



MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON 5TH APRIL, 2010 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE PAVILION, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr. R. Taylor RT Chairman
Mrs B Watson BW Vice Chairman
Mrs. S. Angel SA
Mrs. S. Akers SAA
Mr. T Thompsett TT
Mrs. C Eastwood CE
Mrs K Wride KW
Mr R Stone RS

County Councillor Mrs M. Stroude
District Councillor Mr T Hawthorne
PCSO Steve Knowles

32 Members of the Public (all were signed in with their names)

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mr I Earl IE
- 2. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting on 20th April, 2010 were signed as a true record.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:** None.
- 4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

RT thanked the Clerk, BW (Vice Chairman) and all councillors for their hard work throughout the year. Two Councillors were retiring at the end of the current term, Mrs Angel and Mrs Watson, and he thanked them for all their contribution to the Parish Council. He also thanked the District Councillor Mr Hawthorne and County Councillor Mrs Stroude, and PCSO Knowles.

SHLAA – Strategic Land Availability Assessment – This identifies and accesses sites within the parish suitable for development for housing; it is not a planning application for housing, and the work had been undertaken by Consultants for LDC.

Mr Hutson from the Wildlife Group had prepared wildlife surveys and looked at the sites which suffer from water logging and any trees that have TPO's on them.

Social Housing: PC supports the building of social housing in the village; five sites have been identified, but no decision has been made by LDC on which site is to be built on. There were 42 responses to the HNS and initially 14 social units will be built during the next five years. The PC favours the scheme which enables applicants to rent only.

Plumpton East Residents Against Development has been formed recently and the PC are supporting the group.

Station Car park continues to be a problem with no easy solution.

PC have contacted Southern regarding the cycle sheds; PC were not consulted about the erection of these; Southern have offered to paint the sheds green and plant shrubbery round them. A resident has written to Southern regarding her views against the sheds and there has been a possibility of re-siting the sheds; and a meeting has taken place with Southern.

Strengthening Local Relationship meetings have taken place with ESCC Highways; these take place twice a year and are very useful. It gives the PC chance to highlight any

highway problems and talk face to face to highway officers.

NR have produced a report regarding the potential replacement of the crossing barriers. They favour the automatic barriers stating that it will be difficult and expensive to obtain bespoke parts to replace the mechanism on an old system. The gates are listed as part of the curtilage of the Station, and even though NR do not have to have planning permission to change, they would need to have Listed Building Consent from LDC, as areas of the station are listed.

Neighbourhood Watch: After many years Marilyn and Ray Young are retiring, They are looking for volunteers to take this service over. The PC would like to thank them for all their service over many years.

Speeding in the village: regular checks have been taken by the PCSO and drivers have been prosecuted and one has lost his licence.

PC published its Business Plan during the last year, and it has been reviewed and amended. The No Cold Calling scheme has not been introduced after a vote.

Footpath from East View Fields to the Station has been extensively flooded during the winter months. ESCC ROW have inspected and have seen that this is an ongoing problem and repairs should take place during the next financial year (2011-2012).

Voluntary Driving Scheme to enable residents to attend doctor's surgeries has been a great success and thanks should go to Mrs Gill Medhurst.

PC has held meetings with EDF concerning electrical outages. A programme of improvements to the overhead line network have taken place. Two high voltage sections of overhead line circuits are now planned to go underground – across the tennis courts and from the Winning Post to the village hall substation.

ESCC Mobile Office: This comes to the Village Hall car park on Mondays between 2pm and 3pm. It offers help with computer skills, free internet access and general information on services run by ESCC.

Mr Nicholson – Station Partnership was set up nine months ago and the station looks much better. Southern, Garden Pride and Wildlife Group have helped and there is a watering rota. Station has been awarded a 5 star rating and there is only four in this network that have this status.

Mr Nicholson thanked Mr Newman the station master.

PCSO Knowles. Reports were given on the crime figures for 2009/2010 and 2011 to date in the categories: all injury violence, burglary dwelling, criminal damage and the overall crime figures.

PCSO said that garage and shed break ins are one of the main problems in the district. The Police offer a free tool marking service, and anyone who would like this, should contact PCSO Knowles.

Car crime is also prevalent; this is mostly theft from cars where people leave valuables on display in their vehicles. PCSO warned motorists not to leave their keys in the ignition as theft of vehicles is also prevalent.

Theft of heating fuel and diesel has also occurred, particularly from larger vehicles such as landrovers.

