



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council**  
**Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down**  
at 7pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

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

**In attendance:** Vicki Rutt (Clerk), Cllr. Bob Standley (ESCC) and 8 members of the public.

**153. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A resident stated that the planning application at Wilderness Wood should have the same conditions applied to as previously. This was noted. The same resident has heard that the recycling bins at Wilderness Wood are being removed, ML confirmed this is correct and he was going to raise under his report. Both ML and the Clerk will respond to WDC about this. **Action 1.** A question was asked regarding the current status of the planning application for the existing village hall. ML confirmed it is a live application and is awaiting a section 106 agreement. It was agreed that it would be placed on the action log so updates can be seen.

**Action 2.** A resident attended on behalf of 7 other residents in regard to planning application 158/i/e, they were welcomed to stay for the debate and encouraged to submit their own comments also. The applicant for item 158/i/b attended the meeting to explain that this is not a new application, it is a relocation proposal with the same conditions as agreed previously. His comments were noted.

**154. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – None.

**155. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – BF declared a personal interest in item 158/i/b. DM declared a pecuniary interest in item 158/i/e.

**156. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS** held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

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

i. Action Log 2023 Clerk reported from the action log which is available on the village website.

ii. Clerks report This was noted (previously circulated).

**158. PLANNING:**

**i. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a. WD/2023/2084/FR for NEW FARM HOUSE, STOCKLANDS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EA. Part retrospective application for the demolition of part of existing unauthorised balcony to create an access platform to accommodate newly installed bi-fold doors.

*The PC voted: 4 Cllrs objected due to it being intrusive to neighbouring properties and in an AONB. One Councillor abstained.*

b. WD/2023/2130/F for WILDERNESS WOOD, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HJ. Removal of existing garage and erection of new building comprising office/meeting room and apprentice cabin.

*Standing orders were dropped for question to be answered. Standing Orders reinstated immediately after.*

*The PC voted: 2 in favour and 2 objected. The Chair had casting vote so the application was supported subject to original 2015 conditions and would like to request a section 106 legal agreement is completed for the protection of the landscape and woodlands for the environmental, concentration and commercialism aspect.*

c. WD/2023/2173/F for COLES FARM, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 5HS. Conversion of the existing barn to create a dwelling, curtilage, parking and wider landscaping and ecological enhancements.

*The PC voted: 4 in favour and 1 Cllr objected. The Council requests additional conditions that the sky lights are removed to protect the dark skies and to reduce the amount of glass around the building for visual impact and tighten the residential curtilage.*

d. WD/2023/2184/LBR for CLAYLANDS, STONEHURST LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ED. Additional works associated with full reroofing (granted listed building consent wd/2021/2063/lb) comprising structural repairs to the existing roof structure, chimney repointing, replacement casement windows within existing dormers, insulation to lofts, copper pipe lagging and retrospective listed building consent for 2 no. 'velux' roof windows and their replacement with the 'velux' 'heritage conservation' type.

*The PC voted: 5 in favour. No further comments.*

e. WD/2023/7033/AD for FORD FARM VINEYARD, HASTINGFORD LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DY. Erection of steel framed portal winery building with two elevations clad in timber and two in plastisol coated insulated cladding.

*The PC voted: 1 in favour. 3 objected based on EN27 mass scale of the development, AONB, location, traffic impact, over development of the site, inappropriate materials, visual impact and the likely impact on local amenities.*

ii. **OTHER APPLICATIONS:**

a. WD/2023/7011/ADP for LAND AT TULLYS FARM, FIVE CHIMNEYS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DX.

New agricultural hay barn. *Decision made: Prior approval required.*

**159. 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 reported that ESCC are hitting targets but overspending on children services. They do have contingencies in place. ESCC have just received a peer review which was very positive.

Cllr Lunn updated the council on the sewage issues with Southern Water. WDC have sought legal advice to see if they can prevent housing development based on lack of infrastructure that advice is currently being reviewed. Also Cllr Lunn updated and encouraged PC to respond to AONB management plan consultation, and to have it fully adopted into the emerging local plan. Update on consultation on Environmental framework for licensing to try and promote public events to be net zero for carbon. Waste recycling bins. No planning enforcement updates as yet as the department are short staffed.

**160. HIGHWAYS:**

i. Update on SLR meeting

PW updated that the discussion regarding signage changing on the A272 was positive and should hear from ESCC before the next PC meeting. A number of other issues were reported which we await updates. ML thanked Cllr Standley for his support at the SLR meeting.

