



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 10th January 2023

Present: Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chair, Sally Blyfield (SB), Ben Floyd (BF), 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.

251. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public (MOP) praised the people living in the Village who had generously donated to the Speed Initiatives fund and thanked them for their support. He asked for the installation of the additional pole to be given the highest priority. **Actions:** The Chair put it to the Councillors that the Parish Council (PC) should pursue licence and installation of new socket and all agreed. The Clerk would arrange for the MOP to have bank details for transferring monies raised and the money would be ringfenced for Speed Initiatives expenditure. **PW** would arrange for the licenses and socket installation which should be done quite quickly. DW congratulated the PC on being able to maintain the precept as a 0% increase to the tax payer. ML agreed that it was unusual but demonstrated careful management of the PC's budget.

252. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – were accepted from Cllr Lewis.

253. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – BF declared a pecuniary interest in Item 259.

254. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 6th December were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

255. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **Cllr Standley** would continue to investigate whether the Waste Wood bridleway could be scheduled for urgent repair work as this was a major strategic bridleway. *Cllr Standley confirmed that this was still due to be inspected in January. Carry Forward.*
- ii. **Cllr Dixon** would investigate the planning application for agricultural driveway on Stonehurst Lane WD/2021/7059/AD and report back to the PC. *Wealden DC had written to ML about this and no further action would be taken. However it was noted that domestic use of the driveway was not permitted and a new planning application would be needed if circumstances changed. Done.*
- iii. **Clerks report:** *update passed to councillors prior to the meeting and posted on the village website.*
 - a. The Clerk had provided Wealden DC with photos of the finished burial ground perimeter path and the Speed Indicator Device, as both projects had been funded by CIL money, for them to use in promotional material and been asked to pass on their thanks to the PC for supplying these and allowing the photos to be used.

256. PLANNING:

i. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2022/3177/F – MOONS MILL, TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ET** – demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey extension.

The PC voted 6/0 to support the application as it was appropriate in terms of size and scale to the existing development.

b. **WD/2022/3234/LB – HUGGETS FURNACE FARM, HASTINGFORD LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DY** – repairs to black barn, Huggets Furnace Farm, Hadlow Down.

The PC voted 6/0 to support the application which they believed would be sympathetic to conservation and the materials of the historical listed building but would request that the roof is weathered/distressed so that it remains in keeping with the current colour (black).

c. **WD/2022/3283/F – MILL VIEW FARM, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HS** – single storey extensions to north and east elevations for sensory room; bedroom and en-suite for live-in carer and rebuild conservatory as a playroom with associated internal alterations; rebuild south elevation extension as a garden room with balcony over, including alterations to south facing dormer at first floor level for balcony access; new porch extension to west elevation kitchen; new garage building.

A motion was put forward to support the application and this failed 6/0. Another motion was put forward to say “no comment” due to the lack of information provided (no design and access statement) and this passed 5/1 as

the PC believed that this should be two separate applications - one for the building and another for the garage design.

ii. **REFUSED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. **WD/2022/1871/FR – 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.

257. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR PHIL DIXON - *written reports had been submitted and had been published on the village website.*

Cllr Standley agreed that whilst it would be nice to freeze the budget the pressures on funding were great, for example, the number of Special Education Needs children were increasing. If the budget had been frozen they would have had to make cuts to services that people need. He urged people to continue to report the pot holes. He added that he could not agree that suing ES Highways will be helpful. **Action: Cllr Standley** would check whether the patching due in February was still going to take place and report back to the PC.

Cllr Dixon said that the local plan would not be considered until after the local elections. The consultation papers from the Government on a revised National Planning Policy Framework had been issued and runs until 2nd March.

258. HIGHWAYS:

i. Speed Indicator Signs:

a. Update on progress re new SID location: This had been discussed under Item 251 “Public Questions”.

b. Warranty options – PW updated that he believed it would be worth purchasing the silver warranty option as there had already been a couple of issues with the SID which would cost more than the warranty due to hefty call out costs. The PC voted unanimously to purchase a silver warranty.

ii. ESCC Highways – update on discussion with other PC’s – DW updated that there had been positive feedback from other areas and the PC were due to finalise the letter to be sent to other PC’s. **Action: ML and PW** would review the draft letter and forward to the rest of the PC for consideration.

iii. Notification that Public Footpath Hadlow Down 10 (part) has been confirmed by ESCC – this was noted.