Plumpton Priorities: Speeding – there have been some good results with most drivers sticking to the 30mph. Checks will be ongoing.

Parking has been a problem, mostly commuters parking inconsiderately in Barnfield and on the brow of the hill outside the shop, and parking close to junctions during school run times. These problems are dealt with by regular patrols and fixed penalty notices will be issued for repeat offenders.

PCSO said that it was illegal for residents to use cones on the highway.

Operation Crackdown is available to make a report at www.operationcrackdown.org. PCSO contact is steven.knowles@sussex.pnn.police.uk or 07787685708 or 0845 60 70 999 (ext 40526).

RT asked for questions.

Q What about using cones in Westgate for Saturday Jumble Sales?

A PC own the cones that are put out on Westgate for jumble sales and NADFAS.

PCSO – Permission from Highways should be sought to use the cones.

Clerk: Will contact Mr Johnson ESCC about this.

Q Cones were issued by the Police some years ago to put out on race days.

A These have been used by residents in East View Fields and other areas and we didn't know that permission from Highways was necessary as the Police provided them.

Q People often park outside my house on the dropped curb.

PCSO – please let me know and I can have a word with the person doing it.

Q Your mobile phone is often not switched on.

PCSO – there are new posters coming out with contact details – if my phone is off I am not on duty.

Q I am concerned about the group representing the east side of the village regarding housing.

A Mr Bailey – the name has been changed – there is no east/west divide, the group want to work collectively – there will be surveys for the whole village.

Q Is Councillor Wride in this group?

KW – No.

Q Who are the members of this group.

A Mr Bailey – there are about 20 people, we are looking how we go to the village more broadly, asking their opinions.

Q Is this an open group or not?

A Mr Bailey – anyone can join it – I cannot give the names of those currently on it without their permission.

The group are looking at all sides of the village

Q Which sites are being looked at.

RT – LDC has asked that the sites are not revealed until it is definite they are to be considered. PC are looking at low cost housing, it is a separate scheme.

Q Are the PC supporting the east scheme?

RT We would support the new scheme, for the entire village.

Mr Bailey – we want to work with anyone in the village, there could be potentially 200 houses.

RT - the HNS was a separate item. I suggest if anyone wants to join the action against development group that they speak to Mr Bailey afterwards – it involves the entire village.

Q When will discussions take place on the social housing.

A At the May meeting, when there is a new council in place.

CE – nothing will happen without public consultation on social housing.

Q At your meetings with EDF have there been any discussion about cables, they are an eyesore, particularly outside the station, they are uglier than the cycle sheds.

RT – EDF have a rolling programme, PC will bring up the issue of the ones at the station.

Q What are the reasons for painting the cycle sheds, wont the paint flake off?

RT – PC has asked for shrubs to be put round them; it asked for the end to be changed as people were banging their heads on them.

Q I think they are best left alone.

RT They stand out rather a lot – the discussions are in their early stages.

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Mrs Stroude said ESCC has continued to deliver all services to a high standard across the County. After the election it was clear cuts would have to be made. Top priority is to deliver to vulnerable young people and elderly residents, as well as keeping roads, schools, libraries and vital services going. CC has to save £100m over the next four years, starting with £37m this year.

There will have to be reductions in services, services will have to be reorganised and there will be staff reductions.

Adult Social Care: Not too many changes as government have given extra £7 for this. Reviews will take place for personal services. Most services will now be focussed on community based support and living at home with necessary help as required.

Community Services: Libraries will continue, there are new ones in Newhaven and Seaford and newly opened one in Rye. Reduction in staff and books.

Additional services; issuing concessionary bus passes, mobile office will still come to Plumpton. Trading Standards will reduce number of teams from three to two, reductions in the safer community services such as drug and alcohol misuse and domestic violence. New Archives and Record Office granted planning permission; joint project with Brighton and located south of the Falmer Stadium

Corporate Resources: Reduction in some staff and greater efficiencies.

Childrens Servies: £20m cut this year, grants of £13 have been cut; these helped to deliver to youth, the early years, respite services, sport for the disabled etc. Schools will now purchase services required to support students with a statement, services currently provided in house will be reduced.

Educational Welfare and behavioural support will now be combined reducing the number of people that can be supported.

Looking after Children will now have support through the pupil premium delivered by schools.

