



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 14th January 2025

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

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

The Chair wished all residents a very Happy New Year.

204. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – A resident stated that the white lines around the village are faded and not visible in some places. The double yellow lines outside School Lane are now longer visible. At the top of School Lane, the road surface is getting worse and needs redoing ASAP. Clerk will report all to ESH. **Action 1.** A resident requested that more speed ‘slow down’ boards are requested from ESCC. Clerk to action. **Action 2.** A resident thanked all Cllrs, Steve Godfrey and Cllr Bob Standley for all their hard work on the A272 speed changes. It was very disappointing to see the negative comments on Facebook. A resident updated that the blocked gulleys recently reported to ESH remain blocked, both Clerk and Cllr Standley have chased the Highway steward. This will be chased again.

Action 3.

205. APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Wellman.

206. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

207. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 3rd December 2024 were recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

208. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

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

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

209. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. WD/2024/2812/DC and WD/2024/2813/DC for 12 and 14 SCHOOL LANE COTTAGES, SCHOOL LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4JD

Installation of an air source heat pump, whereby 1 air source is already installed to flat 11 (directly below).

The Parish Council voted and resolved to unanimously recommend supporting the application

b. WD/2024/2820/LDP for CRISPHAMS COTTAGE, ROSERS COMMON, BUXTED TN22 4QA

Proposed new access, gates, piers, sleeper wall and hardstanding.

The Parish Council voted and resolved to unanimously recommend supporting the application

209.2 APPROVED APPLICATIONS

WD/2024/2095/FR – Gingers Patch – Additional shelter for horses – This was noted.

WD/2024/2633/F - White House, Stocklands Lane – Single storey rear extension – This was noted.

210. 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 speed limit changes were raised earlier but it was a positive step in the right direction, however it would not be a quick process. ESCC have written to the Government agreeing to form a Combined Authority with West Sussex and Brighton & Hove. They should hear by the end of January 2025 if chosen to be in the accelerated programme. Mayoral elections will be held in May 2026. BF asked about contractors and ML asked about changes to the Parish Council. Cllr Standley confirmed that these details will not yet be known.

Cllr Lunn reported that there has been a lot of activity within WDC, just before Christmas they had the Council Tax Fiasco where Council Tax payments were taken by Direct Debit a week early. This impacted over 17,500 households.

Cllr Lunn urged all residents to check that they have not incurred charges and if they have, contact WDC for reimbursement. An enquiry has commenced to see how it happened, it is believed to be human error and why there were no communications to elected members that it had happened. The Local Plan is an ongoing issue, revised National Framework was published just before Christmas. *Standing Orders dropped*. A discussion was held about the spending of public money i.e. CIL funds. Cllr Lunn stated he has heard two mixed comments, so it is not yet known if CIL money is going to be available. *Standing Orders reinstated*.

211. HIGHWAYS:

a. Receive update on the A272 speed signage changes – ML updated that a statement has gone out to all residents regarding this, the letter is on the Parish Council website and in the Parish Magazine.

- 212. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE** – ML reported that there is no update at the moment, the next meeting is at the end of January 2025.
- 213. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
- a. Gulleys on A272 – This was discussed earlier in the meeting.
 - b. Town & Parish Councils – VE day 80 - 8th May 2025 – The date was noted, no events planned.
- 214. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**
- DM reported that the repairs have still not happened at Hastingford Lane. *The Clerk updated that a notification had been received that day that works were commencing end of January, info will be published on social media.* It was reported that the white ‘slow’ road markings at the bottom of School Lane need reinstating. **Action 4.**
- PW reported that the SID outside Wilderness Wood is broken but engineer is coming out on the 15th January. AH is going to do a tree check. BF updated that a maintenance session is being held at the playing field imminently and the profit from Bonfire 2024 was around £4k. ML reported that he has had a lot of dialogue with the A267 safety group, they are very active and being supported by Sussex Express. There is a proposal document coming out in due course which will be placed on the agenda and likely PW will lead on this. ML reported that there has been a recent serious theft in the village so they are still happening so please remain vigilant.
- 215. BURIAL GROUND:**
- Nothing to report at this time. Clerk to chase the quote from the current contractor for additional strimming in the extension burial ground. **Action 5.**
- 216. CLERKS MATTERS:**
- a. Clerks hours November 2024 – The hours were noted and agreed.
 - b. Discuss and agree Parish Assembly date and plan – The date was agreed as Tuesday 15th April 2025 and the Local Parish Plan will be reported on so it can be reviewed and updated.
- 217. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**
- a. Agree Finance Report for January 2025 – The Clerk updated that the way the finances are reported on has been changed. Each month a finance report will be sent to Councillors, which will be added to the minutes [[Appendix A](#)] and available on the Parish Council website. The finance report was noted and approved. ML and DM will authorise.
 - b. Agree and sign Bank Reconciliation for December 2024 - The bank rec for December 2024 was approved and signed by ML and DM.
 - c. Receive and approve Q3 figures for 2024/25 – The Q3 figures were noted.
 - d. Agree Budget and Precept for 2025/26 – The final budget for 2025/26 was agreed and the precept figure will be £45,400. This is a 6.4% increase to last year which results in a council tax increase of 4.9% to residents which is an increase of 9p per week on a Band D property. The Clerk and Chairman will sign the necessary paperwork which will be submitted to WDC. **Action 6.** Thanks was expressed to the Clerk for her hard work on this.
 - e. Approve regular payee list 2024/25 – The payee list was noted and approved. Clerk will add to the website. **Action 7.**
- 218. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.
- 219. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 14th January 2025.
- 220. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:** None.

The meeting closed at 19:53.

The next meeting date is Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 19:00.

Appendix A

Finance report for 14th Jan PC meeting

<u>Payments by Bank Transfer paid pending authorisation</u>			
Payment Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
04.12.24	SWARCO	Maintenance contract	£740.98 + £148.20 VAT
<u>Payments by Bank Transfer pending authorisation</u>			
Payment Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
28.01.25	Vicki Rutt	Standing Order Jan 2024	£1,216.20
14.01.25	Vicki Rutt	Overtime Nov/Dec 2024	£318.35
14.01.25	East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Dec 2024	£459.11
14.01.25	HMRC	Tax and NI for Dec 2024	£333.58
14.01.25	Hadlow Down Village Hall	Hall hire for Dec 2024	£40.00
14.01.25	Lucy McConachie	Playground inspection - Dec 2024	£40.00
14.01.25	Hadlow Down Village Hall	Hall hire for Jan 2025	£52.00
14.01.25	Vicki Rutt	Q3 mileage claim	£36.00
14.01.25	SWARCO	Maintenance contract	178.94 + £35.79 VAT
14.01.25	DM Payroll Services Ltd	Payroll services Oct 2024 - March 2025	£120.00
<u>Payments by direct debit for authorisation</u>			
Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
16.12.24	Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment	£567.07
31.12.24	Unity Trust	Service charge	£6.00
<u>Acknowledge receipt of monies</u>			
31.12.24	Unity Trust Bank	Interest on savings account	£371.09