



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

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

In attendance: Vicki Rutt (Clerk), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC) and 2 members of public.

239. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – A resident stated that the workers from UKPN have been very helpful and polite, however due to the works, the far side traffic is being pushed right over which is making the existing potholes even worse and dangerous. He stated there has been no communication about the work commencing except from the Parish Council and would like to request advance notice of any planned power cuts. Clerk will liaise with them about this. **Action 1.** It was requested that for the duration of this project, that this is a standing agenda item under Highways. Clerk to update the agenda. **Action 2.** It was stated that there is mud and debris being dragged out from land by the machinery, which is making the road dangerous, Clerk will liaise with the contractor about this. **Action 3.** A resident thanked the PC for their time last week to hold a tri-party meeting between the Parish Council, Village Hall and new Community centre. The resident stated it was a positive meeting. He did ask whether the PC intend to sit down at an 'interval point' to review any risks to public money. ML confirmed there is a risk assessment being drafted and will be considered by the Advisory committee at the appropriate time.

240. APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hobbs.

241. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – ML declared a personal interest in agenda item 244.1a. Cllr Weston will chair that section of the meeting. DM and BF declared a personal interest in 251.a.

242. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on the 4th February 2025 was recommended for approval and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

243. 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).

244. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

244.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PW chaired this section of the meeting. ML stayed in the meeting but did not join the discussion or vote.

a. WD/2025/0257/F for CMR BUSINESS UNITS, FIVE CHIMNEYS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DX
Storage Building

The Parish Council discussed; there was 1 in favour and 4 against due to the scale and over development of the site, there is no justification for the increase in size and Cllrs have serious concerns regarding the water run off onto neighbouring properties.

ML resumed as Chairman.

b. WD/2024/2244/F IVY BARN FARM, POUND GREEN, BUXTED, TN22 4AP

Conversion of agricultural building into a residential dwelling including retrospective access alterations HDPC are not a consultee but as it is on the boundary of the Parish and we have submitted concerns previously, it was agreed further comments will be made. The PC are aware of the speed and danger of this road due to the narrowness and height levels of the road, it is historically not safe due to lack of visibility. Buxted train station is a 25 minute walk away with no footpath to the centre of Buxted, it is therefore an unsustainable location for development. The Parish Council know of 2 fatalities at this location, one in a vehicle collision and one as a pedestrian. If WDC are mindful to give permission, then the access should come out on Howbourne Lane and the access point on the A272 should be closed.

244.2 APPROVED APPLICATIONS

WD/2024/2812/DC and WD/2024/2813/DC for 12/14 SCHOOL LANE COTTAGES, SCHOOL LANE, HADLOW DOWN

244.3 WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

WD/2024/2564/F and WD/2024/2565/LB - THE WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HU

245. 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 the rural crime team have been busy with farm thefts so please remain vigilant. There was a discussion on the lack of Police presence and examples were given. Cllr Standley is going to speak to Katy Bourne, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner regarding this issue.

WDC - Cllr Lunn reported that Wealden District full council was held last week, and a 2.99% Council Tax increase was approved. There was a recommendation to try and reduce the increase by taking funds from their reserves but this was refused. There was another recommendation to increase Councillors allowance to 6% which is above inflation, Cllr Lunn personally voted against this inflation in allowance but this was agreed by the Wealden Alliance. They have increased the allowance for the Deputy Leader by £8,000. The Local Plan sub committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the results on the Regulation 18 consultation. The Local Plan will be going back out for further consultation on additional housing numbers of Regulation 18. It is like to increase from 840 homes to 1400 homes per annum. There was a discussion about the new sites in Uckfield and the effect they will have on the road infrastructure though Hadlow Down. Cllr Lunn reported that he felt the whole process will overlap the restructuring of local Government and that there is a risk that the Local Plan will not be completed. Cllr Lunn reported that fly tipping results show it is down over the last 5 years.

246. HIGHWAYS:

a. Update on recent A267 safety group meeting – PW reported that he attended their meeting, and they will be circulating their strategy soon which will focus on the speed limits rather than junctions just yet. They would like to revitalise a Speedwatch group for the Mayfield flat area. It was raised whether the flashing speed sign works, questions were raised as whether it was solar powered or dodgy wiring. PW will enquire. **Action 4.**

247. RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING MOVING THE PLAY AREA – The Clerk explained that a site visit was done to see the new site for the play area. It is smaller than the current one, so it is going to be key to seek thoughts from users of the play area to see what they would most like to be installed. Clerk to get draft survey completed ASAP. **Action 5.**

248. DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATE OF THE TELEPHONE BOX – A discussion was held, and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact a local resident to see if she wishes to form a community group to give the box a clean and paint. **Action 6.**

249. AGREE ROTA FOR CLEARING THE DRAINAGE DITCH AT PLAYING FIELD – It was agreed this will not be a problem for 6 months now that Spring is approaching but BF agreed to keep an eye and can discuss a rota in the autumnal months.

250. COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

a. Receive update following tri-party meeting between PC, HDCC and HDVH – ML updated that the meeting went well and it was great to see the new Community Centre offer help to the Village Hall, to assist them in remaining open. It was positive and a good chance of discuss many areas. It was noted that the new Community Centre have made significant progress over the last 12 months.

251. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

a. Request from Playing Field Committee regarding potholes – It was agreed that if needed, the PC can purchase out of CIL funds.

b. Sussex and Brighton devolution – government consultation opens – Cllrs to respond individually if they wish.

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

BF asked PW if the current traffic lights have affected the speeds of vehicles coming through the village, the answer is no. No other reports from Cllrs.

253. BURIAL GROUND:

It was discussed where additional spoil from graves should be left. The Clerk will investigate this. **Action 7.**

254. CLERKS MATTERS:

a. Clerks hours February 2025 – These were agreed.

255. OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:

a. Agree Finance Report for March 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 February 2025 - The bank rec for February 2025 was approved and signed by ML and PW.

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

257. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY – this had been checked on 4th March 2025.

258. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA: Tree report.

The meeting closed at 20:17.

The next meeting date is Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 19:00.

Appendix A

Finance report for 4th March 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
28.03.25	Vicki Rutt	Standing Order March 2025	£1,216.02
04.03.25	Vicki Rutt	Under pay Feb 2025	£198.92
04.03.25	East Sussex Pension Fund	Pension Feb 2025	£413.77
04.03.25	HMRC	Tax and NI for Feb 2025	£261.37
04.03.25	Lucy McConachie	Play area inspection Feb 2024	£40.00
04.03.25	Vicki Rutt	Reimburse for domain renewal	£55.19
04.03.25	Barcombe Landscapes	PF + BG cuts Aug 2024 to Jan 2025 + maint	£1253.20 + VAT £250.64
<u>Payments by direct debit for authorisation</u>			
Date	Payee	Payment Details	Amount
17.02.25	BT	Broadband and Phone	£240.15 + VAT £48.03
28.02.25	Unity Trust	Service charge	£6.00
<u>Acknowledge receipt of monies</u>			
None			