



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 14th January 2020

Present: Councillors: Sandra Richards (SR) Chair, Sally Blyfield (SB), Ben Floyd (BF), Rachel Lewis (RL), Michael Lunn (ML), Peter Weston (PW), Julian Michaelson-Yeates (JMY)

In attendance: Samantha Weatherill (Clerk) and members of the public.

251. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public brought to the PC's attention that there was a large pothole in Wilderness Lane.

ACTION – PW will log this with Highways.

252. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – Received from: District Cllr Dixon, County Cllr Standley.

253. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none.

254. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 3rd and 16th December were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

255. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- i. **PW** - to email Clerk with potential amendments to website. **Carry Forward**
- ii. **BF** - would confirm with the Playing Field Committee (PFC) that the grant would include cutting the grass in the bottom field. **Carry Forward**
- iii. **BF** - would confirm what the PFC would be prepared to do re low risk tree work and provide quote and insurance paperwork to the Clerk. **Carry Forward**
- iv. **BF** - would instruct Street Signs to go ahead with the dog fouling signs. The quote was for £89.50.

256. PLANNING: any applications received between the date of issue of the agenda and the date of the meeting may be discussed and a response agreed at the meeting. Details of the application will appear on the village website.

i. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a. **WD/2018/1359/O- DETACHED 2 BEDROOM HOUSE ON THE NORTH BOUNDARY AND CENTRAL TO THE VACANT PLOT. Land lying to the north of main road and accessed from Hutt Lane, Hadlow Down TN22 4HJ.** This was an old application that was still outstanding and would come before the PC again at which time the PC would reconsider. The PC's comments from the previous submission are still on record so no new comments need to be registered with Wealden Planning.

Michael Lunn joined the meeting.

- b. **WD/2019/2617/F – MOONS MILL, TINKERS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ET. Construction of new oak framed detached garage.** The PC voted unanimously to support the application (7/0).

ii. APPROVED PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a. **WD/2019/1487/FR – 4 GRANGE COTTAGES, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HJ.** Retrospective application for the regularisation of post planning amendments to permission WD/2017/1703/F.
- b. **WD/2019/2103/F – 3 SOUTH BEACON, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ES.** Side/rear extension.
- c. **WD/2019/2021/FR – WILDERNESS WOOD, MAIN ROAD, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HJ.** Retrospective application for extensions to existing car parks, including an area designated for staff car parking.

iii. OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:

- a. **DRAFT WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN.** SR read out an email from Cllr Dixon about this issue. JMY had spoken to Planning about how to access applications now the Wealden Local Plan has been rejected. Fundamentally, whether a plot gets permission is down to sustainability. For example, if a proposed application is relatively near the village and is

in safe walking distance of village services it might be considered to be sustainable. BF is attending the Parish Panel meeting tomorrow which is focussing solely on the rejection of the Wealden Local Plan so will try to find out under what type of criteria the PC are to assess planning applications. ML added that the PC should continue to assess applications in the usual way. For example, if the PC objects to an application it should continue to do so on the grounds of AONB or that it is an unsafe location for an entrance/exit but supply as much supporting evidence as possible to justify the arguments.

257. REPORTS FROM CLLR. BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR PHIL DIXON

- i. SR read out a report from Cllr Standley. Following the recent wet weather which had caused more problems than normal on the roads, he had taken up the issue of lack of maintenance of drains with Highways. He asked people to continue to report potholes to Highways through the website. West Sussex County Council has been having a number of problems leading to the resignation of the Chief Executive. This has resulted in a Joint Chief Executive covering East and West Sussex and Becky Shaw, Chief Executive of East Sussex, will be covering both counties for a temporary period with the Leader of East Sussex assisting the new Leader of West Sussex. ESCC continued to lobby central government for “fairer funding” and the one-off funding for 20-21 is welcome. The hope is that either the one-off funding will be repeated or that that the hoped-for longer term settlement will be announced.
- ii. SR read out a report from Cllr Dixon. The main issue for Wealden is the announcement that the examining inspector had decided that the Wealden Local Plan was unsound and recommended that the plan was withdrawn which Wealden had done. It is now unlikely that there will be a new plan in place for up to three years. The council is currently consulting on its proposal to raise council tax by 2.6% (£5 for a band D taxpayer). This represents only 9.5% of the tax bill and is necessary because of future uncertainty regarding income from government. Wealden have now published an action plan to tackle the climate emergency declared last July, which is available online. The AONB design guide has now been published and is available on the AONB website.
ACTIONS: The Clerk will download the AONB guide for use when the PC considers planning applications. The Clerk will write to Cllr Dixon to ask about when we might receive CIL payments now that the housing developments have started.

258. BANK RECONCILIATIONS – December reconciliation was agreed and signed, including by a non-signatory Councillor as part of the quarterly controls. The Quarterly financial report was discussed and, pending correction of an error, approved. It would be signed at the Feb meeting.

259. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS

- i. Website - JMY will be reading the legal guide to accessibility to determine what it is specifically that needs to be done to the village website before requesting a quote for the work from Nick Allen. **ACTION JMY**
- ii. Sussex Lund Grant. This fund is open to applications on any of three criteria: improving wildlife habitats; improving scenic beauty; improving access to green spaces. One idea was to bid for funding to create access to the football pitch, such as a ramp.
ACTIONS: RL will forward the grant information to BF for him to put to the PF committee at their meeting tomorrow.
- iii. Revised precept 20/21. The budget/precept requirement of £37,234 was agreed for 2020/21 and the precept form was completed and signed by the Chair.

260. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES)

RL said that, with regard to the new Community Centre, a meeting would be held at some point about an approach for discussion from Buxted re sharing a facility.

SB reported that there is a new heating system in the Village Hall (VH). The VH will be put onto a normal meter rather than coin meter soon. Thanks were passed to RL for securing the funding for this. The VH would be kept ticking over until they find out about the new Community Centre. SB and The Clerk will do a site visit of the burial ground in the spring at which they will check the amount of spaces and that the map is still correct as some plots are larger than the map allows for.

ML gave an update on the Wealden Railway Parishes Group – The BML group is still lobbying for the Uckfield to Lewes rail link to be re-instated and is hoping to lobby the chancellor to get this going.

261. HIGHWAYS:

- i. SLR meeting – now scheduled for 30th January. JMY had been asked to write a letter on behalf of a resident about the poor state of Stocklands Lane during the building of the housing development but the Lane will be in this poor state for a while yet.
- ii. Traffic at Wilderness Wood and main road. A resident had messaged RL about the amount of traffic at Wilderness Wood and on the Main Road during the weekend of 30th November. It was agreed that there was nothing the PC could do about this.

262. RURAL CRIME PCSO

Olivia Clinton, Lewes, Wealden and Eastbourne's Rural Crime PCSO for Sussex Police had been in touch to introduce herself.

ACTIONS: The Clerk would invite Olivia to talk at the Parish Assembly. The Clerk would invite the other PCSO to come to a PC meeting to talk about parking issues.

263. RECYCLING COMPOUND AT WILDERNESS WOOD

A resident had complained that the recycling compound at Wilderness Wood was used a lot but the condition of the site, including signage and the condition of the bins were a disgrace and not cleared up by Wealden; Wilderness Wood cleared it up out of courtesy.

ACTION: The Clerk would write to Cllr Dixon to express the concerns above and to request him to confirm when it has been arranged for someone to carry out an inspection.

264. GATWICK AIRPORT – nothing to report as the meeting was being held tonight.

265. PLAYING FIELD:

- i. Update on tree work and quote for additional work identified. The contractor has been put on hold until the ground is in better condition. Bonfire clearance has been put off due to the poor weather but BF will raise this issue and say that this needs to be done within four weeks from now. **ACTION: BF**
- ii. ROSPA report actions. **Carry Forward**
- iii. Dog Fouling Signage – update. **ACTION: BF** will place the order.

266. MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PLAY AREA AND BURIAL GROUND The PC voted for Contractor A (7/0)

267. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY – next steps. It was agreed that **The Clerk** would set up a Google Form for this survey and a paper form would go out with The Parish Magazine in March and a drop off point at the school arranged.

268. RISK ASSESSMENT

- i. Quarterly Risk Assessment.
ACTIONS: PW will cut the protruding wire at the burial ground. **JMY** will remove the bench.
- ii. Play area tunnel collapse. **ACTIONS: SR** said that the PC would be looking to apply for a new grant to pay for the removal of the tunnels. The PC believed it would be sensible to apply for the full £10k available so SR would consider what else the money could be spent on and pass a proposal to **RL** who would look into getting a grant from "Awards for All" for this work.
- iii. Telephone Box. **ACTION: The Clerk** will get a quote for planing the telephone box door with a view to putting the defibrillator in it.

269. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS. The PC voted (7/0) to adopt this.

270. CLERKS MATTERS:

- i. Clerks hours for December were agreed.
- ii. Potential purchase of a fireproof box in which to store burial books. The PC agreed to purchase this at an approximate cost of £50.
- iii. Clerks "End Year Finance" training course £70 agreed.
- iv. Rialtas accounting software update. The PC thanked The Clerk for her work on getting the accounts input onto the new system.

271. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i. Arbor Cultural for zip wire risk assessment - £300
- ii. Lucy McConachie for December play area inspection £40
- iii. Samantha Weatherill - £920 paid by SO, Salary/mileage/expenses for December £176.69
- iv. Viking stationery - £53.98
- v. HMRC for Tax & NI Q4 - £757.28
- vi. ES Pension Fund - £348.14
- vii. Wealden DC waste bins - £450 by DD
- viii. SLCC membership £161
- viv. Rialtas Accounting £897.72

The Memorial for Bygott-Webb was approved (£270 income).

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

273. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – checked and pads replaced.

274. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:45 pm