



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY, 2009 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 K Wride
Mrs. C Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mrs S Akers
Mrs C Nicholson
Mr T Thompsett

APOLOGIES: None

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting on 9th December, 2009 were signed as a true record with amendments to Page 5 under Policing: substitute 'evening' for 'early hours of the morning', and 'future' for 'for the time being'

MATTERS ARISING:

Minutes of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan-2017 meeting, report from Environment team VAP to Steering Committee, Vale of Sussex Voluntary Speed Reduction Scheme had all been distributed to Councillors before the meeting.

The Clerk's new contract to commence on 1/4/09 was signed by the Chairman and Clerk; terms of this had been agreed at a previous meeting, and this copy included the full SALC/NALC details of conditions.

Telephone Box at Plough Bus Stop – This was still not working. Clerk had reported this for the fourth time.

Dog Bins – Clerk had heard from Mr Stratton LDC that the dual rubbish and dog bins manufactured by Glasdon would not be used by LDC, as it was their policy to deal with dog and litter waste separately, as dog waste is hazardous and also heavy when wet. It would also pose a health problem. It was mentioned that the dual bins were used in other areas in the country.

ACTION: PC felt that use of dog bins should be monitored to see if any could be removed, as costs for emptying are so high. Clerk to put in magazine article that this is being considered, and giving the annual cost of emptying five bins.

Insurance - An extra premium has been paid to increase the PL cover for the PC. Insurance for Trustees cover those other than Councillors. Clerk recommended that the Trustee cover should be increased at the renewal date of the policy in June.

B2116 patching – Letter from ESCC to say that the contractor had refused to do the patching at the end of the kerbing works in October unless the road was closed. The work will be done when other highway work takes place at the end of February and the situation would be monitored.

Awards for All – Letter from Mr Norman Baker MP congratulation PC on being awarded the grant from Awards for All and that the good work being done by the Council had been recognised by Awards for All.

Save Our Chemist – The final decision had been received from the NHS Litigation Authority which had largely ruled in favour; they have allowed doctors to dispense to their 1200 patients in South Chailey which represents under 20% of the original application. Lloyds Head Office have confirmed that they will keep the Newick shop open as a result.

Tree Survey – Mrs Akers had looked at the tree survey to see if any of the work could be done voluntarily to reduce costs. She said most trees would need to be cut by chain saw and this would make it not be possible for volunteers to carry out the work.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr C. Symes with list of work needed to be done, particularly that in bold which needs attention as soon as possible, and ask for a quotation for the work. There are several poplars near the Hall, which are planted in a line; it did not appear that anyone knew who had planted these; all these appear to be diseased and require removal as stated on the survey.

Some of the trees and bushes on the green had been damaged by trimmers and mowers which had been used too close to them.

Trains – Clerk had received an e mail from Mr Ramsay who as a concerned commuter asked: a. would be PC allow the link for the group set up by an Eastbourne commuter to be put on the website.

b. could a short section about this group be put in the parish magazine.

c. that the VAP takes note and includes the link

d. that Mr Hawthorne give support to the commuter group.

A meeting was to take place on the 14th January to discuss the train services and putting the link on the website would be discussed. Mr Speirs would decide after the meeting whether something should be put in the magazine. The VAP were aware of the situation and Mr Hawthorne had arranged the meeting mentioned above. Issues such as confusing announcements at Victoria and London Bridge stations, the reduced amount of carriages (Victoria), bad punctuality and fare increases were very current and emotive, and would be discussed. It was thought nothing will happen until May when the summer timetable would be published.

Mr Hawthorne said he would contact Mr Baker MP to try to arrange a meeting to discuss the above issues, to include commuters and the PC.

Clerk had heard from Southern about the request for possible funding to increase the parking area at the playing field car park for commuters, who had not understood the letter and had forwarded the letter to Network Rail as it was their land (where the current station car park is).

