



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 1st August 2023

Present: Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chair (+WDC), Ben Floyd (BF), David Munday (DM), Damon Wellman (DM) and Peter Weston (PW).

In attendance: Samantha Weatherill (Locum Clerk), Cllr. Bob Standley (ESCC) and six members of the public.

110. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One member of the public (MOP) reported that Wilderness Lane was becoming difficult re speeding and there had been both a bad accident and other incidents as a result of speeding and asked whether the PC could help with getting some warning signs erected. **Action: ML** would speak to the PCSO re signage. **Action: PW** would speak to Highways re the drains on the A272 opposite the Church. One MOP complemented Highways on them repairing a couple of pot holes so soon after them being reported. Another MOP reported that a new stable block had been installed at Drakes Head Den – ML updated that this was being dealt with by Wealden DC Enforcement. Another MOP said that they were disappointed that the Tinkers Wood planning application had been refused and questioned the logic behind the decision; they raised the issue of extremely long road closures. Both the asbestos and total survey for the Village Hall (VC) mentioned at the VH meeting are now on the VH website – ML requested that these documents be sent to the PC so that it could be put on the next PC agenda for discussion.

111. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – none.

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – BF declared a personal interest in item 115i a; DM declared a personal interest in item 118ii.

113. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 4th July were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

114. 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 as it was now on the shortlist for consideration in March. Cllr. Standley had updated that this was not going to be done this year. **Carry Forward**
- ii. **Cllr. Standley** would investigate the issue regarding the oil spill on Dog Kennel Lane, including the sandbags left in the ditches. **Done**
- iii. **Cllr. Standley** would investigate the following issues: what would happen about existing road repairs that Costain had carried out that were failing but had been guaranteed for a year - *Cllr Standley updated that Balfour Beatty would repair as necessary and charge Costain for the work*; what was happening when areas were being marked up for repairs but then six months later when the repairs were carried out only some of the areas were getting done; the pothole in Budletts Lane, Coopers Green that had been partially filled at the bottom with tarmac – *Cllr Standley updated that there was no policy to do this - DW would send Cllr Standley the photos.* **Done**
- iv. **Cllr. Standley** would look into the issue of parking charges on the Ashdown Forest being digital only. *He updated that people can pay by cash at the Forest Centre.* **Done**
- v. **PW/ML** would draft a letter to send to the Chief Executive of SE Water to say that they had again forgotten about Hadlow Down when there were water issues and include all issues surrounding the location of the water stations and lack of delivery to vulnerable people etc. and would invite them to attend a public meeting. *This had been done and a response received which asked for some dates for a potential meeting.* **Action: The new Clerk (once in post) would invite them to attend a meeting at the VH.**
- vi. **DM** would amend the Emergency Plan in light of updates made by Wealden DC to their plan. *He had been talking to the officer in charge of this but proposed that the plan was kept unchanged.* **Action: The new Clerk (once in post) would liaise with DM and check that the appendices were up to date.**
- vii. **ML** would seek clarification from Wealden DC Planning as to the difference between a caravan and a mobile home – *ML had included this in his Cllr report.* **Action: DW** would give ML details of the locations of the four mobile homes situated around the village for **ML** to seek updates from Wealden DC Enforcement. **Carry Forward**
- viii. **ML** would invite the person who had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor to submit some information and attend a meeting. *There were now two potential applicants.* **Carry Forward**
- ix. **DW** would report the issue of the damaged bridge at the bottom of Stonehurst Lane to ESCC. **Action: The Clerk** would add this to the list of issues to be discussed at the next SLR meeting.

- x. **PW** would report the issue of a new large pond that had appeared in Fishpond Wood to Wealden DC as this would require planning permission. **Done**
- xi. **Clerks report:** update passed to councillors prior to the meeting.
 - a. The locum Clerk had added the issue with the ES Highways system not being able to deal with the reporting of the same pot holes multiple times to the SLR meeting agenda.
 - b. The locum Clerk had supplied the Chairman with the appropriate paperwork in order to Co-opt a new Councillor onto the Parish Council which would be discussed in September.
 - c. The locum Clerk had reviewed the contract for the cutting of verges and confirmed that this was to be undertaken four times a year (April, June, August and October) at various locations. She had confirmed they had been done at the beginning of June.
 - d. The locum Clerk had confirmed with the suppliers of defibrillator equipment that the pads were not re-useable and ordered a new pad to replace the one that had been used.
 - e. The locum Clerk had updated the status on The Circuit to show that the defibrillator was ready for use.

115. PLANNING:

i. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2023/7024/ADP – WILDERNESS WOOD, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HJ** – proposed forestry barn.

The PC voted 4/0 to object to this application due to its large size and the scale of the proposed building; the effect on ancient woodland which would have to be removed; the installation of sky lights which would impact on dark skies as per light pollution policy EN29; the absence of an agricultural impact assessment and ecological report and the location clustering of the buildings encroaching away from the centre of the site potentially causing a noise impact on neighbours.

- b. **WD/2023/1871/PIP – THE PADDOCKS, SUMMER HILL, FIVE ASHES, MAYFIELD, TN20 6JL** – residential development of two dwellings.

