



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd September 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), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) and 7 members of public.

The first 45 minutes consisted of a presentation and Q+A session by UK Power Networks. Notes from this meeting can be found on the Parish Council website with the meeting papers.

120. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - There were no public questions.

121. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – None.

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

123. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 6th August 2024 was recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

124. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. Action Log 2024 Clerk reported from the action log which is available on the village website. ML expressed his thanks to Cllr Standley for all his work on getting the repairs done to the bridleway running through Waste Wood, there has been lots of gratitude from the Equestrian community.

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

125. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

125.1. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

WD/2024/1776/F for Little Broadreed Farm, Dog Kennel Lane, Hadlow Down, TN22 4EL

The replacement of a storage building at the farm.

The PC voted: 7 voted against due to the insufficient documentation, plus the mass and scale of size of impact on the building.

WD/2024/1667/F for Gate House, Stocklands Lane, Hadlow Down, TN22 4EA

Application for extensions and alterations to existing building to include ancillary accommodation in association with gate house combined with additional holiday let use.

The PC voted: 4 in favour, 3 against, therefore approved by Parish Council. However conditions to note that there needs to be a traffic management plan for the delivery of materials due to the potential traffic impact on the dangerous exit from Stocklands Lane into Five Chimneys Lane, and impacts on School Lane. They need to follow Stocklands Lane, Waghorns Lane, School Lane and Five Chimneys, and vice versa. It is also noted that North side of the property is likely to breach the dark skies policy which needs to be considered. The Parish Council would also request a condition that the annex is tied to the main dwelling and cannot be used as a permanent dwelling or long term rental.

125.2. APPROVED APPLICATIONS

WD/2024/1487/FR for New Farm House, Stocklands Lane, Hadlow Down, TN22 4EA

125.3 REFUSED APPLICATIONS

WD/2024/0588/F for Huggetts Farm, Stonehurst Lane, Hadlow Down, TN20 6LL

125.4 WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

WD/2024/1423/F & WD/2024/1424/LB for The Old Dairy, Main Road, Hadlow Down, TN22 4EP

12.5. ENFORCEMENT UPDATES

There are no updates for this meeting. DW asked what are we doing about Wilderness Wood? ML and Clerk will liaise with WDC about this. **Action 1.**

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

Cllr Standley repeated his plea for foster carers, if anyone interested, contact County or the Hub. Next year budget is going to be incredibly tough, social care continues to increase. DW asked if there will be an impact on the VAT for private schools affecting County. Cllr Standley replied that it is too early to tell at this time. Cllr Lunn reported that the political balance of the Alliance (Lib Dem, Greens with the balance being supported by 1 vote on how the Council is run and that casting vote is Labour. This makes the Wealden Labour Party very influential at the District Council. The Labour Party also have two deputy Chairman roles despite only holding two seats. There are ongoing discussions around restricting about the number of bonfires. Cllr Lunn is back on the Overview and Scrutiny

Committee. There has been no feedback from Officers regarding the implications of the Secretary of State Angela Rayner on Wealden's Local Plan which is due to go into Regulation 19 in approx. March/April 2025. Cllr Lunn expects that the new local plan will have to absorb additional housing under Labours 1.5 million homes Manifesto commitment.

127. HIGHWAYS:

BF looked at the leaks on School Lane and Five Chimneys Lane, SEW have marked with blue paint. Clerk to enquire about this. **Action 2.**

128. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – UPDATE

ML updated that a meeting is being held with the Advisory Committee on the 24th September to look at 5 year project delivery plan so an update will be received at the October PC meeting.

129. CURRENT VILLAGE HALL

a. Update on meeting with Village Hall – ML reported that a meeting was held with members of the Parish Council and Trustees on the Village Hall committee. It was a positive meeting, and issues were discussed and their 5-year plan was reviewed. It was agreed by all parties that a 6 monthly tri-plan meeting with HDPC, HDCC and the Village Hall will be arranged. Clerk to arrange first meeting for November. **Action 3.**

b. Discuss and agree next steps regarding roof and building survey – PW reported that as we have the 2 projects, the new Community Centre at the playing field and the maintaining of the Village Hall specifically the roof repair and noted that there are too many unknowns. There was a recent comment made that the Village Hall could be returned to the Parish Council. For the PC to make an informed decision, PW proposed that the PC commissions a full independent survey on the whole building of the Village Hall, this was agreed and was seconded by all Cllrs. Parameters to be drafted and agreed at the October meeting for approval so the Clerk can go out for tenders.

