



MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON 3RD APRIL, 2007 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE SMALL HALL,
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr. R. Taylor Chairman
Mr. K Speirs Vice Chairman
Mrs. S. Angel
Mrs. B. Watson
Mrs. S. Akers
Mr. P. Ramsay
Mrs. C. Thompson
Mr. T. Hawthorne
Dr. H Ashby
PCSO J. Whittaker Jones
33 Members of the Public

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mr. K. Beard, PC J. Vitler, Mrs. S. Osborne.
- 2. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting on 4th April, 2006 were signed as a true record.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:** None.
- 4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

Mr. Taylor welcomed Dr Ashby and asked him to report on the current situation regarding possible closures at the Princess Royal Hospital.

A meeting had taken place in December at Newick which was well attended. Mr. Norman Baker MP, two PCT representatives, and Mr. Wilderspin Principal of the PCT West Sussex, were present. West Sussex PCT is in the red more than East Sussex. West Sussex have delayed the consultation until after the May elections. The PRH is unlikely to remain with present facilities, lots of departments are linked to Brighton, financially as well. The maternity unit is most threatened. The alternatives are Redhill, Brighton, and Worthing; surgical and orthopaedic are being dealt with elsewhere since last April. It is hoped to preserve the medical and ITU units, and hopefully the A and E unit. Hurstwood Park (neuro surgical unit) has been on the hit list for many years, and is under threat again; this is more serious than ever.

Patient choice? They don't have one, it all comes down to money.

Dr Ashby said he knew most GP's in the area and it is hoped to organise a consensus of GP's and get their collective views. These GP work in 8 or 10 practices with 150,000 patients and this should give some collective voice.

Brighton Hospital is 100 plus years old and there is a high rate of MRSA there.

Dr Ashby said we have a fight on our hands, and it was hoped that as many people as possible would help to campaign against the possible closures.

Q Would you be speaking for the maternity unit.

A We will keep it up, but there is a stronger case for the ITU and A and E units.

Q As we are in a county boundary is there an adjustment for each area, east and west?

A Someone has to pay the bills, money changes hands, there are allowances for each area, and there are cross border adjustments.

A How is Brighton going to cope with all the extra work.

A Good question.

Q When we joined Brighton, did we pick up their debts?

A A collective debt.

Norman Baker MP got a consultation period, but decisions may be made behind closed doors. The decision will possibly be made in the autumn.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Speirs Vice Chairman, all the Councillors, and the Clerk for all their hard work. He also thanked Mrs. Stroude, PCSO J. Whitaker Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Young. He also thanked Dr. Ashby for coming along to speak at the meeting. Mr. Beard, Mr. Hawthorne and Mr. Ramsay were standing down as Councillors and four residents had put themselves forward for election in May. Residents were encouraged to vote.

Mr. Beard was still in hospital and Mr. Taylor wished him on behalf of the Council, a speedy recovery.

There had been two planning issues in the last year. The PC had opposed the Plumpton Green Garage application as there were too many houses (11). This had been reduced to 8, but this was still one over government guidelines.

The Beetle Garage was also opposed very strongly by the PC and representation had gone to the Planning Meeting at LDC. There had been forty letters of objection. There was also an issue at the garages in Riddens Lane which were being used by the Beetle Garage to sell cars from.

Highways – There are always problems and Councillors often meet with representatives of ESCC Highways to discuss these. The white bridge in Plumpton lane has been damaged three times in 2006.

The SID is in use and this is shared by several parishes.

Sandpit; This is to re-open during summer 2007. A committee was formed in 2006 chaired by Mr. Nicholson. The Parish Council did not support the sandpit application. Car parking remains a problem at the station as people from other villages use it when catching the train.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Gamble are repairing the footpath stiles and also repaired the Half Moon notice board; thanks were given to them.

National Park Designation: The designation process has been halted by government. They are waiting for any observations by New England and further representations on outstanding matters that were not fully addressed by the enquiry.

Mr. Taylor asked the PCSO to make a report.

PCSO said she had 20 hours high visibility patrol per week. Plumpton was the safest place to live as there had only been 36 recorded crimes this year, which includes the college. She warned residents to keep their sheds locked as there were several thefts of tools from these. Information can always be found on the Sussex Police website as to what is happening in your area.

A speed gun would be available when funding had been sought; this costs £6000.

Village Action Plan – Mr. Hawthorne reported that a busy ten months had been had working on the plan, whose aim is to encourage everyone in the community to work together expressing how local facilities and environment should be treated, developed and protected. A steering group was set up and a small grant obtained from Action in Rural Sussex to cover some costs. Nine meetings have taken place and currently a draft questionnaire is being prepared. A separate youth questionnaire will be given to younger people, and those at the Primary School are also included in the process. When the results are analysed the Plan will be produced in the autumn and delivered to each household.

Volunteers will be needed to distribute the questionnaire, analyse results, and deliver the final plan; Mr. Hawthorne asked if anyone could help to let him know.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Mrs. Stroude held up the County Magazine and hoped everyone had received one. She reported that the Audit Commission said that the CC was performing well and was good value for money. The children's service was the best in the south east and eighth nationally. The CC were struggling with budgets, as there had been a 2% cut and the youth services had half their budget cut.

Travelling to hospitals in Brighton involved three buses which was unacceptable.

There was £230 per house for transport and environment.

There would be a passenger transport review and school transport.

£166 per home is spent on community services, including libraries.

The Trading Standards Board had a buy with confidence initiative.

