



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 6th August 2024**

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

In attendance: Vicki Rutt (Clerk), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) and 15 members of public.

98. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A resident stated that the Police were on the A267 again this evening. ML thanked the MOP for the update and explained that the Parish Councils SID data is showing continued fast speeds through the village and this was advising Police. The same resident reported amplified music again from Wilderness Wood on Friday evening. ML said a recent PC meeting had taken place with Wilderness Wood and this would be reported on later in the meeting. A resident stated he had seen a Highway report which covers upcoming works in Hadlow Down, Hastingford Lane and Waghorns Lane were mentioned but nothing in School Lane. Prior to Covid, Highways stated that School Lane would be a priority. This was noted by the County Councillor. Verge cutting was mentioned, ML explained that Hadlow Down receives 2 cuts a year from Highways. A resident asked whether the Parish Council follow up after the Police activity. ML explained he speaks regularly to the local PCSO, and the SID is evidencing that there are breaches, but it does not show that vehicles are getting faster but there are consistency in breaches of speeding both on main road and school lane. A discussion took place around the ongoing battle with speeding and the traffic calming that is needed but that ESCC are not able to deliver.

99. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Peter Weston.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – DM declared a pecuniary interest in 103.1d and personal interest in 109.b. BF declared a personal interest on 108, BF later declared an interest in 103.3 due to the update on Tinkers Park enforcement.

101. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 2nd July 2024 was recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

102. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Action Log 2024 Clerk reported from the action log which is available on the village website.

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

103. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

103.1. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. WD/2024/1423/F and WD/2024/1424/LB for THE OLD DAIRY, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EP

Various works including replacement unauthorised windows, demolition and replacement of three single story extensions and further internal alterations.

The PC voted: 2 in favour, 4 against due to the scale being altered and proportions of the historic element which could be considered harmful. The alteration is high impact without regard to an understanding of the fabric or significance.

b. WD/2024/1196/PO for BROADREED FARM, FIVE ASHES, MAYFIELD, TN20 6LG

Discharge of section 52 agreement dated 19 July 1990 attached to planning permission WD/1989/4087/O (erection of single storey agricultural dwelling).

The PC voted: 0 in favour, 6 against due to the fact it under minds a viable working farm, it could damage the High Weald National landscape and this has caused issues in the past and may well do in the future, so this agreement was put in place for this purpose.

c. WD/2024/1638/F for FOINAVON, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HJ

Replacement access gates.

The PC voted: 6 in favour.

d. WD/2024/7026/AD for FORD FARM VINEYARD, HASTINGFORD LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DY

DM left the meeting.

Proposed winery building.

The PC voted: 3 against and 2 abstained. Against due to the proposal still breaching 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. There is also no justification for business need.

DM returned to the meeting.

103.2. APPROVED APPLICATIONS

WD/2024/0973/F for HARVEST HILL FARM, RIVERSIDE, BLACK BOYS, UCKFIELD, TN22 4EX [Extension]

WD/2024/1220/F for SCHOOL HOUSE, SCHOOL LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4JE

WD/2024/0972/F for HARVEST HILL FARM, RIVERSIDE, BLACKBOYS, UCKFIELD, TN22 4EX [Driveway]

103.3. ENFORCEMENT UPDATES – ML reported that as District Councillor, he has chased WDC for Enforcement updates and the following were obtained:

- Drakes Den – Still with Planning Inspectorate, no update.
- Wanders Down – Going to Planning Committee North this week for direct action approval.
- Tinkers Park – Still awaiting Planning Permission, also requires LLFA consent.
- Huggetts Farm – Parish Council were advised that an access change from agricultural to residential was not an enforcement matter.
- Old Milking Parlour - Caravan to rear of the plot (occupied during build) will go to next development site in Hailsham, allowed under Part 4, Class A.
- Mill View Parm – Caravan being used for accommodation during development. Allowed under Class 4, Part A.
- Cart Lodge – Planning Contravention Notices served on 18/07, anticipate reply within 21 days.