The PC voted 5/0 to object to this application due to the fact that it was outside the development boundary and in an AONB; the PC don't regard it as a brownfield site as technically it would still be seen as an agricultural site; access issues causing additional traffic at a place where there have been multiple accidents; the sustainability aspects in terms of isolated location; the over-development of the site in a rural location; the design not being in keeping with the village and also a substantial number of sky lights impacting on dark skies policy as per light pollution policy EN29; there were no material considerations which outweigh the harm. The isolated dwelling sited within the countryside fails to conserve or enhance the intrinsic landscape character and scenic beauty of the rural landscape.

ii. **APPROVED APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2023/1284/F - HARVEST HILL FARM, RIVERSIDE, BLACKBOYS, UCKFIELD, TN22 4EX** – extension and alterations to house.
- b. **WD/2023/0503/LB - HASTINGFORD HOUSE, HASTINGFORD LANE, HADLOW DOWN, UCKFIELD TN22 4DY** – proposed internal and external alterations.
- c. **WD/2023/1325/F – WILDERNESS BARN, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HU** – application to erect a three bay oak framed garage with aisle and log store.

iii. **REFUSED APPLICATIONS:**

- a. **WD/2023/1334/F – TINKERS WOOD, TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ET** – conversion of rural building to dwellinghouse.

iv. **WITHDRAWN APPLICATION:**

- a. **WD/2023/0822/LDE – BRICK KILN FARM, BRICK KILN LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EJ** – continued use of land as residential garden linked to Brick Kiln Farm.
- b. **WD/2023/0471/F – THE OLD DAIRY, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EP** – extend, alter and convert existing attached garage into single storey dining room.

116. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR MICHAEL LUNN, WDC - written reports had been submitted and would be published on the village website.

Cllr Standley would investigate Hadlow Down road being closed. He had attended a meeting at Wadhurst about the water issues which had not been very useful. ML said that a lot of MOP's had raised concerns about why there was still a hosepipe ban and the reasons behind it.

ML noted that Wealden DC had signed a 19 year lease with ESCC to save the Uckfield Leisure Centre but questioned how much this was going to cost as there was significant investment required. The new alliance had started the process of the Local Plan and are suggesting it will be produced by the end of Autumn and there would be implications from this. He had received multiple noise complaints about Wilderness Wood (WW) which he had reported to Wealden DC Planning as it was in breach of their planning terms.

117. HIGHWAYS:

- i. Speed Indicator Signs – PW updated that SID 2 was in place and was working other than the LED lights which had been reported. PW would be producing a report showing speed data for the next PC meeting in time for the SLR meeting so that a conversation around speed signage could be instigated with ES Highways.

- ii. ES Highways – DW listed several issues including the junction at the A272/A267 where the reflective sign was still down after a minimum of 9 months. **Action: Cllr Standley** would report this. **Action: The Clerk** would add this issue to the SLR meeting agenda. **Action: DW** would produce a list of issues for discussion at the next SLR meeting.
 - iii. Police attendance at manhole covers – manholes were still collapsed and waiting for ES Highways to deal.
- 118. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
- i. Re planning permissions required for solar panels – the PC had responded that they needed to consult with Wealden DC.
 - ii. From Playing Field Committee – had raised some urgent health and safety issues. The first was about the signage on the zip line – **Action: BF** would deal with this. The second was that there was a collapsed hole at the lower part of playing field where there had been subsidence caused by water coming off the playing field. **Action: BF** would fill this with hardcore as a temporary solution. Finally, there were brambles that needed to be trimmed at the boundary with the zip line. **Action:** Once agreement from the neighbour had been given **the Clerk** would ask the contractor who maintains the playing field to trim the hedge and brambles – he had already provided an estimate for the work which was agreed as this was an urgent health and safety issue.
 - lii Freedom of Information Request – Village Hall engineering report and clarification of PC responsibilities re Village Hall. ML explained the nature of the request and would respond to it within the legal timeframe and copy in the rest of the PC.
- 119. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):** *a written report had been submitted by PW and would be published on the village website.*
- i. Wealden Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment – Scoping Report Update (DM) – **Carry Forward (subsequent to the meeting the deadline for comments had passed).**
ML had asked the chair of the Hadlow Down New Community Centre Committee to attend the next PC meeting to provide an update on the project. ML had also attended a meeting with the Village Hall and it was clear that there were some ongoing maintenance issues.
- 120. BURIAL GROUND** – update on clearing the extension to the burial ground. **Carry Forward**
- 121. BOUNDARY AND DRAINAGE ISSUES AT BOTTOM OF PLAYING FIELD:**
- i. Draft specification of works – were agreed and would be included with the letter of authority to carry out works.
 - ii. Letter of authority to carry out works – was agreed and would be given to the neighbour concerned for them to sign if they were in agreement.
- 122. RISK ASSESSMENTS**
- i. Quarterly Risk Assessment – **Action: DW** would do this.
 - ii. Fingerpost Survey – no further action required. **Action: BF** would find out who carried out the fingerpost work for Buxted PC now that Phil Anderson had retired.
 - iii. Tree Survey – **Carry Forward.**
 - iv. Annual oiling of the bus shelter – **Action: ML** would do this.
- 123. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Consultancy and Locum hours for July and August were agreed.
- 124. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - 25th July reconciliations were agreed and signed.
- 125. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS**
- i. Mulberry & Co Auditors provision of services – consideration of signing up for a 3 year deal. It was agreed to sign up for this as it would enable the PC to budget and save money over the next 3 years.
- 126. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (UT ref = Unity Trust Bank reference number) - ML and DM would authorise.**
- i. Samantha Weatherill consultancy & locum fees + Replacement Defibrillator Pad £61.99 + £11.60 VAT - £1,092.94 (UT ref: 999170597)
 - ii. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection July - £40 (UT ref: 438408252)
 - iii. Village Hall for hall hire - £40 (UT ref: 952844499)
 - iv. SWARCO for 2nd SID - £3,810.00 + £762 VAT (UT ref: 703365124) to be paid from Earmarked Reserve Speed Initiatives
 - v. ESALC for data protection training for Helen Derbyshire £40 + £8 VAT (UT ref: 427645831)
- 127. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 128. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 1st August and an additional pad put into the box.
- 129. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**
- Village Hall asbestos survey and engineer's survey
 - Hadlow Down New Community Centre update
 - PW speed report.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:56pm.