



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL**
**HELD 12TH JULY, 2011 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE
COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON
GREEN**

PRESENT: Mr T Thompsett Chairman (TT))
Mr P Nicholson Vice Chairman (PN)
Mr R Taylor (RT)
Mrs. C Eastwood (CE)
Mr R Stone (RS)
Mr D Bailey (DB)
Mrs K Baker (KB)

Mrs S Osborne District Councillor
Mr A Wride
Mr P. Mitchell

APOLOGIES:

SA and SH

No declarations of interests were recorded.

District Councillor Sarah Osborne attended at briefing on 11th July, 2011 at LDC on the progress of the LDF. She is aware of the anxiety amongst residents following the publication of the SHLAA document, that they may face large scale housing developments in Plumpton. At this stage, Plumpton is not a site that is being considered amongst the preferred options for a development of 100 plus houses. The planning timetable for the ongoing process of the LDF is as follows:

Emerging Strategy Consultation - September 2011

Consultation on the proposed submission document – April 2012

Formal Submission – July 2012

Public Examination - Oct/Nov 2012

Formal Adoption – February 2013

The SDNP will be consulted in all areas that apply (as part of Plumpton is in the SDNP).

Areas being considered so far as possible options for housing include: Lewes, Ringmer, Newhaven, Peacehaven and Wivelsfield. LDC planning has to look at highways issues. Councillor Osborne said that his will be a joined up document. She had shown the Chief Executive of LDC and the Head of Planning LDC around East Chiltington and Plumpton and they are both aware of the proposed sites for development and the views expressed by residents.

Further items from Mrs Osborne: She had spoken to planning about the plans for the Pavilion and a possible two storey building and they had no objection in principle. They said that to reduce fees PC should take advantage of free planning advice. For advice on the potential business units, PC should contact AiRS. Mrs Osborne asked if PC were going to run these or someone else.

Footpath behind the Fountain: Mrs Osborne reported that this was rather overgrown and asked if PC could contact ROW.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ROW.

East Chilton School Bus - This is still being fought for. There will be a walk on 18th July at 7.30am – 8.30 to the school and everyone was welcome. Mr Baker MP and members of the CC would be attending; there would be a press release. Parents are protesting and there is a petition; it appears that similar issues with school transport are occurring all over the country. A review of school transport has revealed that the situation could get worse.

MINUTES:

DB asked if the following could be included in the minutes under New Pavilion and this was agreed:

‘The PC have requested that the New Pavilion Committee provide some additional options to the proposal presented. In total, four options are to be provided with outline costs 1) a full size pavilion complete with first floor business facilities. 2) A single storey pavilion with separate Honeybees area. 3) A single storey pavilion with shared facilities for Honeybees with the main hall. 4) A ‘Do Nothing’ option for a small scale refurbishment to extend the life of the existing facility. These are to be presented back and agreed with the PC ahead of any planning application being submitted’.

The six items as set out in the VAP presentation to take the project forward are as follows:

1. To form a collaborative committee to take the project forward.
2. To acknowledge the need for a new building.
3. To action a study to gauge revenue potential on the first floor
4. To develop a car parking design solution.
5. To develop a business plan for the building and car park.
6. To commission the planning application work.

Amendments:

Page 2: under Pavilion add after ‘representatives which CE asked not to be Mr Speirs’ ‘presuming he would represent the VAP’.

Page 5 under Village Hall: ‘the cost has been reduced ‘TO’ £13,500. The minutes of the meeting on 14th June, 2011 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

The Minutes of Planning Meetings held on 20th June, 2011 and 7th July, 2011 were signed as a true record. The Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 14th June, 2011 were signed as a true record.

There appeared to be some confusion about the issue of standing orders. RS said that everyone should be looking at these and deciding what needed changing, and that two Councillors should not be independently updating them, without informing the rest of the council.

TT said that he has asked PN and KB to look at these.

