



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 8TH JANUARY, 2008 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
Mr. T Thompsett
Mrs. K. Wride
Mrs. C Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mrs C Nicholson

1 Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES:

Mrs S Akers

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting on 11th December, 2007 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Highways – Mr Brooke had contacted Clerk to say that CC can not give any further assistance with regard to the boulders in the stream. The posts at the north end of the village were put in following a routine highway inspection; the area had been continually damaged by a vehicle parking there and the area was considered to be a hazard to highway users. The blocked gullies at the end of East View Fields had been jetted. No reply had been received regarding the reinstatement of posts opposite North Barnes Lane. Clerk had chased this up. Clerk had received e mail from Mrs Toomey EC Clerk to say that the wide verge by the racecourse was very overgrown with lots of large plants blocking the way; only a strip by the road gets cut and this has the drains in it. The route from the level crossing to Greensand Way is used by a lot of riders. Clerk to report this to Highways.

Mr Bailey had contacted Mr Speirs to say that he had received a request from a resident to ask if the hardstanding by the Poplars in Station Road to the church annexe car park could be re-instated. CC had agreed to do this. The PC agreed that this should be done but are rather surprised that requests from the public regarding Highway issues appear to be dealt with (including the posts at the north end of the village), while some issues raised by the PC are not considered. PC had asked for the footway between Wells Close and Strawlands to be refurbished and this had not been done, also the re-instatement of posts opposite North Barnes Lane. Clerk to invite Mr Bailey to come to a meeting to discuss this. Clerk to put in magazine article that residents should contact PC about any highway matters that come to their attention as this is what the PC are there for. Clerk also to put this request on the website.

Rubbish Collections – Mr Hawthorn had sent an e mail to say that bins may be emptied later in the day than normal. It was thought this would not affect the Plumpton area, but it was better to be aware in case it happened.

Dog Bins – Mrs Akers had reported to Clerk that the bin on the green has no lid, and the one in the twitten had come off its post. Clerk had reported this to Mr Stratton LDC.

Half Moon Junction – Clerk had received e mail from Mr Johnson saying that the CC cannot direct its scarce resources to such a large scheme that had been suggested by the PC for this junction. He would be happy to meet Mr Speirs to discuss other methods to try and make this junction safer. Clerk to arrange this meeting. Mrs Wride and Mr St John (who attended the meeting) would also like to be present.

Trees – Mr Middleton had reported that a hawthorn tree had fallen across the stream. Clerk contacted Mr Symes who had cut it up and removed it.

Footpaths - No reply had been received from ROW Officer as she had been on leave. Clerk had chased up outstanding matters. Clerk had received an e mail from Mr Culpin Southdowns ANOB saying that in response to PC's comments, stiles at locations 1 and 2 have been picked up on annual survey and are to be repaired in the new year. The section running down to the bridge at location 2 has also been made aware to AONB, but it has been decided not to place steps here as it was not deemed to be high enough priority for this year to warrant expenditure. Location 3 is outside the ANOB and ROW officer would deal with this.

Mrs Nicholson said that location 2 was dangerous and she would walk this path. She subsequently reported that this path was very muddy and slippery and people are starting to make steps dug into the bank to give some form of foothold. Two or three steps here would do the job. Clerk to report to this to Mr Culpin.

Information on the meeting on 4th December had been sent to the Clerk; she gave this copy to Mrs Nicholson.

TPO's and Habitat Survey – Clerk had chased up reply to this, and the Habitat Survey had been acknowledged. Mr Wynn said that there are one or two trees or groups of trees that arouse particular interest and he would like to conduct his own inspection to familiarise himself with these trees, with members of the PC, who were interested. He suggested that he could attend a PC meeting to give a talk on the work he does for LDC. His would take one hour or longer and comprises of a power point presentation and slides. Clerk had acknowledged this and said it may be rather long for a PC meeting, PC had agreed this and Clerk was to ask Mr Wynn to liaise with Mrs Nicholson to make an arrangement for a meeting for this presentation with her and other Councillors interested, PC Tree Warden and assistant, and any members of the public that may be interested, during the day time.

TPO (6) 2007 Oakwood Beresford Lane. This order was confirmed on 10th December.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs Nicholson said that she had liaised with Mr Green about putting a link to the Habitat Survey on the website and he had been very helpful. He suggested that Mrs Nicholson write something about the survey and also put a map on the website.

Mr Thompsett asked about the posts opposite North Barnes Lane; this had been reported to Highways; this area was becoming very churned up. The tyres behind the Riddens garages had been removed.

