

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2006**  
**AT 7.30 p.m. IN THE SMALL HALL, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN**

**Those Present:** Councillors R. Taylor (Chairman), K Speirs, K. Beard, T. Hawthorne, P. Ramsay, Mrs. B. Watson, , Mrs. S Angel, Mrs. C. Thompson, Mrs. M. Stroude County Councillor, Chief Inspector Gough, Inspector Viv Johnson, Sgt M. Cranley, PCSO Whittaker-Jones

**7 Members of the Public.**

**Apologies:** Mrs. S. Akers.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the APM held on 26th April, 2005 were signed as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** None.

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT** – Mr. Taylor, thanked Mr. Speirs, Vice Chairman, all the Councillors, Mrs Stroude, Mr. Ray Young Neighbourhood Watch, Mrs. Ridley Tree Warden, , and the Clerk, for all their hard work. He welcomed the Police Officers and PCSO Whittaker-Jones. Mrs. Taylor was thanked for preparing the refreshments.

There is now a website for Plumpton [www.plumptonpc.co.uk](http://www.plumptonpc.co.uk) which has details of the PC, Minutes etc on it.

There have been problems with the bootfairs at the Racecourse with extra traffic and rubbish generated from them. There is only planning permission for 14 each year and the PC are keeping an eye on this to make sure numbers are not exceeded.

National Park: There has been a delay in the time table for the introduction of this.

Village Action Plan. Mr. Hawthorne will mention this later on in the meeting. A grant of £2000 has been received.

Speeding in the Village. RVRC has organised the purchase of a SID by Parish Councils at a cost of £200 each and this will be in use shortly.

Work has taken place at the allotments to provide two more and there has been a good uptake for these. There is no longer a waiting list.

The Doctor's surgeries closed from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2006. This was due to IT problems linking up the surgeries; four hospitals now have to be offered to patients needing treatment. Dr. Toynbee from Ditchling did say he would visit residents in Plumpton if necessary.

Mr. Taylor asked the Police representatives for their report:

Chief Inspector Gough said that the Lewes area was the most successful district with the largest crime reduction (10%) in East Sussex which means 700 less victims of crime. Plumpton had 1% of the crime, 11 eleven crimes which were mostly at the College. The PCSO's has a high visibility presence and the area of Plumpton is well served by PCSO Whittaker-Jones.

The RVRC have now organised a SID to be used in parishes. Police bulletins have not been produced recently but a new PC has been allocated to this and the bulletins will shortly return.

Chief Inspector Gough mentioned the amalgamation of Surrey/Sussex forces and said there may not be a District Commander.

It is hoped to double the amount of PCSO's in the future doubling their hours in the village to 30-40 hours a month, and it is hoped that Parish Councils will include in their budget £3000 towards the cost of an extra PCSO. When details have been finalised, the Police will apply to the PC's for consideration for a grant towards the funding of the PCSO's.

Q If amalgamation goes through, will this mean that we will have to pay more for administration?

A Sussex force is the fifth worst financed force in the country, it should be financed for another 300-400 police officers; e case is going to government.

Q Are there the same amount of PCSO's around the country?

Q Situation is different nationally. There is a commitment to PCSO's in Sussex and any contribution towards extra ones will be gratefully received.

Q I see that 12%of our budget in the council tax is for policing, yet we only have 1% of crime; this does not stack up?

A There are many hours of high visibility presence.

Q Presuming we pay towards the PCSO's – will that guarantee more hours? What if they are called away for an emergency.

A I cannot guarantee that there will not be any emergencies, this parish has x number of hours and there would not be expected to be a charge requested until the extra hours of service was in place.

Mr. Taylor asked for questions regarding his report.

Q There has been problems with water at the allotments?

A Mr. Speirs met a highways representative and they will try to divert water into a highways drain and dig out the ditch.

**REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR** - Mrs. Stroude reported that it had been a good year for ESCC. They had received three out of four stars from the Audit Commission and this represented good value for money. There has been improvement in children's facilities, waste, transport. Help for the elderly needed improvement; there was now 25% of the population over retirement age. Social services children's department and education have now merged and now called "children's services" and this was working well with the child as a focus, and working in conjunction with LDC, police, children's agencies, and with children themselves as representatives.

ESCC has a good website and broadband is available over most of the county. Disability access is now in most public buildings and there is an excellent new library in Lewes.

There are more reactive signs for speed restrictions. 25% of household waste is now being recycled. Highways – new telephone number 0845 608193; this is a new telephone answering system to respond to highway problems.

£100,000 has been allocated to Age Concern to help them let elderly people know about benefits.

ESCC is committed to keeping elderly people in their own community with carers and therapists.

£3000 is spent each year on each pupil in education and there are policies to reduce bullying and anti social behaviour.

Children's centres are being set up for the under 9's and healthy meals are encouraged. Some foster parents are taking on Mums and her child to help them together and there is an increased number of adoptions and family units.

Mrs. Stroude thanked the PC for all their hard work.

Q Sometimes it takes a long time for Social Services to deal with problems.

A It is hoped that this will get better.

Q I gather there are free computers in libraries now. Would you consider funding a PC in the Village Hall.

