



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 5th March 2024

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

In attendance: Vicki Rutt (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

266. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A resident reported that the state of the road in East Sussex are getting worse and something needs to be done, this was noted. The same resident reported that there a large container at Wilderness Wood which has been clad in galvanised steel, it does not blend in at all and will be worse in the sunshine. He reported that a good ditch has been done down Wheelers Lane however it has now resulted in a blocked pipe. A resident reported that there were 650 vehicles last month who went over 50mph, some as fast as 70mph. The Clerk will share this information with PCSO Choppin. **Action 1.** It was asked whether an ESCC Officer could come and attend the village to look at the foot path signs and see the issues. It will be covered under agenda item 273.

267. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – None.

268. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – DM declared an interest in agenda item 288. SL declared an interest in item 271i.

269. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 6th February 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

270. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

i. Action Log 2023 Clerk reported from the action log which is available on the village website. It was noted that the Parish Council had received further complaints regarding the Bridleway which runs through Waste Wood. The Chair re-emphasised that this matter does need resolving.

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

271. PLANNING:

i. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

WD/2023/2127/F for LITTLE BROADREED FARM, DOG KENNEL LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EL

Proposed external alterations and change of use to existing commercial building and external car parking area to allow the storage and servicing of executive vehicles.

The PC voted: 7 voted against due to the traffic impact and traffic movements, traffic impacts on the Ashdown Forest, the environmental impact regarding use of cleaning materials and the site being an AONB.

WD/2024/0420/HS for SUNSET FARM, CROSS IN HAND, HEATHFIELD TN21 0TX

Increase storage of LPG, butane and propane from 180 tonnes to maximum 199.90 tonnes. *This was noted.*

ii. APPROVED APPLICATIONS:

WD/2023/3062/F of THE PADDOCK, SUMMER HILL, HADLOW DOWN, TN20 6JL

Replacement of existing detached triple garage damaged/destroyed by fire.

272. 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 the Ofsted assessment for Childrens Services came back as 'good' which was excellent news. There is a lot of pressures in the SEN sector at the moment. He reported that he attended the South East Water meeting at Bewl Water and they are going ahead with the pipeline. A discussion was held that the Highways issues are about money, it is the standard of the repairs that are concerning. DW stated he could list a number of repairs that have failed, some only been repaired one month ago. Highways do not class anything as failure until it reaches the depth of 4 inches. ML reported on the recent repair that was done over ice, whilst this was a temporary repair it was not marked as urgent whereas the ones that are concerning on the A272 are not repaired. Cllr Lunn reported that the draft local plan is out for review with a formal consultation starting in mid-March. There is nothing of concern for Hadlow Down with no major housing allocation for this area. The Parish Council will need to review the policies to see how they will affect future responses to planning applications. Cllr Lunn reported that there is a new Chairman at WDC, Jessika Hulbert. He also stated that the Council Tax has been increased by 2.99% and that their reserves are looking good.

273. HIGHWAYS:

i. Response from East Sussex on the A272 signage on the 19th February 2024 – PW updated that the latest response still did not deal with any of the points made and it states to wait to see what happens with the review. It

was agreed that the officers need to attend the site to see the issues first hand. It was agreed that Cllr Standley would call Mr Nick Skelton at ESCC to arrange a meeting. **Action 2.**

PW asked if ML has heard from PCSO Choppin with an update following a recent Sussex Safer Roads meeting, ML will ask for an update. **Action 3.**

Standing Orders reinstated.

ii. Discuss and consider whether to report ESCC Highways to the Public Ombudsman – DW updated that this came from Trevor Leggo who suggested before taking legal action for misuse of public office, perhaps report them to the Public Ombudsman. A discussion was held and not enough was known about the process and what the outcome could be so DW will look into this and report back at the next meeting. **Action 4.**

BF reported that a manhole near Little England Farm on the Westbound carriageway has collapsed. It has sunk with the new tarmac. DW is going to look into this.

274. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

i. Note draft minutes from 20th February 2024 meeting. The minutes were noted.

ii. Consider and agree the recommendations from the Advisory committee. The recommendations were read out and considered as below:

Rec 1 – The Parish Council to note the recent comments from the Solicitor about the Sport England charge in 2015. This was noted by all Councillors.

Rec 2 – The Parish Council to note the Advisory Committee support the draft finance section of the Business Plan. This was noted by all Councillors.

Rec 3 - The Parish Council to approve the condition 6 paperwork for submission. ML proposed to approve the documentation for submission, this was seconded by DW and all Councillors agreed.

275. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

i. Email from resident regarding BT Digital Voice – An email was received from a resident explaining her concerns about the upcoming BT Digital Voice roll out and the possible implication on the elderly and vulnerable in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would start a dialogue with BT in the hope of arranging a village meeting later in the year. **Action 5.**

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

DW reported that the new ditch down Wheelers Lane, is very impressive but not good that the pipe is blocked. The building that was raised earlier in Wilderness Wood was discussed and it was agreed that ML would liaise with WDC as District Councillor. **Action 6.** DW also reported that he is attending court on the 13th March as a Parish Councillor. PW reported that he has agreed to meet with a resident about concerns in Spring Lane and will do so in the next few weeks. DM reported that in Hastingford Lane there is a culvert blocked still the edge of the road has crumbled away. Two barriers have been installed but they are pushing vehicles into the centre of the road, there is no warning signage. Clerk will report this to ESH. **Action 7.** ML raised that there have been reported that there are vehicles driving up the bridleway at Waste Wood, SL will look into this. **Action 8.**

277. LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

ML confirmed that the local plan is not out for consultation yet but when it is the Parish Council will need to respond and it is advised that Councillors and residents respond individually. It was agreed that DM will look into the policies and report back to the Council.

278. DRAFT AGENDA FOR REVIEW FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY – CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS AND WHO IS ATTENDING

The Clerk had circulated a draft agenda to Councillors ahead of the meeting. The guest speaker has now been confirmed as a gentleman from SECAMB who is going to give a short presentation on performing CPR and using defibrillators. The agenda was approved by all Councillors. The Clerk confirmed that signage had been ordered.

279. RISK ASSESSMENTS

i. Confirmation of receipt of Tree Survey report – The report has been received, seen by all Councillors and noted.

ii. Quarterly Risk Assessment – to commission – It was agreed that AH would do this and Clerk will send the template and the 2 previous ones to assist him. **Action 9.**

iii. Annual Clerks office risk assessment – to commission – It was agreed that ML and PW would attend the Clerks home address sometime in late March/early April to do an office risk assessment.

280. BURIAL GROUND:

i. Update on clearing the extension to the burial ground – ML reported that the church has granted permission for the access so the works can be done.

ii. Approve Burial Ground regulations – The regulations were reviewed and no changes were made. All agreed.

iii. Approve Burial Ground fees – The fees were reviewed and no changes were made. All agreed.

281. CLERKS MATTERS:

i. Clerks hours February 2024 – The hours were agreed.

ii. Disposal of old paperwork that can't go to The Keep – ML explained that the Clerk had inherited a lot of paperwork and she has spent a considerable time going through it all to see what can be taken to The Keep for storage, what needs to be kept on site and the rest will need to be destroyed. The Clerk has obtained a quote for 5 large bags to be collected, which can be tracked back to the depot and a certificate of destruction will be sent to the Council. This costs £60 + VAT. All Councillors agreed for the Clerk to proceed with this. **Action 10.**

- 282. BANK RECONCILIATION – 25TH FEBRUARY 2024 TO BE SIGNED.** PW and ML approved and signed.
- 283. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**
- i. Payment for ratification - HMRC Dec 2023 £394.19 [UT ref 107035846], HMRC Jan 2024 £371.60 [UT ref 745678265] and HMRC Feb 2024 £147.47 [UT ref 19585699]. DD to BT for quarterly phone and broadband charges £222.54 + VAT £44.50. These were noted.
- 284. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (UT ref = Unity Trust Bank reference number) - PW and DM will authorise.**
- i. Vicki Rutt salary end March - £920 paid by SO
- ii. Vicki Rutt salary - £667.90 (UT ref not recorded)
- iii. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection Feb - £40 (UT ref: 570809932)
- iv. Village Hall for hall hire - £49.60 (UT ref: 403738266)
- v. Crowborough Town Council – Fencing hire - £48 + VAT £9.60 (UT ref: 179014381)
- vi. Viking – 2 new hard drives and folders - £151.23 + VAT £30.25 (UT ref: 795746640)
- vii. HMRC – Tax and NI for Feb - £347.38 (UT ref: 740789122)
- viii. East Sussex Pension Fund for February - £458.91 (UT ref: 75486672)
- ix. ESALC Ltd – New Cllr course for Cllr Hobbs - £40 + VAT £8 (UT ref: 533690368)
- 285. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17 – nothing raised.**
- 286. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this had been checked on 5th March 2024.**
- 287. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**
- Four Grange Cottages.

The meeting closed at 20:11.

**** CONFIDENTIAL SESSION****

ML proposed to move the meeting into a confidential session. PW agreed and this was seconded by DW. All remaining members of the public were asked to leave. DM left the meeting due to having an interest.

- 288. RECEIVE A LEGAL UPDATE ON THE RESPONSE TO HADLOW DOWN PLAYING FIELD REQUEST TO LICENCE PERMIT TO CONDUCT WORKS TO ACHIEVE EXTANT PERMISSION RELATED TO HADLOW DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE.**
- This was discussed and next steps agreed.

Meeting closed at 20:18.