Release of information from Mrs Osborne regarding update on housing: After discussion it was decided that a précis of the above report should be put in the magazine, and on the website. DB suggested posters for noticeboards. This was agreed, and he would consult with RS and Mrs Osborne to confirm the form of words. RT said he was concerned that some parts of the minutes were edited out by TT and this was not a good idea.

KB made the following comments on items under matters arising from the June minutes:

Lifebelt – some confusion, insurance company said it was not necessary though PC could make up their own mind. RT said that if one were available, it may get vandalised or stolen.

Slow Down notices had been broken – should these be taken down? It was thought that Mrs Wride had some spare ones. TT suggested taking them down. Mr Wride thought Katie Wride would be upset about this.

TT suggested that the damaged ones should be removed, and after a time new ones should be erected; TT would put them up. TT to communicate with Mrs Wride.

KB asked for the Emergency Plan to be put on the September agenda.

KB asked about the doctor's room. TT said the VH committee were looking at this to incorporate it with the committee room to have one big room with a divider. It was used for storage at present and more storage was needed; it was thought a new storage area near the dustbin area would be suitable.

RT felt that the doctor's room could be another room for hiring. KB thought it could be used as a Parish Office for the Clerk.

KB asked about the skateboard park fencing. CE said that she was always receiving complaints about the skateboard fencing but did not feel that repair money should come from the PF budget. Clerk said that there was provision in the admin budget for this and the repairs to the fence had been paid for out of this. CE said the fence has been completely vandalised and there were constant fires being started with the wood.

TT said he would ask SH to join him in looking at this.

KB queried the situation with the bollards in the car park at the PF. CE had obtained quotes which were high. SH had offered to get quotes which had also been high.

KB asked about the websites: these were now being revamped and the PC and VAP would remain separate though there would be links. TT said he was waiting to hear from Mid Sussex Times to see if the PC can put forward a name for a Town and Country section representative.

KB asked if there could be a meeting to discuss the Business Plan during August.

RT said that it had been reviewed at the end of 2010, and had been published in 2009.

ACTION: Clerk to find section of minutes with review of the B Plan. It was decided that DB, KB, PN and SA would be involved in looking at the Business Plan.

KB said that Clare Sheppard had offered the Racecourse free of charge for a venue to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee next year. The VAP and other organisations would be involved. She suggested an open meeting to see who else would like to be involved.

MATTERS ARISING:

Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: Comments were invited from these.

Footpaths: ROW were looking at problems with stiles.

S137 grant: Victim Support had sent a letter of thanks.

Pitstop: Confusion about bollards. Mr St John had confirmed that the bollards at the Pitstop would not be replaced but that railings and

a single bollard had been erected outside his house.

Website: Louise Sheeran was making progress with revamping the site.

Network Rail: A meeting was to take place on 30th June with the Listed Building Officer LDC and NR. A report was promised after the meeting.

Fingerposts: ESCC have reported that there is currently no funding to replace fingerposts though there is a sum for maintenance. There was to be further discussion at the SLR meeting.

Notices to properties with overgrown hedges: SA is providing Clerk with a list of these in the near future.

SDNP Forum Event: 19th July, 2011 at Stanmer Park. TT to attend.

Planning Training LDC: PN and DB will be attending this.

Economy Transport and Environment ESCC – Parish and Town Council Meeting. This will be held on 16th September at Uckfield Civic Centre if anyone wishes to attend.

Ticket Machine at Station: Request from resident to have a shade over it as it was difficult to see in bright sunlight. PN investigated and there is no alternative place to put it without losing another car parking space; it may be replaced in the future, which may incorporate a sun shade.

Anti Social Behaviour Team: An application has gone to have the churchyard cleared by this group and PC awaiting the outcome of this.

Expenditure: Any expenditure over £500 should be recorded in the minutes. All expenditure is currently recorded in Finance Minutes but Clerk proposes to include anything over this figure in the main body of the full PC Council minutes.