Mr Taylor reported that there had been an incident where three males had been put out at Plumpton Station as they had not paid their fares. This is reported further in the Neighbourhood Watch section.

Sandpit – Mrs Nicholson reported in response to Clerk's letter to Mrs Stroude to say that she wanted to meet Mr Nicholson to discuss issues concerning the sandpit. Mr Dudman was going back on having a residents committee; it was thought a good idea that a smaller group tried to meet on a more regular basis, including Mr Hawthorne, Mrs Stroude and a member of ESCC who monitors the Sandpit.

Action Plan – Mrs Wride reported that everyone was analysing a group of statistics and it was hoped that the findings may be available next week. The Top 10 areas of importance would be reported to the PC at the next meeting.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr Taylor read out letter from Mrs Ashdown who had been sent a voucher to thank her for the use of her garage for the storage of jumble for sales.

Mr Taylor reported that the lighting bar project should be finished this week ready for the pantomime. The dishwasher was broken, and it was hoped it could be repaired.

There had been damage in the ladies toilet to the windows.

- 6. FINANCE:** The balances at the end of December were Admin £6112.88, Village Hall £10,991.23 and Playing Field £5074.09.
Clerk thanked Council for her Christmas voucher and Mrs Donovan had also sent thanks. A card from Mrs Burgon with her thanks was read out.
Clerk had obtained insurance quotes through ACRE (Zurich). This had to be discussed further, but it appeared that the premium would be approximately £2000 less than present cover.
- 7. PLAYING FIELD:** Mr Speirs reported that bottles had been smashed in the play area.
- 8. PLANNING:** The following application was considered: LW/07/1598 Lentridge Barn, Station Road, Plumpton Green. Renewal of temporary permission LW/06/0685 for the retention of caravan for living accommodation and storage shed and storage container during conversion of barn to residential for Mr Bicknell. PC approved this application.
- The following applications had been granted:
LW/07/1005 The Firs, Beresford Lane. Part conversion of garage into granny annex including four front roof lights and three obscure glazed rear roof lights.
LW/07/1277 North Vale Cottage and South Vale, Station Road. Erection of two storey extensions to rear and single storey extensions to sides (demolition of existing conservatory to North Vale).
LW/07/1321 Plumpton Agricultural College. Demolition and replacement of existing workshops with new workshops and teaching facilities.
LW/07/1425 Oakwood, Beresford Lane. Formation of tennis court with 2.75mm perimeter fence.
An application had been received for Councillor Speirs but Clerk had written back to LDC explaining that he was a Councillor so no comments could be made.
Mrs Nicholson asked if a copy of the detailed tree plan for the application on Oakwood could be sent to the PC.
- 9. VILLAGE CARE:** The area which has been altered to enable the lady who is disabled to drive her buggy safely in the village had sent a message of thanks to the PC. She does have a problem with the steep step which is through the village hall car park, past the substation and turn right, by the pond where the tarmac path goes onto the scalplings; she has asked if anything can be done about this. Clerk to ask Highways.
- Mrs Eastwood said that it appears that the dog bin in Strawlands is not being used as there is a lot of dog mess near it. Clerk to report this in the parish magazine article.
- HIGHWAYS:*** Nothing further to report.
- 10. FOOTPATHS:** Nothing to report.
- 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** There have been changes to bus timetables but it appeared there were none for Plumpton. The train fares have gone up.
- 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mrs Angel reported that she had heard from PCSO Whittaker Jones that an incident took place where three males were put out at Plumpton Station as they had not paid their fares had occurred on 21st December at 11.44pm. They were seen by residents near the Riddens attempting to break into a vehicle, and it was believed that it was their intention to steal it. It was parked in the Riddens residential car park. A further vehicle parked on a drive way on Station Road was tampered with.
- Clerk to write to rail operator informing them of the incident and also to say resident whose car was tampered with had to pay to get car removed from police pound. Clerk to also ask Police why resident had to pay to get car from pound.
- 13. TREE WARDEN:** Nothing to Report.

14. REPORT OF CLERK: Clerk presented to the Council: Clerks and Councils Direct, ESCC Avoiding Junk Mail letter, LDC Get your voice heard, South Downs View Winter 2007, LDC Developing Community Project News, Achieve More magazine winter 2007, Glasdon leaflet, LCR NALC January 2008, Sussex Safer Roads calendars and stickers.

News from the School: Christmas Fair profit had hit record levels, over £1000 was raised. A new piano had been donated to the school. The Bursar Carol had died after a short illness; the school had sent messages of condolences to her family.

The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 22nd April, 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall. Clerk to inform Mrs Burgon, Mrs Stroude and Mr Hawthorne.

CHAIRMAN