**161. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – proposal for new Parish Council Advisory Committee**

ML reported that following an action at the last meeting, a proposal has been drawn up by the Clerk recommending that the Council set up an Advisory Committee to discuss this matter outside of the monthly meeting. The Advisory Committee would have powers to research and ask questions and make recommendations to the Parish Council but would not be able to vote. The Parish Council would ultimately make the final decision. ML proposed to move forward with the Advisory Committee, this was seconded by DW. 4 Cllrs in favour, 1 against. Motion Carried. Clerk to set up the Advisory Committee. **Action 3.**

**162. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

i. Resident about a blocked drain outside property on A272. *This has been reported to East Sussex Highways.*

ii. Resident made contact with Cllr Lunn re accident records on the A272, between School Lane and Tinkers Lane. *This was discussed as DW had some reports, Clerk to pull response together liaising with DW and checking previous reports.* **Action 4.**

iii. Resident with questions regarding the new proposed Community Centre. *This will be shared with the new Advisory Committee and will form part of their agenda.*

iv. ESALC AGM & Conference: 14th November 2023. *It was agreed that DW would attend.*

v. High Weald AONB Management Plan consultation now live. *It was agreed that the PC should respond, and the previous submission should be found as it would be a similar response. Clerk to find this.* **Action 5.**

**163. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**

BF reported that the Playing Field had a Bonfire meeting for the event on the 4<sup>th</sup> November. ML asked about an updated copy of Guy Osbournes firework insurance, which BF said he would ensure the Clerk had an up to date copy. DW reported that he attended the new Community Centre meeting as an observer which was positive. He also attended the Blackboys Parish Council meeting as a resident regarding the pavement project there and to find out who funded this and why. PW reported that one of the SIDs is not connecting properly, he is working on this with a resident. ML informed PW if there is anything the Parish Council can do to assist, to please let him know. ML reported that he oversaw the recent hedge cutting at the playing field, this went very well.

**164. BURIAL GROUND – BF confirmed he would send the details to the Clerk so a letter can be sent to the Church.**

**165. RECRUITMENT OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS**

ML explained that he had been in communication with a resident who was invited this evening but no attendance. It was agreed that the Council would publish an advert. **Action 6.**

**166. BOUNDARY/DITCH – playing field update and allocate expenses for a reserve**

ML reported that the contractor awarded the contract is commencing the works on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. ML explained that once the works has been undertaken, the ground would need to be grass seeded. He has received a quote for a 20-kilo bag of grass seed at £80. ML proposed to purchase the seed, this was seconded by BF.

The Clerk asked Councillors which budget code would they like the following items to come out of: playing field digging works, hedge cutting, grass seed and hardcore for hole. All Cllrs agreed it should come out of unallocated reserves.

**167. RISK ASSESSMENTS**

i. Quarterly Risk assessment – assign: Clerk explained this is overdue. It was agreed that PW would do this and it would be on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action 7.**

**168. CLERKS MATTERS:**

i. Clerks hours September 2023 – this was agreed.

ii. Locum's hours September 2023 – this was agreed. As the Locum is still doing a finance handover with Q2 needing to be done, it was agreed that the Precept meeting arranged for the 17<sup>th</sup> October will be rescheduled to the 14<sup>th</sup> November to allow the Clerk more time to understand the accounting system.

**169. BANK RECONCILIATIONS:** - September 2023 to be agreed and signed.

**170. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:** None

**171. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (UT ref = Unity Trust Bank reference number)** - ML and PW will authorise.

- i. Samantha Weatherill consultancy & locum fees - £312.87 (UT ref: 141226186)
- ii. Vicki Rutt salary end October - £920 paid by SO
- iii. Vicki Rutt salary - £302.24 (UT ref: 689059626)
- iv. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection Sept - £40 (UT ref: 949459476)
- v. Village Hall for hall hire - £40 (UT ref: 756856049)
- vi. Wealden DC Litter bins - £412.50 + VAT £82.50 by DD on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 (UT ref: 116555720)
- vii. SLCC V Rutt membership - £177.00 (UT ref: 477158956)
- viii. Mr D Fears for hedge at Playing field - £300 (UT ref: 586154858)
- ix. The Claude Jessett Trust Co – emergency hardcore repair at Playing Field £10.00 (UT ref: 322222405)
- x. WDALC annual subscription - £21 (UT ref: 213146309)
- xi. Viking stationary £39.07 + VAT £7.81 (UT ref: 75253505)

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

**173. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

**174. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:** New Community Centre as a standing agenda item, IT issues for discussion and ratify decision to amend standing order date for Clerk.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:43.**