5<sup>th</sup> October and four councillors had attended; a number of issues had been discussed. 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. *Cllr Standley had confirmed that this was scheduled to be replaced on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Carry Forward*
- v. **BF** would commission a resistograph to be done on the zip wire at the playing field. *BF would chase this up. Carry Forward*
- vi. **PW** would raise the following issues with ESCC Highways: the debris created by lorries coming out of Five Chimneys cottage – *ESCC did visit but it seemed to no longer be an issue; the camber on the A272 East of Five Chimney's Lane – this was an ongoing issue that would be monitored under "Highways". Done*
- vii. **PW** would raise with ESCC the issue re two jobs putting up/fixing signs despite the proximity. *Done*
- viii. **ML** would let the PCSO know about the anti-social behaviour at the playing field. *The PC/PCSO were hopeful that this was a one off incident but it would continue to be monitored. Done*
- ix. **Clerks report:** *update passed to councillors prior to the meeting and posted on the village website.*
  - a. The Clerk had completed the Wealden DC Corporate Plan 2023 to 2027 Consultation survey on behalf of the PC.

- b. The Clerk had asked Mulberry & Co if a different team member could undertake the 2022/23 Internal Audit and they had agreed to organise this.
  - c. The Clerk had taken the laptop into The Computer Studio for them to rectify the issues with MS Teams and for a general health check.
  - d. The defibrillator had been recalled by the manufacturer, had a software update, and was now back outside the Village Hall.
  - e. The Clerk had asked the mole exterminator to visit the burial ground.
- 165. PLANNING:**
- i. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
    - a. **WD/2022/2198/F – WOODREED FARMHOUSE, STONEHURST LANE, FIVE ASHES, MAYFIELD, TN20 6LJ** – proposal to build an in-ground swimming pool.  
The PC voted unanimously to support this application 6/0 due to its siting, scale and appropriate design and landscaping which will not impact upon its environment.
    - b. **WD/2022/2480/PO – VALE FARM, DOG KENNEL LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EL** – discharge of section 52 agreement dated 7 October 1985 attached to planning permission WD/1984/3791/F (single dwelling to be used in accordance with section 290 (1) of Town & Country Planning Act 1971).  
The PC voted: 3 abstained; 2 supported the application. Therefore, the PC abstained from commenting on this application.
    - c. **WD/2022/2327/F – STONEHURST, STONEHURST LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN20 6LL** – proposed internal reconfiguration, alterations to windows and new windows. Proposed loft conversion including raising of front ridge to match rear ridge with valley infill. Dormers to front and rear elevations of roof.  
The PC voted unanimously 6/0 to support this application as the footprint was the same and the PC recognised that it was a necessary improvement based on the applicants needs.
  - ii. **APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
    - a. **WD/2022/1827/F – CHERRY TREE COTTAGE, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HS** – erection of a gym building.
  - iii. **REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
    - a. **WD/2022/0521/F – BRICK KILN FARM, BRICK KILN LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EJ** – 10m x 5m swimming pool, with a 3.5m x 2.5m pool house, to house the pump room, with simple stone tile surrounds.

**166. 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.*

Cllr Dixon would not be at the Planning Committee North meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October when The Robins would be discussed. DM would be representing the PC and would be asking for the temporary permission approval to be extended due to the upcoming Local Plan. Cllr Dixon updated that Wealden DC Enforcement had visited the site and did not see any infringement and no evidence of any business activity. Unfortunately, Wealden DC had to follow strict legal procedures which took time. Drakes Head Den has gone to legal within Wealden DC.

*The Chair brought forward item 168iii.*

**168. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- iii Verbal queries re application for driveway on Stonehurst Lane – the multiple complainants had been advised to email Wealden DC Planning with application details namely WD/2021/7059/AD. **Action:** Cllr Dixon would investigate this application and report back at the next meeting.

**167. HIGHWAYS:**

- i. Speed Indicator Signs – including costings for a new retention socket and license. **Action:** PW would prepare a fully costed report for the next meeting.

**168. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- i. Waste Wood bridleway – the request to be included in discussions was noted.
- ii. Complaint re dangerous condition of A272 – the content had been forwarded to Cllr Standley who had raised the issue with ESCC Highways. A photo and measurements had been included with the complaint which implied that the Highway Steward had not dealt with this problem. **Action:** The Clerk would forward the complaint to Karl Taylor, cc Dale Poore at ESCC Highways. DW had attended a meeting today with other PC's and ESCC Highways at which it had been revealed that the Highway Steward's now work for the contractor not ESCC and he questioned what could be done to hold ESCC to account. This would be on 1<sup>st</sup> November meeting agenda when Cllr Standley would be present.

**169. ENERGY CRISIS – IMPACT**

The Chair opened the discussion that the PC recognised that some families are likely to be really suffering and the PC should do everything that it can to try and support local families in need. A discussion took place and it was suggested that the PC could assist Mayfield Trust with funding streams. **Action:** RL would offer to help Mayfield Trust with fundraising in order to help support people in crisis and would also offer the PC's support to help them to advertise their services.

