



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 9TH JANUARY, 2007 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE
ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr. R. Taylor Chairman
Mr. K. Speirs Vice Chairman
Mrs B Watson
Mrs. C Thompson
Mr. K. Beard
Mr. T. Hawthorne

1. APOLOGIES:

Mr. P Ramsay, Mrs. S. Akers, Mrs. S. Angel.

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting on 12th December, 2006 were signed as a true record.
The Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 6th January, 2007 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Hedge at 1 Green Cross – Clerk read out an e mail from Mrs. Gane saying that her and Mr. Chapman did not think that matters that concerned them had been resolved informally, so they requested a formal grievant procedure resolution process, and also copies of letters from Highways which they had previously requested.
Clerk was asked by the Council to contact Mr. Leggo, Chief Executive SALC.
Mr. Leggo confirmed that the accuracy of the minutes were entirely a matter for the PC. He confirmed this in a letter.

A grievance procedure is for the Clerk to invoke if they are in dispute with the Council, and very few (mostly town councils) have any form of official complaints procedure format set up, but there were models of such procedures.
The Council asked the Clerk to send a copy of Mr. Leggo's letter to Mrs. Gane and Mr., Chapman.

Planning Southern Stables - Clerk had received a fax from ESCC giving details of why the application had been refused. This was because the existing access at its junction with the C110 has sub standard visibility.
PC were not happy with this, as there had been inconsistencies; either the access was dangerous or not dangerous, and they felt that LDC and Highways should liaise, and decide which was the case. Permission had been given for boot fairs to take place and these generated a lot of traffic, and would exceed the traffic for one year from a holiday let (Southern Stables). Clerk to write to LDC and Highways stating that the PC could not do their jobs if there were such inconsistencies.

Highways - Letter to Mr. Johnson regarding weight limit on white bridge (regarding lorries going to the Sandpit) had not been answered by Highways. Clerk to chase this up again. Clerk read out e mail from Mr. Brooke saying that the issue regarding the gate at the station had been resolved. Arrangements had been made to put the guidepost at St Helena up, and the potholes at Barnfield and Westcroft would be repaired. The puddling outside Old School Cottages would be sorted out by the end of February.

Tennis Club flooding – Clerk had sent a letter to the Secretary about this, but there had been no reply. It was thought that the Secretary had changed; Mr. Speirs would speak to Mr. Mitchell.

Rubbish at the Playing Field - No reply had been given to many e mails and a fax.

Southern Water - No reply had been received to this. Clerk to chase this up.

Trains – Southern – Clerk had received a letter from Southern to say that they would generally not put ticketless persons off trains, preferring to try to verify their identity by reference to electoral roll and then issue a Penalty Fare Notice. Sometimes individuals do not cooperate and the assistance of police is involved. There is no deterrent in allowing such persons to remain on the train to Lewes or Haywards Heath. The matter of people being put out at Plumpton Station has been brought to the attention of the appropriate manager.

Network Rail - The signal box had been inspected and maintenance had been brought forward to 2007/08 due to the position and aesthetic appearance of the box. The footbridge is the responsibility of Network Rail and the necessary repairs to the main span decking would be repaired. The overhanging trees are located within a boundary fence of a private property. The gate and posts are not the responsibility of Network Rail.

Footpaths – Clerk read out letter regarding Footpath Streat 13. The ROW Officer would be inspecting this path shortly and if there are any obstructions to the free passage of the users of the path, the landowner would be contacted immediately. The ROW officer would be pleased to meet members of the PC. Clerk to give ROW Officer Mr. Speirs telephone number. Stile kits are available; Clerk to give Mrs. Akers details.

Parking at the School – School Secretary had contacted the Clerk to say that this would be included in their Newsletter. It was reported that the PCSO had been at the school observing the problems.

Dog Bins – Clerk had contacted head of Waste and Recycling at LDC. It was reported that the bins appear to be emptied regularly now. Clerk had received accounts with a reduction due to this. Mr. Davis Manager of the Racecourse said he was willing to have a bin there but at no cost to the Racecourse. It was decided to monitor the situation for the time being.

Parking in East View Fields - E mail from Ms. Barnard saying that she did not think cones would be effective at her end of the road but that they should be at the bottom of the road before the road splits to serve both sides of the island. Clerk to write to say that cones are displayed at the end of the road, and Police are aware of the extra parking on race days.

Hairdressers Lease - Clerk had been instructed that this matter had been taken over by the Scouts and would be dealt with by them. Clerk sent letters to Solicitor giving details of Scout contacts, Mr. Hills asking for confirmation that this is now being dealt with by the Scouts and to Mr. Rothwell, confirming that the matter is now in the hands of the Scouts and that all fees for the lease would be due to them.

Footpaths – Mrs. Akers had sent details of issues to the meeting. There were further problems with Footpath 13 Streat; an electric fence had been put up; a temporary repair had been done to the stile, but a more permanent one was necessary. Footpath East Chiltington 6a – there had been no knowledge of who had done the work on this stile though there was an ESCC notice on it. Footpath north of Oakwood House. Not marked but on an OS map. Clerk would write to ROW Officer regarding these matters.

