



MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council
held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down
at 7pm on Tuesday 4th February 2025

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 4 members of public.

221. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – A resident asked whether the Parish Council know when the A267 works are commencing, the Clerk explained she has been told by UK Power Networks that it will be the 17th February but when asked for the map and timescales, nothing has yet been received. Cllr Standley has also chased and not received a response. A resident explained that School Lane was on the works list to be done but it was recently removed and the reason unknown, he explained it is concerning as the top of School Lane is breaking up badly. DW explained that the failing patch has been reported several times, whilst in warranty and nothing has been done. A resident stated that the service covers at the top of Wheelers Lane are failing. He also stated that the phone box at the top of the Hut Lane needs some TLC, it was agreed to add this to the agenda. **Action 1.**

222. APOLOGIES – None.

223. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – DM declared a personal interest in the playing field discussion for agenda item 229.

224. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 14th January 2025 were recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

225. 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).

226. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. WD/2024/2865/FA for ANNES MEADOW BYRE, SCHOOL LANE, HADLOW DOWN TN22 4JE

Variation of conditions 11 & 14 of WD/2020/2451/f (demolition of existing milking parlour and erection of a dwelling following approval of council ref: WD/2019/1629/f, access, landscaping and other associated infrastructure) to enable addition of rooflight and flue pipe to front (south-west) elevation, extra rooflight and change in size of bi-fold doors to rear (north-east) elevation, and addition of parking/turning area and 5 bar access gates to driveway.

The Parish Council discussed and 4 voted to support and three objected, therefore it was recommended to support the application as long as conditions are met for the extra windows to meet the dark skies policy.

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

ESCC - Cllr Standley reported that ESCC are due to hear tomorrow from the Government about the devolution programme. Cabinet approved an increase of 4.99% The budget is balanced using £11.4m of earmarked reserves and also making savings of 13.5m.

WDC - Cllr Lunn reported that the WDC proportion of Council Tax is being increased 2.99% which is the maximum amount they can do. Several issues have been raised regarding how the District Council is being run. There has been no update on the Local Plan. The recent planning application for Passell's Farm has been recalled to go back through the Planning Committee, which the Parish Council will receive an invitation for, as there was a breach of procedure.

228. HIGHWAYS:

PW updated that the Parish Council have received an invitation from the A267 safety group to discuss their proposals, he will update at the March 2025 meeting. BF reported a failed manhole cover next to Five Chimneys industrial estate. Clerk will report. **Action 2.** ML stated there had been no response from the steward re blocked drains and the reinstatement of lines around the village. Cllr Standley confirmed the name of the steward as the Clerk has been liaising with the manager. Clerk will email and copy in Cllr Standley. **Action 3.** DM reported that Hastingford Lane has been closed for nearly a week and no works have happened as yet.

229. DISCUSS THE MOVING OF THE PLAY AREA – The Clerk explained that it has been agreed that the play area will be moved when the Community Centre is built but due to the upcoming lease changes, it has been suggested that the process to move the play area could commence. The Clerk explained the first steps would be to review the area assigned to the new play area, liaise with the community via a survey to seek thoughts from users of the play area on what they would like to see installed with the aim to get some ideas drawn up for the Parish Assembly in April 2025. ML proposed, and BF seconded, for the Clerk to start the process. **Action 4.**

230. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a. Note minutes from meeting held on the 28th January 2025 – The minutes were noted.
- b. Discuss and agree recommendations from Advisory Committee – There were two recommendations from the Advisory Committee. To discuss how the PC could assist with social media and whether to reinstate the ‘welcome to the village’ booklet. Discussions were held around whether the booklet was needed or whether a regular article could be added to the Parish Magazine. It was agreed that the Clerk would find the booklet, circulate it to Cllrs and decided whether it should be updated and used. **Action 5.** Regarding social media, ML stated that if Cllrs agreed he would be happy to share information from Hadlow Down Community Centre on social media. This was agreed.

231. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- a. Views Sought - East Sussex Rights of Way Access Plan – East Sussex County Council are seeking views on the Rights of Way Access Plan. It was agreed that PW would complete on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk will publish on social media the link for residents to have their say. **Action 6.**
- b. Update from UK Power Networks on planned works on A272 – As stated above, the date being informed by UKPN is Monday 17th February. Clerk is awaiting further information.