- 170. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS REQUEST FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL – Action:** The Clerk would respond that there had been no change to the situation, the new Community Centre was still being planned and the PC were awaiting planning permission for the old Village Hall to be approved by Wealden DC.
- 171. CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE** – a brief discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of signing to the Pledge. The Clerk suggested it was good practice for the PC to demonstrate the pledge to its wider community. The PC voted 4/2 in support of signing up to this pledge.
- 172. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)** - *written reports had been submitted and had been published with the agenda on the village website.*  
 BF updated that the Playing Field Committee were trying to find a football team to take over from Crowborough and the cricket season is all finished; they were also in the process of finding a contractor to look at improving the drainage ditches.  
 RL reported that the HD Community Centre Committee (HDCCC) had not had another meeting so there was nothing to update on this. The PC passed on their best wishes to the Chair of the HDCCC who was unwell. The Village Hall Committee (VHC) were meeting shortly and one item that was on the agenda was that the Chair, Sally Blyfield, would be stepping down and a new Chair should be elected. **Action:** RL would request a meeting to be arranged between ML and the new Chair of the HD VHC.  
 DW reported that there was still fly tipping on Stonehurst Lane. **Action:** DW would go back to Wealden DC Enforcement about this issue.  
 DM would be speaking on behalf of the PC at the Planning Committee North meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October re The Robins.
- 173. PROPOSAL FROM 'WINGS TO FLY' FOR A SENSORY GARDEN AT THE BURIAL GROUND** – RL updated that the proposal was to grow plants to be used to make dyes for the fabric that the school children were planning to make things with. **Action:** RL would ask for a detailed proposal showing a drawing of what was being suggested and where the plants would be grown, in order for the PC to see how it would look.
- 174. BOUNDARY AND DRAINAGE ISSUES AT BOTTOM OF PLAYING FIELD** – BF and ML would be meeting to discuss this. **Action:** BF would message ML with when they could meet.
- 175. HOW TO ATTRACT VOLUNTEERS TO VILLAGE COMMITTEES** – the 'Together We Can' Project. The Clerk updated that following the decision to cancel the Big Village Picnic (BVP) she had written to the National Lottery to ask if, given the unforeseen circumstances, the timescale for using the grant money could be extended and they had responded favourably so she was waiting to hear back from the picnic organisers whether they wanted to re-schedule the picnic for Spring/Summer next year. The other parts of the 'Together We Can' project were unaffected and would go ahead as planned. The Clerk had asked the BVP organisers for details and receipts of any spending already incurred as this would be met by the project. The PC agreed that ML and RL should continue to act on behalf of the PC as project leaders and updates would be given at the next meeting following any decisions. **Action:** The Clerk would follow up with the BVP organisers to see if a decision had been made about re-scheduling the event and to remind them to get her details of any expenses requiring reimbursement.
- 176. PLAY AREA UPGRADE PROJECT** – the Clerk updated that there was a shortfall in funding of over £7k which RL has agreed to try to find funding for in January for securing at Easter with a view to the Clerk scheduling the work to be done in Autumn 2023.
- 177. MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PLAY AREA** – this was reviewed and agreed, with the addition of a small area on the map of play area responsibilities to be included in the strimming. Three quotes for the work would be sought.
- 178. MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR BURIAL GROUND** – this was reviewed and agreed. Three quotes for the work would be sought.
- 179. MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR VERGES** – this was reviewed and agreed. Three quotes for the work would be sought.
- 180. URBAN VERGE CUTTING 2023** – the PC agreed to continue with Option 1 – Standard – two cuts to be carried out by ESCC per year.
- 181. BURIAL GROUND REGULATIONS** – these were approved.
- 182. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
- i. Fingerpost Survey – the work was due to be completed shortly. **Carry Forward**
  - ii. Quarterly Risk Assessment – **Action:** PW would do this.
  - iii. ROSPA Play area inspection – **Actions:** BF would deal with the cage on the zip wire after the bonfire event as this would need to be removed for that and he would remove the piece of wood on the multi-frame.
  - iv. Village Bonfire event – this was taking place on 5<sup>th</sup> November, risk assessment and insurance would be supplied to the Clerk. It was agreed that the bonfire debris would be cleared asap but by no later than a month after the event.
- 183. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Clerks hours for September were agreed. The Chair thanked the Clerk for her due diligence in managing her time given the multitude of issues which had occurred during the last month.
- 184. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - 25<sup>th</sup> September reconciliations were agreed and signed.

**185. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**

- i. The following payments and decision were ratified: Wealden litter bins quarterly charges £390 + £78 VAT = £468; Unity Trust Bank quarterly charges paid by DD £18; BT broadband and telephone contract renewed until October 2024 at reduced price.
- ii. The PC acknowledged receipt of the final instalment of the precept for 2022.

**186. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (PW & RL would authorise)**

- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
- ii. Samantha Weatherill - £307.41 salary & expenses – incl. £58.33 + £11.66 for BIT defender anti-virus; £29.17 + £5.83 to The Computer Studio for laptop diagnostic (UT ref: 852517846)
- iii. ES Pension Fund - £300.86 (UT ref: 576234010)
- iv. HMRC - £219.41 (UT ref: 42015139)
- v. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection September - £40 (UT ref: 661186196)
- vi. Hadlow Down Village Hall for hire of hall for meetings - £220 (UT ref: 663811793)
- vii. Wealden District Association of Local Council annual subscription 22/23 - £21 (UT ref: 730227873)

**187. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.

**188. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** had been checked on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**189. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA**

- Discussion re ESCC Highways – Misuse of public funds/Misconduct in public office.
- Proposal from `Wings to Fly' for a sensory garden at the burial ground.
- Speed Indicator Signs – including costings for a new retention socket and license.

The following would be discussed in a closed session:

- Wilderness Wood

**190. The following item was discussed in closed session: CLERK'S ANNUAL PAY REVIEW**

*The Clerk left the room.*

The Chair updated the PC on the Clerks annual review which had demonstrated commitment and professionalism to the job. All objectives had been met. The Chair discussed salary with the PC and cost of living. The PC agreed to move the Clerk to pay rung LC30 wef 1<sup>st</sup> November and to give a one-off non-consolidated payment of £300 to assist with the sharp rise in the cost of living.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:23pm.