



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 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  
Mrs. S. Akers  
Mrs. S. Angel

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Mr. P Ramsay.

**2. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 were signed as a true record. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January, and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2007 were signed a true record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

**Plumpton College** – Clerk read out letter that Mr. Lambert had sent to ESCC Highways regarding problems of safety outside the College. Clerk to write to Mr. Lambert saying that they support his comments and will be writing to Highways, and to suggest that notices are placed on student and staff noticeboards to reiterate that people should not speed in the area.

Mr. Hawthorne said that the Bevern Stream Initiative have a Quiet Lanes project and are asking that Parishes join together to approach ESCC to try and stop rat runs, and slow traffic down. Mr. Hawthorne said the initiative was keen that all PC's write to ESCC about this issue, and he would draft a letter for Plumpton PC to send.

**APM** – Clerk reported that Mrs Stroude, County Councillor, Dr. Ashby, and PC Kieran Macdonald would be attending the APM; she had not heard from Mrs. Osborne, District Councillor.

**Southern Water** – Clerk read out letter to say that the public sewer for Old School Cottages had been jetted twice last year, and work had taken place to repair the pipe work.

**Village Green registration** – Clerk read out letter from ESCC to say that the village green in Plumpton did not meet the criteria to be registered as a green. This could happen in 10 years time (when the green would be 20 years old). There would in the future be voluntary registration of land as village greens, and the Council will await these regulations.

**Pantomime Society** – Clerk had not heard from Mr. Thompsett regarding help towards the cost of the storage cupboards in the hall.

**Highways** – Clerk had received a phone call from Mr. Johnson Highways to apologise for not responding to PC's letter. There is no weight limit on the white bridge (it was thought that it was 40). Mr. Johnson said he would look into the issue of speeding on Beresford Lane.

**Ashurst Lane** - Letter from LDC planning, saying that they had not permitted the use of the racecourse as a car boot sale venue, but under permitted development rights the Racecourse are allowed to hold up to 14 car boot sales per annum. The new dwelling at Southern Stables was refused on highway safety grounds as the new property would increase traffic. This is a private road so there are no powers to request hedging to be cut back. The access does not meet highway safety standards and LDC would be unlikely to permit any activities along the lane which would intensify its use. The Council were very disappointed with the reply.

**Footpaths** – Clerk read out letter from ROW Officer. The gate has now been tied shut with bayler twine on Footpath Street 13 and the landowner has been asked to repair or replace the stile.

The new squeeze stile and bridge at the start of footpath EC 6a was installed by ESCC and that was why it had an ESCC sign on it. A new signpost will be installed by the maintenance teams at the start of footpath EC 9.

**Emissions** – Mr. Hawthorne had done some research on this, but there was not much information on the internet. He had heard from a contact in ESCC that some areas in West Sussex had installed signs at railway crossings close to residential properties and the conclusions were as follows: 'If standing for more than one minute then it is worth turning engines off; this appears to all vehicles close to the barrier when it goes down and it is usually two minutes before a train passes and maybe a bit longer if two or more trains go through. Surveys showed that after three to six months of signs, 17% more drivers than before stopped their engines reducing NOx by 17% on average'. It was thought a good idea to have some signs made with PC name on them, and ask Mr. Flowers if he could give details of content of signs.

**Playing Field** – Clerk read out letter from Mr. Green regarding issues at the playing field. He felt that the extra rubbish left by the bins is an eyesore, as they are often left on Friday when the collection was on Monday or Tuesday. He also said the old notice board should be removed or replaced.

PC decided to purchase a new wheelie bin which could be locked, remove the old noticeboard and get a quote for a new one. They would also ask the Village Maintenance Teams to tidy up the area.

**Village Maintenance Teams** - Forms had been received from ESCC to ask what work could be done by the team. Clerk to write asking if the gate at the entrance to the access road next to the playing field could be taken away and disposed of. Also tidy up hedge on the left hand side of access road alongside the railway line, and clean village signs, including PG one and speed limit. Tidy up around the Plough Bus Shelter, cut back vegetation and clear the bus shelter in Station Road.

**Minerals Workshop** – Clerk received information about this from Brighton and Hove City Council. Clerk to pass this to Mr. Nicholson.

**Play Area Inspection:** Clerk to ask LDC to conduct a play area inspection.

**4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Mrs. Watson reported that there was a hole outside Little Dwelling that fills up with water. Clerk to report this to Highways.

Mrs. Akers reported that the pavement in Barnfield was very churned up and could cause an accident. Clerk to ask Mr. Brooke to meet Mr. Speirs to discuss what action could be taken here.

The ditch alongside the allotments; the boulders need to be re-instated and water is pouring out of the pipe and this is still a problem. Clerk to report this to Highways. The fence on the left hand side on the car park requires reinstating. Clerk to ask Mr. Westgate to do this.

The fence at the skatepark is in need of attention. Mr. Speirs had already contacted Mr. Staplehurst.