Youth support will be the most transformed service joining the Youth Offending Team, the Youth Development Service, Connexions Personal Advisors, Youth Homelessness, Teenage Pregnancy, Substance Misuse, will now be one service. The Targeted Youth Service will support 900 of the most needy young people. Much youth work will cease. Children's Centres will be reviewed with possible reduction of 25% of the premises; approximately 235 staff leaving children's services.

The results of a Safeguarding and Looked after Children's Ofsted inspection was rated as Good with Outstanding areas in provision, which is a superb result for ESCC. ESCC working with six other leading Councils in the South East to look at efficiencies and improvement to Waste, IT Special Educational Needs and Highways. Local Enterprise Partnership with Essex and Kent hoping to improve broadband delivery as a priority across the South East.

Public Health will move to County Hall with 25 staff from 1st April 2011 as part of the NHS reforms.

Mrs Stroude thanked all the PC for their hard work and the Clerk for sending her the PC minutes and all her enthusiasm for the community.

Q ESCC could save money with travel warrants – they are cheaper on line.

Mrs Stroude said she would look into this.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Mr Hawthorne said that as there was a DC election he was not able to say much. He thanked the PC, RT and BW and SA who were retiring and the proactive PCSO Knowles. He also thanked Mrs Stroude who he said was pleasure to work with and was a great support to the village.

Action Plan – Youth Forum, Mrs Stroude had helped with getting a youth development worker. The Forum had held a second band night, and 200 had attended. Mr Hawthorne thanked the VAP who continued to deliver objectives and has over 70 volunteers. He said he had enjoyed being the District Councillors but had decided to stand down to concentrate on his business activities. He would continue as Chairman of the VAP.

Q Why was the sign outside the shop not allowed?

A ESCC said it would cost £200 for a licence and the sign would cost £300, so PC voted against it.

Q Why were the trees cut down in Station Close?

RT – This land was not claimed by Highways or either of the Railway Authorities and a Land Registry Search revealed it was the property of the Crown Estate. The PC felt that a one off gesture they would trim these trees as they were blocking out light from a resident's house.

The PC can review the sign in the future.

Mrs Nicholson said she thought it was appropriate to thank Mr Hawthorne and Mrs Stroude for all their time spent helping the community, particularly with regard to speed

awareness, use of the SID, radar boxes, extension to bus passes.
Also to Mr Hawthorne with work done with the VAP on footprinting exercises, the Youth Forum, Business breakfasts, Wildlife and Habitat Group, and Station Partnership.
She thanked Mrs Stroude for coming to meetings and attending village events

7. CHAIRMAN OF THE VILLAGE HALL REPORT:

RT thanked Mr Satchell the Finance Manager, Mrs Burgon the Secretary and Mrs Donovan the cleaner, Mrs Beard (and her team) for organising the jumble sales, and the Village Hall Committee.

The following had taken place during the last year; new hand driers in the toilets, long mirror in the ladies toilet, new jumble sale noticeboard board made by TT. Improvements had been made to the stage electricity supply, weatherproof electrical socket at the east end of the hall. More cutlery had been purchased, and repairs to ridge tiles on the north side of the hall.

New acoustic wall panels are to be installed and a small mezzanine floor to be installed on the stage, computer lighting control desk to be purchased and four more flood lights for the back stage. Three quotations had been obtained for the kitchen refurbishment, £13,500, £16,000 and £22,000; the quotation for £16,000 had been accepted and the bar will also be refurbished. A £30,000 PWLB loan has been taken out, repayable over 15 years.

Two successful jumble sales had taken place, October 2010 £945 and January 2011 £1087. Plumpton Fest had donated £250.

Test and Report had taken place in September by EDF.

Committee are investigating the future use of the Doctor's Room; this could be made into a meeting room and combined with the committee room to form a larger room. TT had drawn up plans.

8. CHAIRMAN OF PLAYING FIELD REPORT:

TT reported that the facility was well used by regular sports clubs, Honeybees and the Activity Scheme. IE who had been a PFC member for many years, representing the Senior Football Club, became a PC during the year.

Mr Speirs represented the VAP and it was good to welcome him back onto the PF committee.

Cricket Club contain to maintain the playing field to a high standard. Recycling area is well used. TT said it was a disappointment to see the amount of dog litter not picked up, in spite of bins being available.

The basketball court was well used. Items repaired included the main entrance door and two windows in the changing rooms (using money raised by fund raising activities). A fire escape door has been replaced. Regular users look after the upkeep of the premises and the parish is fortunate to have people who give time for this.