Enquiry about possible housing development: Clerk received a request from a property owner in Chapel Road who currently rents out his property there, that he was concerned about rumours he had heard about large scale development behind his property. ACTION: TT asked Clerk to give him details of who to contact at LDC who could advise him on this. Mrs Osborne asked that the person also be given her details so she could deal with this.

Racecourse: Clare Sheppard had contacted the Clerk to say that the Racecourse was currently obtaining pre-planning advice to construct a new machinery and material storage facility at the racecourse. Further details would be available when an application was imminent.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

CE said that she had spoken to Sgt Pye regarding the event at the Plough. It transpired that the tenants had only just put in the application, and had to inform highways, fire services etc. There were 28 days for objections.

PN reported that there would be a Barbecue Picnic at Plumpton College on 17th July 2011 in support of Plumpton College Charitable Foundation.

PN reported a course X9636 Discovering Plumpton has been arranged. The course will be exploring archaeology for early settlement and historical and landscape evidence for the development of Plumpton whilst investigating possible methods of research. It will be held on 12th October to 30th November 7-9 pm in the All Saint Church Annexe. Contact PN for further details. PN had heard that there had been aggressive salesmanship by people visiting residents regarding the switchover to digital, changing next year and enticing people to have aerials and equipment it was not though they would need.
ACTION: Clerk to contact Trading Standards to inform them of this.

KB said that whilst on recent training she had heard that 'in committee' was only allowed to be used for a small number of items. Clerk said that these were: staff salaries, any grievance by staff, and very occasionally matters of a sensitive nature that PC felt should be discussed in committee.
The recent discussion at the end of a PC meeting was regarding the HNG which is a Working Party, and any comments and information do not have to be minuted, as this is not a full PC meeting or a committee meeting that would require an agenda and minutes. It was possible to discuss this without the public being present.

AGENDA ITEMS:

SANDPIT: NTR

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: TT said that the committee members had still not been finalised and is there a need to have people on committees.

It was thought that there should be some representatives on main committees.

It was agreed that the following people should stand on committees:

VH- DB, SA
Public Transport – KB RS
Highways – KB RS
Environment CE
PF TT

TT said that the structures of the committees could be discussed by a working party. KB, RS and PN would be on the working party.

Mr Wride asked what is restructuring?

TT said it would include duties of the committees, how they are fulfilled etc and that some titles could disappear. It was thought the discussions would take place during September/October.

KB asked if a draft could be brought to the September meeting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: DB recommended that PC expressed an interest in this and requested more information from LDC, and have a fuller debate during the autumn. NDP's set out a vision for parish and planning policies for the use and development of land; it covers all types of land use, agriculture, leisure, business, allotments, housing parkland and traffic management. DB recommended an interest should be registered for this to LDC, a review of formal information, and then a formal application if a decision was taken to proceed. This would result in preparing a plan with the community and professional engagement, checking for legal compliance and adherence to LDC policy and then to hold a referendum of residents. RS said it was important to look at this, though there was a considerable cost. TT agreed with this, and said that Ringmer was already being considered under the Vanguard system. KB said PC should think about working with other adjoining parishes.

All Councillors agreed to approach LDC about this to register an interest in the plan.

LDC Conference would take place at Plumpton College on 20th October, 2011; RS, PN, and new Clerk attending. (TT is not available).

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of June 2011 were Admin £16,209.17, Village Hall £27,067.36, Playing Field £8,361.12.

The mandate for signatories was now complete. Councillors Taylor, Thompsett, Eastwood and Nicholson were now signatories and RT and Mrs Watson were signatories on the Travers Trust.

Payments Over £500 (excluding salaries) – June 2011

Freestyle Kitchens £7738.53

PWLB Loan £1906.48

There would be a finance meeting on 9th August to sign cheques and discuss points raised by PN about the scope of the Finance Committee.

**PUBLIC
TRANSPORT:**

PN said at a VAP meeting on 11th July it was mentioned that there could be an impact from the new stadium at Falmer on public transport but there were no plans to extend the train service through Plumpton.