A Unfortunately the budget will not allow this, we are looking at shops.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE VILLAGE HALL REPORT** – Mr. Taylor said how sad everyone had been to hear of the death of Mrs. Heather Pearce who had been the village hall manager and had taken part in many areas of village life. Mrs. Jo Taylor had taken over the reigns for the hall and he thanked her for all her hard work. Mrs. Carole Burgon is the new Manager. Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Beard who does a great deal of work on the grounds surrounding the hall. He also thanked Mr. Nick Satchell the Finance Manager, Mr. Martin Gilbert for help with the door entry system, Mr. Malcolm Beard who does a lot of the hall maintenance and Mrs. Karen Beard for organising very successful jumble sales. There are plans to have high level storage space over the stage, and new lighting bars on the stage. The tile hung fascias on the south side of the car park need attention and there are two possible ways to replace these, either by plastic material or tech wood. There will be a new door entry system installed in the near future. The new licence was issued in November 2005, and Mr. Robin Akers is in charge of this for local organisations, and TENS apply for other organisations; this seems to be working well. Mr. Alan Greening is to stop doing his book stall, which has been very successful; it is hoped that someone may take over the stall.

Jumble Sales have raised £1852 this year. Mr. Taylor said he and Mr. M.Beard would be looking at renovating the British Legion plaque. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hall celebration morning had gone well. Mr. Taylor had noticed that some paving slabs had been removed in the car park and bricks had been placed under them to use as a skate boarding ramp.

Q What do you intend to use the Doctor's room for?

A Storage, we have a lot of extra items such as Youth Club equipment.

Q Would you consider letting the hairdresser have the room after he has had to leave his present premises?

A This may not be possible due to insurance and planning problems.

Q There are often post offices in village halls.

A Maybe he could put his request in writing. It can then be considered.

Q Why cant you approach the school regarding the youth club equipment, incase they may want it?

A Mr. Satchell is dealing with it, and any money raised from the sale of it will go to the Millenium Fund.

**CHAIRMAN OF PLAYING FIELD REPORT:** Mr. Speirs thanked everyone from the sports clubs who give their time to make the playing field and facilities one of the best in the area. New windows and storage heaters have been installed this year. Parties have been held, mostly without problems; a few have caused problems due to lack of adult supervision; there are new hiring conditions and the PCSO will be informed of 18<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> birthdays.

Dog fouling is still a problem. Users of the facilities, especially the Football Club are committed to improving the facilities when funds permit and very often at no cost, or very little, to the Parish Council

Q What about the trees at the playing field, I noticed they are in a poor state?

A Work has been done on the worst bits and the rest will be done when funding allows.

**CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPORT: Buses -** Mr. Hawthorne reported that current timetables for Village Rider 824 bus and 166 to Haywards Heath were available on the table. A new concessionary system for senior citizens over 60 and the disabled had commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April. This allowed free travel after 0900 on Monday to Friday and all day Saturday. County Cards can be obtained free of charge from LDC Finance.

The taxi bus ended in December, which was a responsive dial a ride service that ran for three years funded by the Countryside Agency and ESCC; it ended when there was no further funding. It is hoped that a bigger scheme now planned for Mid Sussex will include Plumpton and should get off the ground in the second half of 2007.

The buses are now operated by Countryliner (Sussex) Ltd. and not RDH.

Q How do you get a County Card?

A Apply to LDC, Finance with a passport photo.

Mr. Hawthorne thanked Mr. Novis who has been a regular driver of the 824 Service over 14 years. He hoped that the new free bus travel for the elderly will result in better patronage.

**Trains -** The Station Office is manned by Mr. Green, each morning Monday to Friday. There has now been the final replacement of the slam door trains with air conditioned trains. Due to timetabling issues the 0910 train to London no longer stops at Plumpton despite strong efforts to get it reinstated. There are additional trains departing between 10 and 1230, the old 1057 has been changed to 1028 and an additional departure now leaves at 1128. The pink timetable is the latest version and remains valid until 10<sup>th</sup> June 06. Cycle racks are now installed at the station and it is hoped that the outside of the station will be painted in the summer.

**PARISH ACTION PLAN –** Grant funding from Action in Rural Sussex for the plan has now been received. The idea is to encourage everyone in the community to work together towards a parish plan that spells out how we all think our local facilities and environment can be treated, developed and protected. Issues raised will be speeding, public transport, supporting local shops/post office and businesses, doctors surgeries, housing needs and local schools. The plan will give opportunities to say what issues are important to residents. The next step is to form a steering group, and the best way to proceed with consultation; this will normally take a year to complete. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact the Clerk Liz Cullen on 012825722785 or Tom Hawthorne on 01273 890829.

**CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT -** The Clerk reported that the precept for 06/07 would be £24,519 which is a £615 increase on last year. Grants had been awarded to: Activity Scheme, Victim Support, SOCS, FWAG, Care Club, British Legion. Two donations had been sent in memory of Mr.

Percy Law to St. Peters and St. James, and in memory of Mrs. Heather Pearce to League of Friends Princess Royal Hospital.

The books were on the table for inspection and had been balanced. The Audit has been called for August and the books will be available for the public on that occasion.

**TRIVERS TRUST REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT** - Mrs. Watson reported that there had been one distribution this year, leaving a balance of £129.65. Mr. Taylor signed the book as a true record.

**SCHOOL REPORT** - As there is no School Governor representative on the PC, the Clerk had obtained newsletters during the year and had extracted information from them.

The new swimming pool is to be opened on 15<sup>th</sup> May and extra swimming lessons outside school hours are planned. Activities that have taken place are : cross country, World Book Day, National Science Week, Night Owls photographs, Spring concert. The new Head Teacher is Mr. Robert Upton.

As there is no Governor's report there are no numbers of attendees or items regarding the budgets.

Q There is a lot of rubbish near the Riddens Flats. Please can it be moved

A Clerk will ask LDC to remove it.

Q Who has cut down the oak tree in St. Helena Lane.

A. Clerk will contact the Tree Officer LDC and Highways.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work over the year.

**CHAIRMAN**