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

DW reported that he has had recent excellent communication with UKPN due to a planned power cut so is unsure why they are not communicating re the upcoming A272 works. He also reported that ditching works has taken place down Nursery Lane. PW circulated his report prior to the meeting. He updated that the SIDs recently needed some maintenance so the contract is paying for itself. Both SIDs are fully working now, and only minimal data was lost. PW updated that the speed signs have been delivered to his house so any suggested locations to be sent to him. AH stated he is keeping an eye on the trees but poor time of year at the moment, he is going to report back at the March meeting. ML suggested that an inspection was needed as a lot of dangerous and fallen trees have been noted. AH to report all trees in a report with What 3 words locations. BF said he looked at the drainage ditch at the playing field and it was filled with leaves, it will need to be cleared monthly. A rota will be agreed at the March PC meeting. **Action 7.** BF has fixed the broken bench on the playing field. ML stated he had a further meeting with the PCSO, following another theft in Wilderness Lane.

233. BURIAL GROUND:

Clerk reported that the current contactor who cuts the burial ground, will trim the extension ground, 3 times a year at £100 per cut. The Clerk agreed and has been added to the contract. DW raised the pile of vegetation near the gate, he was informed this is not from the PC, it is from the Church.

234. CLERKS MATTERS:

- a. Clerks hours January 2025 – These were agreed.
- b. Agree Parish Assembly signage – The Clerk reported that for the 2 signs as per previous years, it would be £100. All Cllrs agreed. Clerk to place the order and ensure permission is sought from the landowners. **Action 8.** ML discussed the layout for the evening and explained there will not be a guest speaker, it will be about the Community Plan and seeking the thoughts of residents on what they would like to see the PC focus on. Marketing of the Assembly was discussed, and Clerk will continue to use the website, social media and noticeboard. If anyone has any further ideas, please let the Clerk know. Clerk will send out a save the date and provide flyers for the upcoming AGM on the 21st Feb. **Action 9.**
- c. Assign Q4 village assessment - SL was assigned to do the Q4 village assessment. Clerk to send him the relevant documents. **Action 10.**
- d. Discuss abstaining protocols – DW reported that at the November 2024 Parish Council meeting, 4 Cllrs abstained for a planning application, this looked poor on the Council, and it was asked what the protocols are. The Clerk explained that Cllrs can't be forced to give their reasons why but it is best practice to give a reason. It was discussed and agreed that moving forward, if Cllrs do abstain the Clerk can invite them to give a reason.
- e. Consider quote for bus shelter roof repairs – The Clerk explained that the contractor who made the bus shelter has provided a quote of £274 incl VAT to repair the roof. This was agreed. Clerk to let him know. **Action 11.**

235. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

- a. Agree Finance Report for February 2025 – The finance report was noted and approved. The detail can be found in [Appendix A](#). ML and PW will authorise.
- b. Agree and sign Bank Reconciliation for January 2025 - The bank rec for January 2025 was approved and signed by ML and PW.

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

237. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this had been checked on 4th February 2025 and a new pad was installed.

238. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA: The following items will be added to the agenda; tree survey report from AH, play area update, update from A267 safety group and discuss request from the playing field committee regarding potholes.

The meeting closed at 20:18.

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

Appendix A

Finance report for 4th Feb PC meeting

<u>Payments by Bank Transfer <i>paid</i> pending authorisation</u>			
Payment Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
None			
<u>Payments by Bank Transfer pending authorisation</u>			
Payment Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
28.02.25	Vicki Rutt	Standing Order Feb 2024	£1,216.02
04.02.25	Vicki Rutt	Under pay Jan 2025	£79.11
04.02.25	East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Jan 2025	£368.43
04.02.25	HMRC	Tax and NI for Jan 2025	£189.35
04.02.25	Lucy McConachie	Play area inspection Jan 2024	£40.00
04.02.25	Vicki Rutt	Reimburse for defib pad	£74.59
04.02.25	Hadlow Down Village Hall	Hall hire Feb 2025	£48.00
<u>Payments by direct debit for authorisation</u>			
Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
15.01.25	Wealden District Council	Bins	£429 <i>+VAT £85.80</i>
31.01.25	Unity Trust	Bank charge	£6.00
<u>Acknowledge receipt of monies</u>			
None			