Mrs. Akers said that several people had been leaving their cars in the village hall car park over night. She had put notices on them. A letter would be produced to send to those doing this.

Mr. Hawthorne said that an RVRC meeting had taken place on the 29<sup>th</sup> January and the consultation period for the NHS Princess Royal issues had not yet been announced. When it has commenced residents were urged to put in their representation. The next meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs. James is retiring. Clerk to write to thank her for all her help in the past.

**5. VILLAGE HALL:**

Mr Taylor reported that the small steps were missing from the hall. The rear doors to the large hall had blown in during recent gales and one door fell to the ground. Mr. M Beard had screwed them up and they are to be replaced under an insurance claim.

The cupboards on the rear of the stage are being built

The main societies who will use these are the Pantomime and Plumpton Players. The Pantomime had been approached for help towards the cost, and Mr. Speirs said he would enquire who at the Players should be approached.

The booking conditions had been updated.

**6. FINANCE:**

The balances at the end January 2007 were Admin £5963.12 Village Hall £11,297.29, Playing Field £9921.05.

Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Audit Commission saying that they intended to employ Mazars for a further period to audit PC accounts. PC were in agreement with this.

**7. PLAYING FIELD:**

Mr. Speirs said that he had heard from the NPFA that the Playing Field may not be held on a valid charitable trust; it suggested that either the Field should be removed from the register of charities or enter into a new Deed of Trust. Clerk will enquire into this.

Mr. Speirs is to speak to a contractor about a quote for a further car parking area.

The Tennis Club had experienced flooding and some work is being done.

Arrangements have been made to clear the ditch between the tennis club and the playing field.

**8. PLANNING:**

Complaints have been made that the Beetle Garage is contravening planning laws under its recent permission. The Enforcement Officer has been contacted and the garage has been asked to take cars off the land until they have complied with planning conditions, and there has to be full drainage to the road.

The following applications were considered:

LW/07/0158 2 Osborne Villas, Station Road, Plumpton Green. Erection of a two storey infill extension and single storey rear extension for Mrs. Parton

PC approved this application but would like to see lighting emissions checked and at least two parking spaces provided on site.

LW/07/0157 2 Osborne Villas. Erection of a three bedroomed detached house.

PC approved this application but would like to see at least two parking spaces on site. The following application has been withdrawn.

LW/06/13906 Meadow Cottage, Station Road. Two storey rear extension (existing rear outhouse to be demolished).

The following applications have been granted:

LW/06/1525 Jupiters Oak, South Road, Plumpton Green. Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension (demolition of existing outbuildings and lean to).  
LW/06/1482 Lentrige Barn, Station Road, Plumpton. Insertion of three conservation rooflights and exterior door to east elevation.  
LW/06/1466 Letchmore Lodge Farm, Station Road, Plumpton. Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey double garage (existing extension and garage to be demolished).

**9. VILLAGE CARE:**

Nothing to report

**10. FOOTPATHS:**

Mrs. Akers reported that the St. Helena Lane Sevelands Farm Footpath 7; five bar gate and small latch gate has a chain and padlock on it but this is not locked at the moment; there is an electric fence which means the public cannot get through.

Mr. Speirs said he would be walking the footpaths shortly with the ROW officer and would point out various problems.

Footpath 30 – off Ridgeway towards the College: footbridge is unsafe, it is slippery and broken. Footpath 14/14A the stile is down going to Elm Grove.

Mrs. Akers said that Mr. Bob Taylor and Mr. Gamble were obtaining the stile packs and contacting the ROW officer to do the training to repair stiles.

**11. PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT:**

Nothing to report.

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH:**

Mrs. Angel had spoken to the PCSO and Mr. and Mrs. Young about the recent racial vandalism at the Riddens. No-one had heard anything when the crime was committed; all the windows had been cleaned.

**13. TREE WARDEN:**

Nothing to report

**14 VILLAGE ACTION  
PLAN**

Mr. Hawthorne reported that there had been a good meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February, and there had been a 28-30 responses to the flyer in the magazine. The committee were working on the questionnaire and getting quotes for printing. The next meeting would be on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

More training dates had been given for operation of SID machine, on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 (0930) and 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 (1830), small hall, village hall. The training would take about 90 minutes and Clerk was asked to book the committee room on those dates. More volunteers were needed. Clerk to include this in parish magazine article.

**15. REPORT OF CLERK**

Clerk presented to the Council. Sussex Ouse Conservation Society Winter 2007, NALC Review of the Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme, East Chilmington PC Minutes January, East Sussex Association of the Blind letter, Communities and Local Government A Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members, Wickstead Leisure Mystical World, St Peters and St James Newsletter Spring 2007, Glasdon leaflet, Monster Play Systems, Shaws Forms Records and Registers for Local Councils, letter ESCC Gypsies and Travellers in East Sussex, South Downs View SDCVS AGM, LDC Minutes of Committees Autumn Cycle 2006, letter Southern Water Review of Customer Records, New Councillors folders.

CHAIRMAN