Clerk read out letter from Mr. Flowers reporting potholes at Westcroft. He was also concerned about pollution and had seen signs adjacent to railway level crossing which had 'Cut engine – cut pollution' and asked if these could be put up in Plumpton. He had photographs of these; Clerk to ask him for photographs and said they would get some information from the DOT about emissions.

Letter from Head of Emergency Planning ESCC and LDC about a workshop on 20th February, 2007 at Lewes Town Hall.

Letter about meeting of Creating an NHS Fit for the Future on 30th January, 2007 at Weald Hall, Uckfield Civic Centre.

Letter from PRS regarding survey of music played in venues and businesses in UK.

The Annual Parish Meeting would be on 3rd April, 2007 at 7.30 pm. It was hoped that speakers to talk about emotive subjects could be arranged and maybe representatives of those clubs and societies who had received grants from the PC. Date to be put in the Parish Magazine.

The S106 Agreement funding had not yet come through from the Plumpton Green Garage site; Clerk to chase up details of new EU rules regarding play area equipment as a possible use for funding. Mr. Speirs said he would get a quote for extra car parking at the Playing Field.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mr. Hawthorne reported that he had attended a public meeting at Newick on 14th December regarding the NHS issues at the Princess Royal. RVRC -meeting on 29th January and there would be NHS Executives present. Any questions to put to them were asked for.

As the roads are congested, how would ambulances get people to hospital quickly if they had to get to Brighton? How were families without transport going to visit relatives in hospital in Brighton? There was a very large gap in hospital cover between Brighton and Redhill?

Mr. Beard reported the gully near Rylands Hill opposite Shambles, Plumpton Lane going north had been filled in roughly, but this needs doing again. Clerk to write to Highways.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr. Taylor reported that the cupboards for extra storage were being built.

Mr. Malcolm Beard was asked to do further work at the hall; the back doors of the hall have guttering over them which is leaking. Mr. K. Beard had reported that some of the windowsills on the north side are down to bare wood. Mr. Beard would ask Mr. M Beard to treat these. He was also asked to put new eyes on the hooks that hold the doors back on the west end of the hall.

Mr. Taylor reported that hiring charges may have to be increased as a lot of expense had occurred on the hall recently. The winter/summer electricity tariffs would be looked at.

Mr. Beard reported that Mr. Westgate had repaired the fence. He had inspected the post and rail fence and some of the wood was rotten; he would put spurs on the back of these posts. Mr. Beard had put a new stake in the tree on the village green.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of December 2006 were: Admin £6616.37, Playing Field £10,387.467 and Village Hall £9,669.78.

Clerk thanked Councillors for the generous voucher for Christmas; she read out a letter from Mrs. Burgon thanking Council for her vouchers, and thanks had been received from Mrs. Donovan and Mrs. Betts.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Nothing to report.

8. PLANNING:

The following permissions have been granted:

LW/06/1340 Winkelpath, Riddens Lane. Single storey rear extension.

LW/06/1291 Letchmore Cottage, Station Road. Two storey side extension including front and rear dormers (existing garage/store to be demolished).

LW/06/1307 Fountain Inn, Station Road. Provision of a covered walkway to external toilets and covered rear area with new access from existing building.

Woodfield, Beresford Lane. Single storey extension and conservatory to the side/front, part re-roofing of a lean to garage and extension of drive at side (existing porch and lobby to be demolished) revised scheme to planning approval LW/06/0122.

- 9. VILLAGE CARE:** Nothing to report
- 10. FOOTPATHS:** Nothing to report.
- 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Nothing to report.
- 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mrs. Angel sent a report to the meeting that there had been an incident of racial abuse in the village. A house had recently been done up for residents to move into and these had been daubed with unpleasant words. The Police had been informed and the PCSO was keeping an eye on the property.
- 13. TREE WARDEN:** Nothing to report
- 14. VILLAGE ACTION PLAN** Mr. Hawthorne reported that the committee were working on questions, and there would be a meeting in the last week of January. More publicity would be sent out and a flyer would be included in the next Parish Magazine before the questionnaire is finalised.
- 15. REPORT OF CLERK:** Parish Magazine Article to ask if anyone was interested in becoming a Councillor as it was thought there may be vacancies at the next election this year. Clerk to also ask for this to be put on the website.

Clerk presented to the Council: Clerks and Councils Direct Jan, Anchor Staying Put Winter issue, District Link, ESCC Statement of Community Involvement, Action Plan Minutes 5th December, 2006, ESCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan, South Downs Council for Voluntary Service, Playworld Systems, Fire Service Annual Report 2005/2006, LCR Jan 2007, National Playing Fields Winter 2006, Action in Rural Sussex December 2006, Glasdon Leaflet.

CHAIRMAN