School Transport – the contract with C and S coaches has three years to run but C and S is for sale. It is not certain who will take this over.

HIGHWAYS SLR meeting had taken place and minutes would be circulated when ESCC officers had looked at them.

Village Signs: Highway officers suggested that PPC look at style of signs at Westmeston and contact them if they liked the designs, and Highways would take this up at the next SLR meeting.

ACTION: PN and any other Councillor who would like to, would visit Westmeston to look at signs.

PN said that he had spoken to Mr Lambert Plumpton College about signage along the B2116. This has been an ongoing issue for many years.

A resident had asked about having a 40mph limit on Plumpton Lane. This could be taken up at the next SLR meeting.

ENVIRONMENT:

Clerk had been asked by the Station Master if the entrance to Station Close could be included in the road sweeping round, as it needed to be kept clean.

ACTION: Clerk would ask LDC to include it.

FOOTPATHS:

ROW were looking at problems with stiles reported after the last meeting.

Monday Group had made approximately £700 at a recent Jumble Sale.

PLANNING AND HOUSING:

The following applications were granted:

LW/11/0527 17 West Gate, Plumpton Green. Demolition of conservatory and construction of single storey extension at rear and

single storey extension to side plus internal alterations.
LW/11/0528 The Southern Stables, Ashurst Lane, Plumpton.
Erection of single storey extension to existing outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation.
LW/11/0516 41 East View Fields, Plumpton Green. Erection of single storey rear extension.
DB had completed the SDNP consultation form, and had circulated to all Councillors. This was about what the PC would find the most useful in respect of contact details.
All were in agreement to Clerk sending this document to SDNP.
Tree Works Ref: 3852/336/17/06/11 Grove Cottage, Plumpton Lane.
RT is the owner of the property so signed the Interest Book and took no part in the discussion. The site had been inspected and SDNP Authority had asked for comments to be sent in if there were any forthcoming. No comments were made.

DB said that there was an application for Fallbrook, Plumpton Lane. It was agreed to hold a Planning Meeting on 18th July at 18.30; DB would contact the landowners to arrange a site visit.

POLICING AND NW:

RS said he had not heard from the PCSO for some time, and had not had a report from the Police for June. He understood that speed checks were taking place in the village.
He had not heard if Mr Christie had been cleared to take over Neighbourhood Watch yet.

VILLAGE HALL:

RT reported that the electrical reports have been arranged to be undertaken on 6/7th September for the hall and 8/9th September for the Pavilion. Quotations for increasing the level of fibre glass in roof on the low side of the hall would be sorted.
TT reported he had been to see Building Control and there was no problem with the proposed alteration to the VH as proposed by the committee. (suitable plans and applications would have to be made). The kitchen refurbishment is almost finished.
The old kitchen crockery is to be sold at the village hall jumble sale in October. CE asked if she could look at it possibly to use at the Pavilion..
There had been a quotation for the hall roof at a cost of £3216, plus £414 if all tiles need replacing on the gable end. It was thought this was rather expensive though RT explained that scaffolding would be involved and it would not be known exactly what the repairs would entail until the work was underway. RT would get another estimate.

PLAYING FIELD:

CE reported that the Fun Day had taken place and thanked the Pavilion Committee who just got on with it and worked very hard. Approximately £800 was raised.
Club rents: Honeybees rent is due to go up by 5% at the end of this term. CE has booked a meeting with the new staff and committee members week beginning 18th July to review current terms and future plans for longer opening hours.
Junior Football: Club are currently training on a Friday evening at the far end of the field. This will obviously have to be taken into consideration when reviewing rents.
Hedges: Cricket Club have now trimmed the hedges as per their contract and the field is being regularly cut, although parking at the mower shed door by a resident is hampering their efforts, CE requested a No Parking sign be obtained.
'New Pavilion' Committee: The club users have agreed that Ian Earle should be the 'users' representative which CE has agreed to. She looks forward to working hard with this group and hopes there will be

a positive outcome. Committee: Chairman Clare Eastwood (PC), Steve Hayman (PC) Ian Earle (users representative) Kelvin Speirs (VAP) Oliver St John (VAP).