259. WILDERNESS WOOD (WW)

The closed minutes from the discussion which took place at the Hadlow Down PC meeting held on 1st November 2022 would be published on the website.

Action: Cllr Dixon would investigate the creation of a second dwelling at WW and the associated council tax.

The Chairman brought forward the second part of the issues raised under Item 261i.

WW extension of time periods on rent of lodges from 28 days to 11 months - Cllr Dixon said this would require a completely new planning application. WW had said that some were already on 11 month lets and they wanted to bring them all into line. They were also considering putting a roof on an existing building so that weddings could be moved indoors in order to reduce noise. **Action: Cllr Dixon** would investigate these issues. Cllr Dixon urged people to keep reporting planning breaches to Wealden DC Enforcement.

261. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

i. Re: ES Highways presentation – clarification of quality controls - **Action: The Clerk** would forward the piece of correspondence to **Cllr Standley** for him to investigate. Re Wilderness Wood extension of time periods on rent of lodges – this was dealt with under Item 259.

ii. Repeated damage to telephone pole in Wilderness Lane – Residents were attempting to get the pole moved which the PC would support once a clear proposal was submitted.

260. HOW TO ATTRACT VOLUNTEERS TO VILLAGE COMMITTEES – the ‘Together We Can’ Project. Dialogue was ongoing. **Carry Forward.**

262. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES) - *written reports had been submitted and had been published on the village website.*

BF reported that the ditches have been done at the playing field.

DW suggested that the PC joins the CAGNE Aviation Town and Parish Council Forum that has been created. He had received clarification from Wealden DC Planning re the definition of ‘temporary’ which he had been told was site specific; they had also said they would look at the three sites within Hadlow Down.

ML updated that he had held conversations with representatives of both the Village Hall and the New Community Centre and was hoping to have a meeting with them all before the Community AGMs being held in February. He had also had ongoing discussions with the PCSOs re speeding in the village and the PCSOs would be supportive of speeding initiatives once further SID data was supplied.

263. BOUNDARY AND DRAINAGE ISSUES AT BOTTOM OF PLAYING FIELD – ML was due to meet with the neighbouring property owner this week. **Actions: BF** would compile the bund map; **ML** would finalise the specification for the work.

264. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – this had to be re-scheduled due to the local elections in May and would now be held on 14th March. **Action: DW** would investigate the cost of supplying three large display posters on boards.

265. RISK ASSESSMENTS

i. Fingerpost Survey – **Carry Forward.**

ii. Previous Quarterly Risk Assessment – the fingerpost in the burial ground had been removed.

iii. Quarterly Risk Assessment – there were no immediate actions.

- iv. ROSPA Play area inspection – all items raised had been dealt with.
 - v. Update on Zip Wire Resistograph – this had been chased. **Carry Forward.**
- 266. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Clerks hours for December were agreed.
- 267. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - December reconciliations were agreed and signed.
- 268. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**
- i. Review of Quarterly figures – the Q3 reports were agreed and signed.
 - ii. Reserves movements – were agreed in principle but would be reviewed again before the end of March.
 - iii. Assets Register – was reviewed and signed.
 - iv. The Precept was given final approval and signed.
 - v. Appointment of External Auditor - The Clerk notified the PC that PKF Littlejohn LLP had been appointed as the external auditor for 2022-23 and 2026-27.
 - vi. Income received: it was noted that the following income had been received: £110 for additional memorial inscription; £335 for interment of ashes.
 - vii. The following payment was ratified: Wealden DC for litter bins - £390 + £78 VAT paid by DD.
- 269. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** – were agreed and PW & DM would authorise.
- i. Samantha Weatherill - £920 salary paid by SO
 - ii. Samantha Weatherill salary & expenses - £827.81 (incl. £94.50 for ink; £38.39 for .org domain renewal) (UT ref: 588124653)
 - iii. ES Pension Fund - £517.63 (UT ref: 456849085)
 - iv. HMRC - £585.92 (UT ref: 913654219)
 - v. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection December - £40 (UT ref: 216407396)
 - vi. SLCC annual membership - £232 (UT ref: 140404659)
- 270. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 271. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 10th January.
- 272. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**
- School Lane sign.
 - Potential purchase of additional SID.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:42 pm.