Village Hall Floor - The hall would be abraded and re-sealed on 3rd August, 2009

Buses –

Land Adjoining The Old Brickworks - Letter read out from LDC Legal explaining their reasons for saying that LDC planning's decision was correct and that the development falls within Class A; none of the limitations in paragraph A1 (GDPO) apply and it complies with the conditions set out in paragraph.

Mr Baker MP letter stated that he felt that there are occasions when agricultural applications, which are exempt from planning law can lead to inappropriate buildings being built in sensitive locations. He had written to Hazel Blears MP about the situation at Plumpton and would inform PC of her comments.

PC decided that a letter should be sent to Mr Crawford Chief Executive LDC saying that PC still felt that procedures were not being adhered to.

Councillors were disappointed that residents had not been more proactive with this situation; it was in their interest to do so, as if they wished to sell their properties, they would have to include they were involved in a dispute on any enquiries before contract.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Crawford, and to acknowledge Mr Baker's letter and send him copies of recent correspondence with LDC Planning and Legal.

Plumpton Garage site: Clerk had received complaints about vehicles being parked on the corner of East View Fields in a dangerous manner and blocking entrances in East View Fields; it appeared these vehicles were connected with the building site.

Clerk had reported this to Mr Bristow, Gramm. He had replied saying there appeared to be a difference of opinion and rather odd that three people had complained about this situation in one day. He would endeavour to avoid any inconvenience. As blocks for the new road were being laid, some vehicles had to be parked off site.

ACTION: Mr Speirs had spoken to Mr Bristow to ask if the verge across the road from the site could be re turfed as this had been damaged by vehicles, and this would be done.

Election Costs – E mail from Mr MacGillivray who felt that there should be no need to budget for election charges until 2010/11, as he believes Parish Councils and LDALC will be making representations to LDC about the charges.

PC felt it was short sighted not to budget each year, in case charges area again levied at a high rate at the next election.

Bevern Stream - Letter from Environment Agency; flooding had occurred on 13th December; Bevern Stream is a meandering watercourse and the majority of the neighbouring farmland is natural floodplain therefore once these areas are full, extra water is unable to discharge quickly.

Trustees – Letter from Hedleys. While it would not be illegal for only Councillors to be Trustees of the charities, the Charity Commission has wide powers following the enactment of the Charities Act 2006; they state that normally Trustees of a charity should be from the community it benefits or represents. To comply with the Charity Commission it would be preferable to keep all dealings with charities completely transparent and in the long term it would be worth trying to keep the work of the PC and charities completely separate. An account was enclosed.

ACTION: Playing Field committee would include members other than Councillors in the future. Clerk had paid account.

Footpaths - Stiles had been inspected on Footpath 15, and as they remain stable and safe the ROW Officer felt that she could not contact the landowner to replace them; ROW will keep an eye on the situation.

The signpost on Footpath 8b with bridleway 30 is not an ESCC one. If the landowner wishes to enter into an agreement with ESCC, and the PC have the landowner's agreement to use the path, a sign could be erected.

A kissing gate was to be installed on the footpath near Plumpton Place.

Water Charges - E mail from Rocky Sharrock, Fields in Trust to say there are to be charges for the disposal of rainwater from organisations such as pavilions, village halls, charities etc, who have previously not been charged for surface water which runs into sewers from their buildings. In 2003 OFWAT decided that this exemption should end and has given water companies until 2010 to start charging for the disposal of water from their properties through public sewers. An example was an annual water cost increase from £700 to over £4000 per annum. It was thought that many organisations may be affected by this decision and those concerned should contact their MP.

ACTION: Clerk to send copy to Mr Norman Baker MP.

PLUMPTON COLLEGE PLANNING - Mr Lambert explained that it is the Government's policy of replacing and updating a large number of schools at colleges and this is a phase where a lot of money is being put into further education, and the reason for an increase in planning applications at the College. He invited the PC to come to the College for a walk round on a Saturday morning or an evening in the spring.