104. 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 an additional £1 million has been allocated to the Highways patching fund. ESCC are over budget due to the expenditure in adult and children social care. They have seen a huge increase in SEN children and the need for EHCPs (Educational Health Care Plan). There is a reading challenge at the library which is great for children during the summer holidays. Cllr Lunn reported that it has been quiet due to the General Election. Full Council had recently met and Cllr Lunn raised concerns about planning and the lack of enforcement. Issues have been raised, Chris Bending, WDC is engaging with updates, and it is positive to have an open dialogue with them. The WDC Committee allocations were looked at, as were the housing numbers. Full report is on the website.

105. HIGHWAYS:

a. Update from recent Highways drive around meeting – ML explained that this was discussed in full at the last meeting but was carried over so Cllr Standley could be more involved in the conversation. DW and the Clerk reported again on the meeting that was held and the subsequent issues. Cllr Standley reported that Hadlow Down have a new Steward. The Clerk stated she would liaise with the new Steward but some of these issues have been outstanding for nearly a year and it is becoming very frustrating. Cllr Standley asked the Clerk to email Karl Taylor and Claire Dowling, copying him into the email. **Action 1.**

106. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – UPDATE

ML updated that the works have been completed, all the paperwork has been received and signed off. The next stage is for the Advisory Committee to meet again to discuss next steps, business project plan/ delivery plan, fundraising etc. This is being held in September 2024. On behalf of the Parish Council, the chair offered huge thanks to Bob Lake and his Committee for all the hard work for this. ML stated that everyone will continue to work together to ensure the momentum continues to push this project through.

107. CURRENT VILLAGE HALL

a. Roof survey updates – At the last meeting, two Cllrs were allocated to review the surveys. They were looked at and the conclusion was that they were quite simple, and one was left open with additional costings. It was discussed whether it would be wise to get an updated independent survey to identify the issues and receive updated costings. ML reminded the Council that although they are the landowners and have a vested interest, the Village Hall is leased to the Committee. Therefore, it was agreed that as the Parish Council have a meeting coming up in a few weeks with members of the Committee, this conversation would be deferred until the September meeting when more is known. **Action 2.**

b. Update from recent Village Hall meeting – SL reported that he attended the Village Hall Committee meeting. They have a lot of maintenance issues, the roof being their largest concern. They are in the process of drawing up a 5 year plan to bring to the Parish Council.

108. UPDATE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH WILDERNESS WOOD – DW updated that he met with owners of the site with ML. He explained that the new building has been done well, and confirmed it is just for storage. The owners suggested that WDC Planning requested the tin roof staving. The owners are looking at covering/painting the Roof to suppress the visual impact. Noise was discussed, but the owners are aware of the issues but do not believe it is a significant issue. Events were brought up, they only class weddings as events so none of the other workshops etc are events. The amount of people who live on site was questioned, no exact answer but it was acknowledged this is difficult to enforce. Enforcement have been spoken to about the event situation but disappointing response asking the Council to send in diary sheets of events.

109. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

a. Large play frame donation from St Mark's – Clerk explained that St Mark's had contacted the Clerk to offer a large wooden play frame, free of charge for use in the play area. This was discussed and due to many difficulties, it was agreed this would be a liability so would be politely declined, with thanks.

b. Container storage on Playing Field- Clerk reported that a request had come in from the Village Fayre Committee for a second storage container at the playing field. *Standing Orders were dropped.* Fiona Shafer, Chair of Playing Field Committee said they are happy to lead on this but need permission from the Parish Council. *Standing Orders reinstated.* It was agreed that if the Playing Field Committee write to the Parish Council this can be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

c. Hadlow Down fete on Saturday 7th September 2024- The fete is back on and is being held on Saturday 7th September 2024. The Parish Council have been invited to attend and have a stall. It was discussed and agreed that the Council would not have a stall, but Cllrs would attend if available to help in other ways.