A new cleaner was employed but had resigned, CE has taken over for the time being. An Electrical Report and Play Ground Report were conducted with only minor items needing attention.

Cost of utilities kept under review. EDF will continue for the next year to be the electricity provider and their charges will be compared with other providers prior to the contract expiring.

It has been discovered following an enquiry by a Parishioner that the Tennis Club had been having free water for a number of years, as their supply was connected to the Pavilion meter. An agreement was made and the Tennis Club have paid for an estimated use of water; the Tennis Club are to have a separate meter in future. They are considering a new club house and will require any necessary planning permission. It is believed that they will fund this work themselves and the PF Committee have asked that they consult with them to avoid any overlap of funding issues with the possible new pavilion.

Charges will rise by 5% during the coming year. New rates for Honeybees and Activity Scheme have been set.

The skateboard park continues to be well used. LDC Environmental Health department are monitoring the noise levels after a complaint from a resident. The results of that report will determine the extent of any work that might need to be done. Rubbish continues to be a problem. TT thanked Mr and Mrs Akers and a small number of skateboarders who came to do a tidying up session in the park. Some of the regular users would like to see

some new equipment and would be willing to do some fund raising work. This will be considered by the PFC. The main ramp has been graffitied by a permanent marker. Car parking is still a problem, due to untidy parking by users. New gates will be installed to prevent unauthorised access from the car park onto the grass adjacent to the play area. The PFC do not intend to increase the area of parking, or alter the access at present.

The football pitch is subsiding and the matter is in the hands of the PC's insurers at present.

There have been some clashes of fixtures recently; all users are reminded to notify CE of their fixtures.

A Fun Day is to take place on 10th July 2011; last year's event was a huge success.

A total of £13,000 has been raised from various fund raising events and grants during the life of the current PC for use at the PF and TT thanked all those concerned.

An energy audit was carried out by LDC but no results have been received.

PFC have considered, with the VAP Facilities Team, the possibility of replacing the Pavilion. Mrs Barrel who had put in a lot of hard work on the play area and new pavilion resigned from the PFC and as Chairperson of the VAP Facilities Team, was thanked. Mr Anwyl a member of the VAP Steering Committee has undertaken a lot of design work based on feedback from current and possible future users was also thanked.

It was hoped to have had a scheme available for this meeting but it was decided, after discussions with the VAP, not to rush things at this time.

Play Area remodelling had been delayed but work on the new proposals have now resumed. S106 money from the redevelopment of Plumpton Garage has to be spent by 2014.

On a sad note, most residents were aware that Mr Bob Taylor passed away recently. He was, along with members of his family, a supporter of numerous clubs and activities. He was a member of the PFC and the PFC are to provide a suitable bench seat in the playing fields so others can enjoy sitting watching the village 'at play'.

TT thanked the committee for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

9. CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT:

Grants had been awarded to: British Legion, Wildlife Habitat, Windmill Rangers, 1st Plumpton Scouts, Happy Circle, and Care Club.

VH and PF accounts are audited by the Charity Commission.

The precept for 2011-2012 is £33,570 which is £2251 less than last year. This would be Band D = 1621.21

The accounts were not balanced as the last bank statement for the financial year had not been received but they were available to be looked at. They would be balanced and the summary would be put on the website. Income for the year 2010-2011 was £37,989.78 and Outgoings were £26,060.23.

Q The precept was lower than last year, one of the three lowest in the District, are you looking at future costs – capping is coming which will not allow you to raise it.

RT said that PC had looked ahead and precept was in accordance with the three year Business Plan. No details had been given about capping as yet.

Clerk said that she had recommended that the precept was raised at the meeting prior to the sum applied for from LDC for contingencies should PC have to take areas such as costs for community transport into consideration.

This sum had been agreed by all Councillors and had been added to the precept.

Q I would like to see the accounts.

Clerk – they will be available when the final bank statement has been received and any member of the public can request them at any time under the Freedom of Information Act; the Audit will take place shortly and all the documentation will be presented on the website when prepared which was in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council.

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

BW explained the Travers Trust. The balance to April 2011 was £137.80; there had been two payments made; these payments were usually for emergency items and one person had suffered a house fire. She believed that the Trust should be continued as residents could be helped in a small way by a donation. She asked RT to sign the accounts. RT signed the accounts.

CHAIRMAN

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM AND WILL RATIFIED AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN 2012 – DATE TO BE DECIDED