ACTION: Clerk to thank him and say an appointment will be arranged at a future date.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mrs Eastwood asked if posts could be installed at an area by the southern entrance to the Racecourse below the railway crossing as this area is churned up by cars parked on there. There was some confusion whether this was highway or racecourse land. It was thought about six posts would be needed.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Brooke Highways about this.

Mr Speirs said that he was disappointed that Mrs Akers had not approached him direct prior to the last PC meeting about the enquiry she had received from a resident about the setts on his drive, so he could have discussed it with her before the meeting; Clerk had checked all the planning conditions for the application for the drive and these were all in order.

SANDPIT - Nothing to report.

EMERGENCY PLAN - Clerk had heard from Mr Hodgson LDC that there was no funding for emergency supplies though LDC could provide sandbags. PC thought that stock piling these was not a good idea as they would rot, and there was no suitable place to store them. Portable radios were offered by LDC but these were rather outdated and PC thought they would not be of much use.

ACTION: Clerk to produce a cascade telephone system in case of an emergency starting with the Councillor that lives at the north end of the village going down to the Councillor at the south end. She would also ask the webmaster if some salient details of the Council's Emergency Plan could be put on the website for residents to note in case of emergency, and Clerk's contact details if they required further information about the Plan.

VOLUNTARY SLOW DOWN SCHEME – Mrs Wride had received the car stickers which had been funded by County Hall ESCC and showed these to the Council. She had obtained permission from the Pantomime Society to place flyers and pledge forms on seats at the pantomime.

Signage for lanes were being looked at, and these could be attached to existing signs. The Leader fund had been approached for a grant of £10,000 for costs for the signs. The long term aim is to give the lanes 'Safe Lanes' designation to make the Vale of Sussex a thriving tourist area and to promote sustainability of shops, pubs, businesses etc. Hamsey, East Chiltington, Streat and Westmeston are all taking part in the scheme.

Mrs Nicholson said that recent SID results had shown that 6½% of motorists were doing more than 40 mph, and on 12th January, 2009 7 vehicles were doing more than 48 mph; most of the speeding takes place at around 3pm, by female drivers.

Mrs Nicholson said that a campaign against speeding is taking place at the school.

Mrs Wride said that the school would be informed of the voluntary scheme and asked if companies such as Hills, C and S Coaches could be asked to sign up to the scheme.

A Vale of Sussex stand for the voluntary scheme would be held at a fair at Cooksbridge shortly, and also at the Green Day in Plumpton; it was hoped to put a flyer in the parish magazine.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of December were Admin £2795.44, Village Hall £7450.48, Playing Field £16,625.96 (this included the £10,000 from Awards for All. The annual interest had been added on the NSB accounts. Clerk thanked the Council for their Christmas gift of a voucher for Marks and Spencers.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

ESCC Review of Supported Local Bus Services Lewes and North Wealden areas; this did not concern the Plumpton area.

It was reported that it is often very difficult to find up to date and visible bus timetables in Haywards Heath and Lewes for return journeys to Plumpton.

ACTION; Clerk to ask ESCC to put pressure on bus companies to put bus timetables at all stops.

HIGHWAYS

The priority on the one way system in Lewes (Fisher Street) has now been reversed as work has been completed there.

It was reported that there was a hole opposite Arley Cottage, Station Road. Mr Speirs would look at this and report to the Clerk before contacting Highways.

It was reported that there was a pothole at the end of Wells Close

ACTION: Clerk to report this to Highways.

The setts had been done at various areas in the village.

The meeting arranged regarding the Half Moon Junction with Mrs Stroude and Councillors had been cancelled, and a new date would be organised.

Mr Speirs said that the idea of having a 40mph speed limit at either end of the village should be part of a co-ordinated speed limit scheme for the whole village, and not piecemeal. The recommendation to have a 40mph speed limit on the outskirts of the village were as a result of the VAP questionnaire.

