



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on 9th January 2024

Present: Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chair (+WDC), Peter Weston (PW) Vice Chair, Ben Floyd (BF), David Munday (DM), Stephen Lester (SL), Damon Wellman (DW) and Alan Hobbs (AH).

In attendance: Vicki Rutt (Clerk), Cllr. Bob Standley (ESCC) and 5 members of the public.

ML opened the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

223. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A resident reported that a gully is full down Brick Kiln Lane on the right-hand side. The road is also breaking away in other parts. DW confirmed he is aware and has reported several times. A resident asked ML to report back to WDC as District Councillor that there has been an increase in bonfires in the village with people burning their recycling now that the recycling bins at Wilderness Wood has been removed. **Action 1.** The same resident reported that a few road signs and barriers have been left in various locations in the village: down Tinkers Lane, the Tinkers layby, the top of Wheelers Lane, in Dog Kennel Lane and Five Chimneys. Clerk will report these. **Action 2.** A few residents have raised concerns about a Kindergarten opening at Wilderness Wood in April 2024, ML could not comment and confirmed that WDC are looking into this. A resident asked if the Parish Council could give pre-planning advice, ML stated they can't, but you could request a meeting with WDC to discuss and ML could be invited along as a District Councillor. A resident reported that a petition about the A272 speed signage will be going into Parish Magazine this month. A resident asked for an update on Drakes Head Den, an update was provided at the December meeting, so this was repeated.

224. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – None.

225. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – DM declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application under 228i(a).

226. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on the 5th December 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

227. 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).

228. PLANNING:

a. WD/2023/2995/F for HASTINGFORD OAST FARM, HASTINGFORD LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DY
Extension to the dwelling and erection of ancillary outbuilding.

The PC voted: 2 in favour, 2 objected, 2 abstained. The Chair had the casting vote, and it was voted in favour due to material used being in keeping with the setting and sufficient information received regarding heritage, but a condition should be placed that the ancillary building is not under for any accommodation.

b. WD/2023/2759/FR for LITTLE BROADREED FARM, DOG KENNEL LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EL

Replacement of aged loose boxes and stables with modern equivalents; increase in the height and shape of a roof over an existing building together with retrospective change of use for private equestrian purposes; the provision of two storage sheds within the residential curtilage.

The PC voted: 4 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstained. This was voted in favour but assurance that the building will not be used for business or any recreational accommodation e.g. B&B or Air BnB.

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

Cllr Standley reported that he was made aware that County Clean trucks have been using School Lane and this has been reported. A lot of money is being spent on adult social care. A conversation was held around potholes and the state of the roads, and the money needed to get them sorted. ML reported that he had read that cats eyes were being replaced with glass which in Hadlow Down would be pointless when a traction engine goes over them. Cllr Standley was not aware of this and would check. **Action 3.**

ML reported that the Chairman of WDC has resigned with immediate effect so there will likely be an election happening on 8th February. The Local Plan is due to be coming out on 31st Jan, which is 600 pages long. There will be a consultation period, Clerk will update when it is received. The Environmental Framework Consultation that is on the agenda later is a very poor survey with a ridiculous timeline, it is not workable nor enforceable. BF asked if ML had received a response regarding the application that HDPC did not get consulted. ML confirmed no response so he will chase this as the decision could have been unlawful. **Action 4.**

230. HIGHWAYS:

i. Response from East Sussex re speed issues – PW updated that an email was received from ESCC regarding he speed signage issues that HDPC raised at a SLR meeting in September. PW responded to this letter on the 16th November with lots of data and asking for the zone speed system which data supported. A response was then received from Nick Skelton on the 14th December 2023 stating visibility issues and driver behaviour. It was agreed that PW would draft a letter in response. **Action 5.**

ML would like to invite Cllr Standley to meet with him at the location to see that is being referred to when the paths are being referred to as being dangerous to cross with the speed limit. **Action 6.**

231. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ML reported that no meeting was held in December so no update at present, but a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16th January.

232. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

i. Environmental Framework Consultation – The consultation was discussed, and it was agreed that no Parish Council response would be sent but each Cllr would take an action to submit an individual response. **Action 7.**

ii. Letter from Chairman of WGOD – The Chairman of WGOD sent an invite to a meeting on the 31st January to discuss the current state of the planning environment in Wealden. It was agreed that DW would attend the meeting.

iii. Email from resident re land ownership – A resident wrote to the Parish Council to ask them to consider purchasing the strip of land outside the village hall. This was discussed but it is believed that the purchase has already gone through. Cllrs also felt that the Parish Council do not have the money to purchase it nor has there been an electorate request to purchase so it was agreed that no further action would happen.

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

PW has circulated his speed report in advance. DW reported appalling works on the A272 and he chased ESH about this but no response, this will be chased. DW also reported that he witnessed a contractor remaking white lines in School Lane which went into the potholes, he has video evidence of them doing this. BF stated that he will repair the zip wire at playground this week. ML reported that he met with the PCSO recently and there are still ongoing issues of rural crime, they are a very active gang and residents should not hesitate to call 999.

234. DISCUSS COUNCILLOR PORTFOLIOS

ML asked is everyone was happy with their existing portfolios which they were. He explained the vacant portfolios are Footpaths/bridleways and the burial ground and trees. It was agreed that Cllr Lester would take on the footpaths and Cllr Hobbs would take on the burial ground and trees.

235. BURIAL GROUND:

i. Update on clearing the extension to the burial ground – The Clerk reported that the Diocese have requested a site visit to discuss this, email was sent requesting dates but no response as yet. Clerk will chase this. **Action 8.**

ML reported that there is a tentative plan on getting a digger in for these works, but this would be discussed at the February meeting when more is known.

236. CLERKS MATTERS:

i. Clerks hours December 2023 – The hours were agreed.

ii. Parish Assembly date – Clerk explained that the meeting was arranged for the 19th March but this was following the same pattern as last year when it was held early due to the elections. It was proposed to revert to the usual pattern and holding the Parish Assembly on the 3rd Tuesday of April which would be the 16th. This was approved.

237. BANK RECONCILIATION – 25TH DECEMBER 2023 TO BE SIGNED. PW and ML approved and signed.

- i. Vicki Rutt salary end January - £920 paid by SO
- ii. Vicki Rutt salary - £597.74 (UT ref: 61250768)
- iii. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection Dec 2023 - £40 (UT ref: 353118316)
- iv. Village Hall for hall hire - £44.80 (UT ref: 107742727)
- v. The Computer Studio – Microsoft 365 renewal - £131.40 (UT ref: 207373148)
- vi. Crowborough Town Council – Fencing hire - £84 + VAT £16.80 (UT ref: 41582980)
- vii. Broad Oak Tree Consultants Ltd – Tree Survey - £380 + VAT £76 (UT ref: 354374869)

238. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

i. Confirm receipt of funds from Dignity Funerals for £110: This was noted.

ii. Review of quarterly figures – Q3 report to be agreed. This was agreed.

iii. Assets Register – quarterly approval. This had been previously circulated. Discussion was held around the equipment held at a previous Cllrs house, so ML is going to make contact and have a look. The register was approved.

iv. Consider quote for Verge contract – Clerk reported that following the December meeting when contract tenders were returned, the contractor did not accept the contract so had to go back out for quotes for verge cutting. Quote has been received for £600 which all Cllrs approved.

v. Precept for final approval and signature – The Clerk explained that a Finance meeting was held in November 2023 and each budget line has been scrutinised to see where money could be saved. However, with inflation and projects planned by the Parish Council, a Precept increase of 7.5% has been needed, with the precept now as £42,660. ML proposed this and it was seconded by DW. All Cllrs agreed.

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

240. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17 – nothing raised.

241. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this had been checked on 9th January 2024.

242. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- Advisory Committee recommendation following planning condition presentation.
- Advisory Committee recommendation on how to proceed with the ditch at the playing field.

The meeting closed at 20:20