£524 per home for adult social care, 26% residents were pensionable age with an increase in those over 75. Elderly people were encouraged to stay in their home, and there was now a handy man scheme to support the elderly.

Respite care was not always institutional, some elderly are reluctant to go back home after being in hospital.

£238 per home is spent on children's service. Mrs. Stroude said she was involved with this, including special needs, adoption, fostering and there were 10 children's centres at areas including Eastbourne and Hastings and 18 in rural areas; these provided parental support, dentists, special therapists for the under 5's There is special provision for autism and respite care.

Youth are represented on the Trust and their input is important.

There is a new youth centre set up in Chailey.

£2m has been dedicated to one off spends, such as age concern, mobile office, village maintenance, school walks, partnership PCT's, library buildings, speeding. Nursery for looked after children, respite care, disabled children and families, and gifted children.

Plumpton School had a good OFSTED report.

Q How much is spent on youth services in Plumpton.

A We are concentrating on Peacehaven, Hastings etc and what young people need.

Plumpton had a youth group but this folded due to lack of parental help coming forward.

There is a budget for £7000 for the village, if a leader and venue can be found.

Q How much budget is put into road maintenance?

A £54m.

Q 18 child centres, are these government funded?

A Funding is much reduced, no more children's centres, representatives are available in primary schools.

Q The school is 30 years old and there are drainage problems which the school cannot afford to replace.

A I will let the CC know about this.

Q Mobile office, could we have one?

A I will look at this. The one at Newick is well used.

**6. DISTRICT
COUNCILLORS
REPORT:**

Mrs. Osborne was not present so no report was given.

**7. CHAIRMAN OF THE
VILLAGE HALL
REPORT:**

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Satchell, Mr. Upton, Mr. Akers, Mr. K. Beard, Mr. Gilbert, Mrs. Donovan and Mrs. Burgon for their hard work at the hall. He reported that the following maintenance had taken place at the hall: refurbishment of the British Legion plaque, rear doors damaged by storm has been fixed, and the fire doors on the south side of the main hall. Mr. Malcolm Beard had done a lot of work on the hall and was thanked.

A fire risk assessment had taken place, though the Fire Brigade were not involved any more.

Improvements to stage lighting was being considered, a new door entry system had been installed, and new storage cupboards on the stage.

Jumble sales had raised £2112 during the year and Mrs Karen Beard was thanked.

The hall will become a no smoking area officially from 1st July. The Village Green could not be designated as a Village Green for another ten years.

**8. CHAIRMAN OF
PLAYING FIELD
REPORT:**

Mr. Speirs reported that the last year had been relatively quiet for the playing field and pavilion and the only significant work had been the weatherproofing of the south and west sides of the building and the recent repair to the skateboard perimeter, a new sign and two new sports sheds.

The car park needs attention and a quotation is being sought..

The junior football team is flourishing, with teams under 9 and 10 and next year an under 11's team is hopefully going to be started.

The pavilion can be hired at a reasonable cost with a fully stocked licensed bar.

Dog fouling has improved.

Mr. Speirs thanked, Mrs. Betts, Mr. Bob Taylor and Mr. and Mrs Earl for their help given towards the running of the Pavilion.

Q The dog fouling bins are overflowing. Mrs. Akers said they were at the village hall twitten too.

A Clerk – will report it to LDC immediately.

Q There were several parties in the summer, could hear everything, microphone, music etc. can't have windows open.

A We cannot close the front door in the summer as it is hot.

Q There is often noise from cars.

A Will keep a check on this.

Q Why are people allowed to take their drinks outside? I thought this was not allowed.

A The area cannot be policed, but there is a rule for two adults for every 15 young people.

PCSO – Cannot police the over 18's but can those suspected of under age drinking.

**9. CHAIRMAN OF
PUBLIC TRANSPORT
REPORT:**

Mr. Hawthorne reported that there was currently no-one permanently at the station ticket office, but it was hoped that a replacement would be found soon. The car parking situation is an issue, and it is hoped more car parking space will be found at the playing field.

Mr. Hawthorne said there were no changes to the regular services on the buses. The concessionary scheme for those over 60 had come into force and it was hoped this will encourage greater use of the buses after the morning peak hours. County Cards can be obtained from Lewes District Council.

Timetables for trains and buses were available from Mr. Hawthorne during the evening. The SID was set up in a corner of the hall. The first volunteers had been trained and it has been used in the village. It is easy to use but every volunteer must attend a training session. Another session is planned for 25th April at 18,30 in the hall and if you would like to volunteer contact Mr. Hawthorne.

**10. CLERK'S FINANCIAL
REPORT:**

The precept for 07/08 is £24,845. The Village Hall and Playing Field accounts are audited by the Charity Commission and these are done by Councillor Mr. Speirs and Mr. Satchell. The accounts were placed on the table, but were not balanced as the final bank statement had not been received. Residents have a chance to see accounts for audit (under local government requirements) in the summer.

Grants had been awarded to: SOCS, Care Club, Happy Circle, Victim Support, FWAG. The Clerk was now getting a weekly newsletter from the school from which she was extracting items to report to the parish council.

Q What is the criteria for awards?

A Organisations and individuals are asked to write in requesting for grants.

**11. TRAVERS TRUST
REPRESENTATIVE'S
REPORT:**

Mrs. Watson explained the Trust,. There was a balance of £163.27 in the account, no distributions had been made. Mr Taylor signed the account.

Q I see in a magazine that there is a village of the year competition. Does Plumpton go in for this?

A They did at one time, but the pretty villages such as Alfriston usually win..

Mrs. Eagle thanked all the Parish Councillors for their hard work.

Chairman