Mrs Wride felt that this should be mentioned to Mrs Stroude at the meeting regarding the Half Moon to get her support.

Mrs Akers said she felt there should be more data (from SID) to back up the need for speed limits.

Mrs Eastwood said she felt that the meeting with Mrs Stroude was a good opportunity to discuss the speed limit ideas.
A discussion took place, and there was no conclusion on whether this should be put to Mrs Stroude at this stage.
Mr Taylor asked for a vote as to whether or not to take forward the 40mph issue to Mrs Stroude, in principle, at this stage.
Six Councillors were in favour, three voted against.
Mrs Stroude would be asked, in principle, for any help and advice she could give.

It was reported that cars are still being parked the wrong way at night time and also on pavements.

ACTION: Clerk to contact PCSO.

ENVIRONMENT **Footpaths/Trees**

Tetrapark – Mrs Nicholson reported on a possibility of having a collection by Tetra-Pak (paper based liquid food and drink cartons). LDC will support Plumpton in requesting collection of these if a suitable site can be identified (they will only support 5 sites per district); with evidence that the VAP have gained, and LDC support, they stand a chance of convincing Tetra-Pak to consider Plumpton as a site.

Mrs Akers asked if Clerk could ask LDC if large bins could be obtained to take the black sacks of refuse from the playing field, and could be emptied as part of the normal rubbish collection, as the black sacks looked unsightly.
There would be a meeting of the Playing Field committee at the beginning of February when this would be discussed further.

The VAP teams will be starting a new society, 'Wild Life'

PLANNING: **HOUSING**

The following application had been granted: LW/08/1204 Erection of a dairy complex with associated husbandry facilities (demolition of existing buildings) for Plumpton College.

There will be a planning meeting on 17th January, 2009 at 9 am at the Village Hall.

POLICING AND **NWATCH**

Mrs Angel reported that there had been further crimes in Westgate. Mrs Akers reported that her husband and daughter's cars had been scratched badly during the night.
A new PCSO has been appointed, PCSO Steven Knowles who will be working with PCSO Whittaker Jones in the Chailey, Plumpton and East Chiltington areas. They will be working on different shifts but they may be seen patrolling together. This increase in PCSO presence was welcomed by the PC.

VILLAGE HALL:

Mr Satchell is looking into a new material to put up where the acoustic panels are currently, as these have been damaged with people putting fingers in them.
A questionnaire has gone out about the kitchen refurbishment.
Mr Satchell will be simplifying the current hire charge system.
Some Jumble Sales do not have enough helpers and rely on the 'Jumble Sale Ladies' who help at most of the sales.

PLAYING FIELD:

Mr Speirs reported that the skip had been well used, and had now been removed.
The yellow barriers that were near the playgroup area had disappeared over the Christmas holiday. The play group had tried using plastic cones, but this had not worked.

There is to be a Playing Field Committee meeting on 5th February, 2009 and a Jumble Sale on 28th February, 2009.

VAP – any items not **covered elsewhere**

Nothing further to report.

REPORT OF CLERK

Clerk presented to the Council: Clerks and Councils Direct, South Downs View Winter 2008, District Link Winter 2008, the Clerk January 2009, Steps to Action School Travel Plan, Communities in Control, Minutes of RVRC 24th November 2008, Compost Doctor leaflet, letter from Hailsham Town Council about street lighting electrical contracts,

e mail from SALC about Stepping Stones events, NALC response to: Communities in Control, book about Trees.

Clerk had received an e mail from Hailsham Town Council offering a free demonstration to remove gum and graffiti.

ACTION: Clerk to ask for free trial to remove graffiti at the skateboard park.

There was no news from the School because of the holiday.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place (if small hall is available) on the 28th April, 2009 at 7.30pm.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 17th FEBRUARY, 2009.

CHAIRMAN