Further items: CE asked if she could hire a skip as the shed on the north side had been dismantled and there was broken glass etc there.

The Winning Post had held a 24 hour 'Dartathon' which had raised £300 for the Pavilion.

CE had received further quotes for bollards and SH thought they were quite reasonable. Padlocks were thought to be the best method and it was agreed that a minimum of 4 bollards should be obtained. All Councillors agreed CE should go ahead and arrange this.

PN had been asked if PC could look at the locks on the loos as the Activity Scheme had expressed concerns that children were anxious that they may not be able to open the door.

CE said they could not be opened from the other side, and the only alternative was bathroom locks. The Activity Scheme only used the facility for 12 days of the year; the Activity Scheme had offered to do the work.

TT said that they wanted to do the work then they should go ahead.

The cardboard collection was piling up at the recycling area.

PN was asked to ask the VAP to look at this.

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere:

Items received from VAP: All items circulated to Councillors. Business Breakfast would be on 29th September. All Councillors are welcome.

TT read an e mail from Mr Hawthorne regarding the Pavilion: VAP delighted that a new Pavilion Collaborative Committee is to be established representatives with two from the PC and VAP and one user. A request was made to ask the user groups to nominate their representative and that this person should not only be a 'sporting' user but also an 'other' user. Mr Earle had been nominated by the users; TT felt he had a good understanding of other matters raised in the e mail.

COMMUNICATIONS:

RS said he had made connections with all the websites and the PC one was being redesigned.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council:

CPRE Accounts and information, Clerk Magazine, ESCC Schools Travel Plan, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership information, Clerks and Councils Direct magazine July 2011, SLCC Branch Newsletter. Information on service provided by AiRS, two tier system. Clerk was asked to give this to CE for her perusal.

Mr R Akers had sent in a request for the subscription of £50 to be renewed for the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust (OART) formerly called SOCS. All Councillors agreed to the subscription renewal. E mail from East Sussex Fire Authority asking if PC would be interested in having a presentation of their services. Clerk to suggest this could be arranged in the future.

Seagulls Endurance Ride 20/21st August, 2011. Letter received asking if PC would respond to questionnaire to agree to the race to take place and to mark and marshal the route.

ACTION: Clerk send back form saying that PC do not wish to make comments, but recommending that all highway restrictions should be

adhered to.

Clerk asked if it could be recorded that she had resigned as Clerk to PPC and would complete three months notice which would be until the end of September 2011. She was sad and sorry she had to make this decision, after 22 years and service, and wished the Council well for the future.

TT accepted her resignation and said that advertisements had been placed for a new Clerk.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S REPORT: PN said that the congratulations should be given as the school choir who had won the 1066 Choir Competition.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Head Teacher.

BUSINESS PLAN:

Nothing to report.

CHAIRMAN

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM, AND WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PC AT THE MEETING ON THE 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2011

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN MINUTES:

SDNP	South Downs National Park
LDC	Lewes District Council
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
VOSS	Vale of Sussex Society
EA	Environment Agency
LCR	Local Councils Review
ROW	Rights of Way
MOP	Member of the Public
SLR	Strengthening Local Relationships
VMT	Village Maintenance Teams
VAP	Village Action Plan
RST	Road Safety Team
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
SID	Speed Indicator Device
SALC	Sussex Association of Local Councils
AirS	Action in Rural Sussex
NR	Network Rail
EH	Environmental Health
NTR	Nothing to Report
OHP	Overhead Projector
CPRE	Council for the Protection of Rural England
PL	Public Liability
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board
SHLAA	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
TW	Tree Warden
TC	Town Council
SKP	Skateboard Park
SO	Standing Orders
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan