



MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 5TH JANUARY, 2010 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor Chairman (RT)
Mrs B Watson Vice Chairman (BW)
Mrs. C Eastwood (CE)
Mrs S Angel (SA)
Mr S Green (SG)
Mrs K Wride (KW)
Mr R Stone (RS)
Mr T Thompsett (TT)
Mr K Speirs
Mr O St John
Mr P Baker
Mr J Angel
Mr P Ramsay

APOLOGIES: Mrs Akers (SAA) had sent her apologies but joined the meeting later.

MINUTES: The minutes of a meeting on 8th December 2009 were signed as a true record. The minutes of a planning meeting on the 12th December, 2009 were signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: Comments were invited from these.

Funding for Business Plan SAA had suggested contacting ESCC via Mrs Stroude as a Council in West Sussex had been granted funding by WSCC for their plan. Mrs Stroude replied that funding would not be forthcoming from ESCC.
ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Hawthorne to chase up whether he had heard of any sources of funding.

Dual Purpose Bins - Mr Stratton LDC reported that there would be no more bins purchased up until April 2010 and even if a change was considered, he did not think it would be financially viable to change the existing bins until the natural end of their life, because of the capital outlay invested.
PC asked if Mr Baker MP could be contacted to see if he could help with this.
ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Baker MP.

Pit Stop - Further complaints had been received from the public. LDC planning are obtaining quotes for direct action works and the matter will be presented to Cabinet on 10th February, 2010 for a decision whether to proceed with work to tidy up the site.

Accidents - Mr Johnson ESCC Highways had responded that the junctions of Beresford Lane with South Road and St Helena Lane with South Road are covered by staggered junction warning signs on both approaches and that this area enjoys an excellent personal injury crash record with no recorded incidents for the latest available three year period. PC thought this should be discussed further at the SLR meeting in February.

Network Rail - LDC Planning (Listed Building department) had not responded to letter regarding listing of existing gates. Clerk had chased this up.

Skateboard area - Nothing further had been heard from LDC Environmental Health.

Licence at the Racecourse: Clerk now has a copy of this licence granted by LDC.

SDNP: There are 11 nominations for the two parish members for the SDNP authority for East Sussex and 13 for West Sussex. Ditchling is the only nearby Council that has a nomination.

Accident Report Forms: These were being approved by Mark Dunn. Clerk had chased this up, but had not heard.

Deaf Outreach Bus: RT had given permission for the bus to be parked in the VH car park on 15th July 2010 between 10.30 am and 3.30pm. This facility will be advertised.

Lime Trees on the Ridge path from racecourse to Street: Mrs Parker of ESCC had contacted the Clerk to ask if anyone would know the history of these trees. Clerk had asked several people, Mrs Hall the Tree Warden, and SAA who had made some suggestions, but no one had any information.

Trees: Mr Davis of land adjoining the Brickworks had contacted Clerk to say that he was having the recommended tree works done on his land. He also reported potential problems with trees on other land in St Helena Lane. Clerk had asked Mr Saunders ESCC to look at these trees, and he had responded they were not considered dangerous.

Council Tax: LDC Finance had reported the £174.73 is the distribution to Sussex Police Authority for a Band D property paying £1576.81 per annum.

PCSO: PCSO Knowles reported that he will be checking the skateboard area for older children causing problems and also parking on the pavements, which he confirmed, is an offence.

Plumpton College B2116: Copy of a letter about safety signs outside the college – Highways presume that these signs are not being erected by the College as they are not in place. Letter from Mr Lambert saying that the college are still pursuing this and have asked for a quote from May Gurney.

Election Costs: The account had arrived for £1328.99. There were several sections that appeared very high, including postage and general stationery, particularly as three sets of elections had taken place on the same day, and the account should be apportioned.

Footpath Maps: ESCC were not able to send further footpath maps as it was understood that the PC already had a copy, and Ordnance Survey only permitted one copy per organisation. A copy had arrived, but this was the old style large map, which the PC already had.

ACTION: Clerk asked to ask for the A3 size.

Minerals Policy Landraise: VOSS were holding a meeting on 4th January, 2010 at Newick Village hall about the potential landraise site in Newick.. Newick PC, Mr Baker MP would be present.

Footpaths: ROW Officer reported that the path between numbers 14 and 16 East View Fields is a recorded public right of way (Plumpton 17a) and flooding reported there was being dealt with by ROW maintenance teams.

Highways: Clerk had been inundated with phone calls and e mails from residents in the recent bad weather about highway conditions. These had all been reported to Highways and the grit bins had been refilled after she had made a request. The frequent power cuts in the village had been reported to EDF by letter. Highways officials had been working round the clock to do their best to keep the roads safe – RT

and KW asked the Clerk to write thanking them for all their efforts in difficult conditions. Highways reported that the work near Heath Farm on South Road had been done, and also the pothole mending programme was in progress. All the issues as a result of the bad weather will be put to highway representatives at the SLR meeting in February.

Councillors were asked to comment further on any items above.

Clerk asked to query costs for election charges.

Clerk asked to chase up again progress on listing of gates at Station and also ask NR if there was to be a consultation period.

RT asked that the emergency number for EDF be put in the press and parish magazine.

SG asked if he could bring forward some items as he had to leave the meeting to go to work. He was keen for further discussion to take place on having weekend meetings, maybe once a year so residents who are unable to attend on a week day could have a chance to attend. There would be further discussion on this matter.

Highway Strategy: SG said this had now been prepared and Councillors had received a copy. It was proposed that this was ratified by TT, seconded by KW. All Councillors were in agreement.

Mr Ramsay said that he had concerns about the increase in the precept and felt that funds should be spent on other areas in the parish, such as facilities for the elderly, rather than on the sports and social club. He had looked on the Charity Commission website and could find no accounts for the Playing Field since 2004, and that the list of Trustees was not up to date.

Clerk explained that she produced the balanced accounts each year which were given to the Chairman of the PF and Mr Satchell for the Village Hall who then sent the annual return to the Charity Commission. If these accounts were not received, there would be always be a reminder, and there had not been one. RT said he signed off these accounts each year, and had done this each year.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the CC to check they had received the accounts, and why they were not on the website, and to ask for the Trustees to be amended.

AGENDA ITEMS

SANDPIT - Nothing to report.

BUSINESS PLAN: RS gave all Councillors a copy of the draft BP that the committee had produced. He asked for feedback from Councillors before the next meeting.

A vote of thanks was given to the Committee for all their hard work.

It was thought having a coloured brochure would increase the costs, but RS thought that in spite of not having any luck with obtaining funding from various sources to date, that the document may possibly be produced for the amount budgeted for.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Satchell if the Millenium Fund may donate towards printing costs.

VALE OF SUSSEX SOCIETY - The VOSS had organised a public meeting regarding the possible landraise site in Newick. Over 300 people had attended and there were representatives of several PC's, CPRE, and Mr Baker MP had attended. It was to be 84 metres in height and there were many issues surrounding why this should not be built.

ACTION: Clerk to inform ESCC that there will be a response from PC regarding the above issues, and a copy will be sent to Mrs Stroude to be raised at Cabinet.

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARDS - RS declared an interest in this item, signed the Members Interest Book and took no part in the discussion.

Mrs Nicholson said there had been a misunderstanding about the proposals for the boards and wished the following to be minuted.

- a) VAP would pay for the board at the Post Office.
- b) Societies would be asked to pay for all the other boards, (£20). These boards would be erected and maintained by the VAP, and there would be no cost to the PC – these would include those minuted in the PC meeting minutes of 8th December, 2009 and would include the one near Belmont.

The licence had been received from ESCC – this would be granted to the PC and the conditions included indemnity insurance for £10,000,000. Clerk had been asked to check this with the insurance company if there would be an extra premium for this. The insurance company had suggested that the boards were insured for all risks. It was thought that insurance for £600 would be appropriate to cover damage for the 6 boards. Clerk would check premium for these items to be covered at the above figure. Clerk was awaiting reply about the indemnity insurance.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of December, 2009 were: Village Hall £4839.01, Admin £7053.11, Playing Field £16,468.77.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

KW reported that she had put details of where to obtain information about the bus strategy on posters in the village, but there had been no response.

BW said she had heard that Countryliner had been threatened with administration but had got out of it.

KW explained that the Southern train timetable changed every December, and that she had sent in a response to the consultation on this.

ACTION: Clerk would send information from her response to Mr Sheeran who had enquired about time table changes.

HIGHWAYS

The SLR meeting would take place on 2nd February, 2010. An agenda would be prepared for this. CE asked if a request could be put in for a grit bin opposite Wells Chase and this would be put on the SLR agenda.

KW reported that PCSO Knowles had asked if he could put a No Parking sign outside the shop; it was requested that the owner of the shop should be informed about this.

ENVIRONMENT

As there had been no positive steps to change to dual bins from LDC, Mr Baker MP should be approached to see if he could help.

ACTION: Clerk requested to contact Mr Baker MP.

FOOTPATHS

It was reported that the Footpath from East View Fields to Riddens Lane was supposed to be shut for work to be done on it, but there were still people using it

ACTION: Clerk to contact ROW to find out if there were to be indications to say it was shut.

PLANNING AND HOUSING

The following applications have been granted:

LW/09/11145 43 East View Fields. Conversion of garage to bedroom.

LW/09/1059 Land adjacent to 2 Osborne Villas. Renewal of planning approval

LW/07/0621 for erection of three bedroom detached house including addition of velux window and sun pipe to rear roof slope and French windows at rear.

The following application was considered:

LW/09/1306 Railway Cottage, Station Road. Erection of two storey side and rear extension with flat roof for JSB Partnership. PC approved this application.

Planning training meeting will be arranged on Thursday evening in February through Hamsey PC.

BW and KW had attended a meeting organised by LDC to update and Town and Parish Councils on progress on its Local Development Framework. Discussion included how Councils can play a part in the consultation process, particularly with respect to the Core Strategy. There was much concern that now the National Park boundaries have been finalised. LDC would be under more pressure to allocate new housing in the District to those towns and villages outside the Park boundary. BW and KW explained

that LDC planning has to be mindful that the villages at the foot of the Downs such as Plumpton formed the view from the Downs and had unique countryside which should be preserved as much as possible.

**POLICING AND
NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH**

SA reported that there had been 91 new officers who had joined the Lewes District in October. Acting Sergeant Mark Andrews has joined the Lewes Neighbourhood team. PCSO Tracey Honey was commended for her work after a recent incident.

Crime figures in comparison up to the end of November from last year: 279 fewer victims, 85 fewer car crimes, 280 fewer damage reports, and 74 fewer victims of violent crime. SA asked if the numbers to contact the police could be included again in the press and magazine. 0845 607099 or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

SA circulated information about No Cold Calling, and asked Councillors for their comments to be sent to her by e mail.

KW said she had been asked by PCSO Knowles to go to a meeting at Newhaven to see how PCSO's are working in rural areas and discuss areas like speeding and parking. KW said she would attend.

VILLAGE HALL:

RT reported that there had been chaotic parking after the Jumble Sale that had been held on 2nd January at the hall. It was suggested that maybe cones should be placed when jumble sales took place.

A raised slab in the car park had been dug out and replaced. Two more small tables had been purchased.

There would be a jumble sale on 30th January, 2010.

SAA said there appeared to be problems with the guttering on the south side of the hall above the doors with rain pouring down from them on wet days.

ACTION: RT said he would inspect.

PLAYING FIELD::

TT reported the next PF meeting would be on 10th February 2010 at 7,30pm. Basketball court – no date for starting work has been received probably due to the bad weather. Clerk had written to Mr D. Westgate to instruct him to do the fencing as per his estimate. A donation had been received from the Football Club towards the cost of the changing room floor.

Work on the play park and skateboard park still to be implemented as a result of the LDC report.

Alarm had caused some problems and this had been repaired.

Fund Raising events are being planned for 2010 including a Quiz on 20th March.

It would appear that Sussex Police have apprehended a possible culprit for the break in to the Pavilion in the summer.

COMMUNICATIONS:

CE asked if anyone wished to put anything into the magazine for the next month and suggested maybe something should be put about NR's intention to change the gates to barriers at the station, as there was a lot of talk in the village about this.

ACTION; Clerk to contact LDC Planning to see if there had been any progress on listing of the gates and ask NR if there was to be a consultation period.

Suggestions were made to see if there were any records at the Record Office at Lewes as to the listing of the gates.

CE said that the Profiles were almost ready for publication and photos of the new councillors had been taken.

**VAP – any items not
covered elsewhere**

Nothing had been received from the VAP.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council: Notice about recycling cards at WH Smith TKMaxx and M & S, Environmental Health Open Day 27th January, 2010, Tree Warden Newsletter, letter from Fire Authority thanking PC for taking part in their questionnaire, District Link Winter Edition, Train timetable, Annual Conference and Advice Fair on 20th January 2010, Fields in Trust asking for any war memorial fields that exist in UK in Plumpton,, LDC Ash to Cash leaflet, LW Sait wholesalers of quality rags and second useful clothing and shoes letter, South Downs View Winter 2009,

News from the School: From last term: Lots of lovely Christmas displays were around the school. Non uniform day was on 4th December, 2009.

Clerk had a format of a questionnaire for Emergency Planning that had been sent out by her local PC. This could be looked at in the future.

The 20th April, 2010 was suggested as a date for the Annual Parish Meeting.
ACTION: Clerk to ask Mrs Burgon if the hall was free. Clerk to let RS know the date.

TT suggested having the large hall for the meeting. It was also suggested that there were microphones so everyone could hear.

ACTION: RT would ask VH committee about this.

CE said she thought there had been some query about the title of this meeting.

ACTION: Clerk would check this.

Clerk asked to write to Mrs Jo Taylor to congratulate her on her recent honour of an MBE, and to wish her a speedy recovery from a recent accident.

Chairman

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 9th FEBRUARY, 2010.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN MINUTES:

SDNP – South Downs National Park
LDC – Lewes District Council
ESCC – East Sussex County Council
VOSS – Vale of Sussex Society
EA – Environment Agency
LCR – Local Councils Review
ROW - Rights of Way
MOP – Member of the Public
SLR – Strengthening Local Relationships
VMT – Village Maintenance Teams
VAP – Village Action Plan
RST – Road Safety Team
PCSO – Police Community Support Officer
SID – Speed Indicator Device
SALC – Sussex Association of Local Councils
AirS – Action in Rural Sussex
NR – Network Rail
EH – Environmental Health