Action 4. *Standing Orders are dropped.* A resident asked on what authority are the PC doing this as they are only custodians. ML explained that the proposal has come due to the PC being the landowners and the comment made that the property could be handed back. *Standing orders reinstated.*

130. TO DISCUSS A 5 YEAR PROJECT PLAN – ML explained that we need to consider future costs on the PC from the upcoming projects so they can be considered at the at the finance and budget meeting. If any Cllrs have something specific to be included, please inform the Clerk.

131. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

a. Email to Cllr Weston regarding mains drainage – PW explained he had been contacted by a resident who does not have mains drainage like a lot of residents. He asked what power the PC has to ask Southern Water to do anything. It was agreed that the PC are unable to assist as they have no powers to do so.

b. Email from Stable cottage re additional electrical box – An email was received from a resident who resides near the Village Hall who had an electrical box added to the side of their property with no permission. The email was passed to the Chair of the Village Hall Committee and apologies have been made to the resident.

c. Footpath sign off A272 into burial ground – The footpath sign within the burial ground was reported as being broken, BF has looked into this and has fixed it, but it has recently been hit by the hedge cutter. Clerk to report this to the Rights of Way team for repair. **Action 5.**

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

DM reported that the long overdue repairs to the side of the road at Hastingford Lane are due to commence on the 5th September this week. PW confirmed that the vehicle speed data is shared with Sussex Police and ML reports to the PCSO. Sussex Police have stepped up their attendance in the village for speed checks. BF reported that the paths around the burial ground are very overgrown with nettles and brambles. Clerk to complain to the contractor and get this rectified urgently. **Action 6.**

133. BURIAL GROUND:

a. Receive update on grant application – not being progressed as the terms and conditions stated that match funding is required which the PC do not have at present.

134. CLERKS MATTERS:

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

b. Discuss ideas to increase communications with residents – The Clerk reported that she publishes information via the Parish Council website, social media and two noticeboards. To increase information in the village, the Clerk is proposing to set up a MailChimp account which is an e-mail system, but the Council are covered under GDPR. All Cllrs agreed. The Clerk will move forward with this and if there are any other suggestions, please let the Clerk know. **Action 7.**

c. Consider Clerk proposal regarding phone line – The Clerk explained the current phone setup for the PC, and explained the costs of this function. It was agreed that the Clerk will look into the current contract, the fee to end the contract early and the other options available so Cllrs can discuss and have an idea of costs at the budget meeting next month. **Action 8.**

135. BANK RECONCILIATION – The bank rec for 31st Aug 2024 was approved and signed by ML and PW.

136. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

a. Payments for ratification – DD to WDC for Q1 bins £429 + £85.80 VAT. DD to BT for £240.15 + £48.03 VAT – These payments were noted and approved.

b. Confirm receipt of £1800 from HDCC re legal fees – This was noted.

c. To note receipt of Section 2 return and Notice of Conclusion of Audit for 2023/24 - This was noted and thanks expressed to the Clerk for her work on this.

d. Agree for Interim Audit to take place in October 2024 – This was discussed and agreed.

e. Approve Clerk signing the new contract for payroll services– This was discussed and agreed that ML would sign the contract. Clerk will bring to the meeting on Friday to action. **Action 9.**

f. Approve annual subscription to The Keep Archives – This was discussed and agreed.

137. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - ML and PW will authorise.

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

b. Vicki Rutt – Overtime £99.18

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

d. R A Waters Paddock & Field Maintenance – Verges - £120

e. East Sussex Pension Fund – August 2024 - £365.05

f. HMRC – Tax & NI for August 2024 - £185.54

g. DM Payroll Services Ltd – Payroll from April till Sept 2024 - £120

h. PKF Littlejohn – External Audit for 2023/24 – £210 + £42.00 VAT

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

139. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this had been checked on 3rd September 2024.

140. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA: Building survey report.

The meeting closed at 20:43.