



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 1st July 2025

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

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

79. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – A resident raised a question about a planning application for Five Badgers, this is on the Agenda tonight. The school have reported to a resident that they can't access Smile Meadow due to a tree problem, AH to look at this. **Action 1.** Signage has gone up on the A272, stating road closed between 17-19 July but doesn't say why, Clerk to enquire. **Action 2.** A resident expressed his anger at the state of the roads in Hadlow Down, it is ridiculous and unfair. Why is Hadlow Down not being sorted, there is no logic behind what roads they do repair. ML suggested that this is deferred until Cllr Standley is present and perhaps a representative from the contractors could attend to answer questions? **Action 3.**

Cllr Hobbs joined the meeting at 19:10.

A resident stated that his statement he read out at the 10th June PC meeting still stands, and he would like his comments to be remembered when discussing items in the confidential session. A resident stated that it is strange that the most used area of the playing field, the play area, is being affected and possibly moved to a much smaller area. ML stated that the PC are aware of the issues and concerns. A resident stated that when the plans were first published in 2015, there was not one objection to the moving of the play area.

80. APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC).

81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

82. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 10th June 2025 was recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

83. 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).

84. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

84.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

WD/2025/1411/FA for FIVE BADGERS, STONEHURST LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN20 6LL

Variation of conditions 1, 2 and 3 of WD/2013/2348/FA (variation of condition nos. 1 and 2 of WD/2009/1456/FA. Change of use of land for stationing of two caravans for residential occupation by gypsy-traveller family) to allow for the use of the site for the stationing of 4 caravans as well as, to allow E J Moore to add his son, his partner and E J Moore's wife as named occupants of the site.

Standing Orders dropped. Query on what they are asking for, caravan or mobile home are the same. One fixed static home, one as a traveller home. *Standing Orders reinstated.*

PC commented – 7 Councillors objected to this application, so the decision was unanimous. Reasons are due to the over development and over intensification of the site that sits within a sensitive High Weald national landscape. That area is still underdeveloped and of a medieval unspoilt landscape supporting the High Weald Management Plan. Additional accommodation will create adverse traffic impact on a small lane. It will delay the restoration of the original site. They are doubling the size of the site and will continue to do so. Concerns were raised about how the sewage is dealt with and water abstraction.

84.2 ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Drakes Den - is still at appeal pending decision.

Wander Down – going out to tender for direct action quotes.

Tinkers Park - there is currently a planning application WD/2025/0654/FR with our Planning Technical Team awaiting validation.

85. REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR MICHAEL LUNN, WDC

ESCC - Cllr Standley had sent his apologies, his full written report is on the Parish Council website.

WDC - Cllr Lunn reported that it has been an interesting few days, with the recent changes there has been unintended consequences that the Alliance are starting to realise. The Overview and performance committee have changed significantly, therefore cabinet members are no longer needed to attend the committee. Discussion took place regarding the restructuring of the Minor and Major planning Committees. It was noted that if there is a minor planning application whereby the Parish has objected and it's recommended by WDC officer it will still be referred to

the local councillor but which could agree with officers or call in to committee but clear policy reasons have to be given. There was a discussion about the Owlsbury site in Uckfield which proposing up to 1700 homes and whether this could be approved by only 3 members. Cllr Lunn stated this was a possibility but unlikely to happen as Cllr Lunn said would be surprised if officers allowed such a major application to determined by just 3 members. BF explained he was surprised it was legal, Cllr Lunn informed Cllrs that legal aspects of the new constitution have been checked and was approved by the Wealden Alliance made up of Lib Dems, Greens and Labour Members

86. HIGHWAYS – None.

87. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE –

a. Note the minutes from the Advisory Committee held on the 17th June 2025 – The minutes were noted.

88. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

a. Email received from ROSPA ahead of play safety report – The play safety annual report has now been received but one piece of equipment has been marked as high risk, therefore PW, BF and ML are going to do a site visit this week to have a look and advise Clerk on next steps. **Action 4**

b. New School Lane Sub-Station – It has been reported that UK Power Networks are planning to replace the old existing sub-station in School Lane in the relatively near future. Work has been done to ensure continued supply whilst this work takes place via rerouting the power. Exact timescales not yet known.

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

PW reported that his recent communication with a resident requesting another SID pole, are Cllrs content with his response. All agreed it was sensible to wait. DW asked the Clerk to report Five Badgers for enforcement. **Action 5.**

DM reported that Hastingford Lane was recently top dressed but all the road markings have now gone and need reinstating. Clerk to enquire. **Action 6.**

90. BURIAL GROUND - Nothing to update.

91. RISK ASSESSMENTS

a. Receive tree assessment report – No update at this time.

b. Assign village risk assessment – The assessment was assigned to PW. **Action 7.**

c. Assign fingerpost survey - The survey was assigned to SL. **Action 8.**

92. CLERKS MATTERS:

a. Clerks hours June 2025 – These were agreed.

93. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

a. Agree Finance Report for July 2025 - The finance report was noted and approved. The detail can be found in [Appendix A](#). The Clerk reported that the payments were put on the system and were approved immediately and did not go through to Cllr authorisation. Clerk will contact Unity Trust and report back. **Action 9.**

b. Agree and sign Bank Reconciliation for June 2025 - Approved and signed by PW and DM.

c. Note sight of Q1 2025/26 figures – The figures were received and noted.

94. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this was checked on 1st July 2025.

95. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA: Deer warden presentation.

96. TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE FOR AGENDA ITEM 97, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION MUST BE PASSED.

That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, that the public including the press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of agenda item 97 as legal matters are to be discussed, and this would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

This was proposed by BF and seconded by DW. All agreed. RESOLVED

The meeting closed at 19:58

****CONFIDENTIAL SESSION****

Due to Standing Order 9 being called by four Parish Councillors, the following agenda item will be re-discussed by all Parish Councillors

97. TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 13th MAY 2025 AND AGREE NEXT STEPS

The recommendations were discussed in a confidential session. Next steps and logistics were agreed for an upcoming Parish Meeting in order to update residents.

The meeting closed at 21:10

The next PC meeting date is Tuesday 5th August 2025 at 19:00

Appendix A

Finance report for 1st July 2025 PC meeting

Payments by Bank Transfer *paid* pending authorisation

Payment Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
12.06.25	HD Parish Magazine	Grant 2025/26	£740.00
12.06.25	HD Playing Field	Grant 2025/26	£2,500.00
12.06.25	Engage TN22 Club	Grant 2025/26	£100.00
12.06.25	HD Village Hall	Grant 2025/26	£250.00
12.06.25	Wealden Citizens Advice	Grant 2025/26	£150.00

Payments by Bank Transfer pending authorisation

Payment Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
28.07.25	Vicki Rutt	Standing Order July 2025	£1,216.02
01.07.25	Vicki Rutt	Salary underpay + OT - June 2025	£183.97
01.07.25	HMRC	Tax + NI June 2025	£313.57
01.07.25	East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension June 2025	£408.10
01.07.25	Lucy McConnachie	Play area inspection June 2025	£40.00
01.07.25	Vicki Rutt	Milage for Q1 2025/26	£40.50
01.07.25	R A Waters	Verge cutting	£120.00
01.07.25	ROSPA Play Safety	Play area annual inspection	£115.20

Payments by direct debit for authorisation

Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
16.06.25	PWLB	Loan repayment	£567.12

Acknowledge receipt of monies

30.06.25	Unity Trust	Interest	£328.33
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