d. Request to move school sign, School Lane, Hadlow Down- A recent request for the school sign down School Lane was discussed and raised with ESH. They have stated it can't be moved due to criteria stating how far away from the school it has to be. It was reported that the vehicle blocking the school sign still remains and has been SORN. Another resident stated that it blocks visibility trying to exit Waghorns Lane. The Clerk will raise this again with Op Crackdown and make the PCSO aware. **Action 3.**

e. Flexibus just got more flexible- Copied from the information email. 'From 29 July we are replacing the current zone boundary system with just one big zone. Passengers will now be able to travel within a 14-mile radius of their pickup point – meaning access to new destinations. We have also 'closed the gaps' so a few parishes in the middle of zones but outside them are now covered. Limitations mean we've not been able to expand to cover those areas which were outside the zones. How to book remains by calling 01273 078203 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holiday).'

f. Up-keep of access road to St Mark's Church, Hadlow Down and proposed parking on glebe land- The Clerk updated that they have received an email from Church Warden, Janet Tourell to explain that a response from a solicitor has been received regarding the potholes. *Standing Orders were dropped.* Janet was present and explained that this issue is going to be raised at the next PCC meeting where the comments from the solicitor will be reviewed, Janet will update the Parish Council following this meeting. *Standing Orders reinstated.*

g. Water leak at the School Lane / Five Chimneys Lane junction – Clerk reported that a resident raised this issue and it has been reported again to ESH. *Standing Orders were dropped.* A resident stated that when there is heavy rain you can see the water running down the road between the 2 drains. *Standing Orders reinstated.*

h. Pony and trap with catapult down School Lane – Clerk reported that she was informed that 2 people were going up and down School Lane on a pony and trap with a catapult. This incident, along with some tyres being slashed, have been reported to the PCSO and an increase in Police presence has been requested.

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

DM reported that Hastingford Lane has still not been repaired, this has been chased by the Clerk. BF stated that the zip wire chair will be reinstated imminently. ML reported that he has had regular communication with the PCSO recently on various issues. He had a positive meeting with the Community Centre which will come to Advisory Committee next month. He also stated he is having dialogue with the new Local MP and if residents do not get a response on any issues, please inform ML so he can chase.

111. RISK ASSESSMENTS:

a. Review fingerpost annual inspection report 2024 – SL carried this out, 2 are wobbly and may require attention. Clerk to look into this. **Action 4.**

b. Review Q1 2024 village inspection report – PW has completed this and the report has been circulated and noted.

c. Review Annual ROSPA play area report 2024 – The report has been circulated. BF will look at the report in more detail and report back at the next meeting.

112. BURIAL GROUND:

a. Discuss grant application for improvement project – ML reported that WDC have a grant pot of money which is open to Parish Councils to apply for up to £20k. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to apply for funds to assist tidying, flattening and turfing the extension burial ground to prevent it over growing again and securing a gate access. Clerk and ML to give consideration and if appropriate will draft the application. **Action 5.**

113. CLERKS MATTERS:

a. Clerks hours July 2024 – The hours were approved.

114. BANK RECONCILIATION – The bank rec for 31st July 2024 was approved and signed by ML and DM.

115. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

a. Payments for ratification – DD to Unity Trust for service charge £18 – This was noted.

b. Discuss Q1 2024/25 figures and notes - This was noted.

116. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - ML and DM will authorise.

a. Vicki Rutt salary August 2024 by SO - £1216.02

b. Vicki Rutt – Overtime July 2024 and mileage claim - £124.40

c. Lucy McConachie Play area inspection July 2024 - £40

d. East Sussex Pension Fund – July 2024 - £385.90

e. HMRC Tax and NI for July 2024 - £215.36

f. Barcombe Landscapes - Grass cutting - £249 + VAT £49.80

g. ROSPA Play safety – Annual 2024 inspection - £94 + VAT £18.80

h. Hadlow Down Village Hall – hall hire for July - £40

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

118. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this had been checked on 6th August 2024.

119. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:

- Additional ways to communicate with residents.
- CIL funds.
- Landline Parish Council phone.
- 5-year project plan.
- Burial Ground grant.

The meeting closed at 20:52.