



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH FEBRUARY, 2008 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

These Minutes will be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting on 18th March, 2008

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
Mrs S Akers

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting on 8th January, 2008 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING: **Highways** – Signpost on South Road. The post towards Beresford Lane is missing. Clerk to ask Mrs Ridley what the sign had originally said and to contact Mr Anderson to get this replaced. Highways will contribute 50% towards this repair.
Mr Speirs met Mr Brooke and Mr Bailey and had pointed out some highway issues in the village, as a result of the action plan. Solid posts were to be put up opposite North Barnes Lane and a path made from Wells Chase to the Church car park.
Mrs Akers asked if there was any news on the posts requested on the south side of the crossing.

The parking situation in the village was getting worse. Double yellow lines had been discussed but it would be very difficult to police these. It is not permissible by law to park a car within 10 metres of a junction. The PCSO had put notices on cars recently, but to put fixed penalty notices would be a lengthy process if people did not pay the fines. Clerk to ask the PCSO to put polite notices on cars on a regular basis in the hope that this may help. Clerk to mention the parking problem in the Parish Magazine article.
Mr Speirs said that the pavilion car park was really for the use of patrons who use the facilities there, but commuters did use it some of the time. Mrs Akers suggested that there were designated places for people to park, such as Honeybees and other clubs using the playing field, and it was suggested that cones were put out when groups maybe using the car park and then removed when they were not. Mrs Wride and Mrs Eastwood would make signs for Honeybees etc to park and then ask them to remove them at the relevant times to see how this works. The Rail authorities had been approached to get more parking for commuters but were not willing to do anything.

Clerk read out letters from Mr Brooke, ESCC Highways. Regarding the wide verge by the racecourse, Highways do not usually cut grass verges, but if this area is not very long, there may be a chance that they may be able to help.
The terraced area near the substation which uneven has been inspected and considered safe, so Highways are unable to help here and suggest a local builder is asked to help.

Clerk had reported a rut at the end of East View Fields and water coming from a stop cock near Little Dwelling. Both these had been attended to by the relevant authorities.

Clerk had received a form from the Village Maintenance Teams. Clerk to ask if the following areas could received attention:

1. Edging of all the pavements through the village particularly between Southdowns to the Winning Post and East View Fields to the bus shelter.

2. Grass and hedge on the left hand side of the entrance to the playing field.
3. Traffic signs and street name signs cleaned.
4. Kerb stones replaced at Wells Close.

Clerk had been contacted by a Councillor from East Chiltington who had attended a Vale of Sussex meeting where an issue of devolution had been raised whereby Parish Councils took on the responsibility of their own minor highway maintenance such as potholes and verge cutting. The work would be done by a CC approved contractor but the cost would be the responsibility of the specific PC. A group of Parishes had got together to see if this could be possible. Mrs Wride said that Mr Leggo was in favour and some Councils had already agreed to this; he said he would set up a meeting to find out exactly what this entailed and it was hoped a representative of each Parish Council in the area would attend.

PC wanted to know more about the scheme and would send a representative to a meeting before they made a judgement. There was certain scepticism from some members about this scheme, particularly as they are happy with the service they get from Highways with maintenance and repairs.

Dog Bins – Mrs Akers reported that the damaged bins had been replaced with new style ones.

Gypsy and traveller site identification - Clerk had received a letter from LDC to say that if in the future, there were any sites available in Plumpton, to let them know. PC had already responded to their first letter regarding this.

Flooding Issues – Clerk had received e mails from Mr Ramsay regarding flooding near Old School Cottages. She had reported it to the Environment Agency, Highways, and Planning. LDC had sent a representative to look at the problems. Mr Ramsay had also reported it to Mrs Stroude, Mr Hawthorne and Mr Norman Baker MP.

Clerk had received a reply from LDC Planning to say there were looking at the new culvert under Station Road. Highways said that they did not propose to take the matter any further from a maintenance point of view. The EA had not replied.

Mr Ramsay had forwarded a letter from Mr Baker who had arranged for the Asset Systems Management team to arrange a site visit with Mr Ramsay.

Election Costs – A letter of explanation had been sent regarding stationery costs and printing costs. The account had been reduced by £766.47, making a total of £2369.88. Clerk was asked to write to LDC asking why three notices of the reduction had been sent instead of one, and to ask for what the Council should put in their budget for the election in three years time.

Rylands Farm – Clerk had received an e mail from Mr Wade asking about the history of Rylands Farm. No one on the Council knew this, so Clerk to reply to Mr Wade.

Railway Issue – Clerk had received a reply from Southern saying that it is not their policy to eject troublesome passengers at wayside stations, because there is a risk of vandalism or violence towards the next Southern representative that they may meet. They would report the incident to staff.

Clerk had also contacted Mr Rose at Sussex Police regarding the fee that had to be paid by the owners of the vandalised car that resulted from the above incident where fare dodgers were put out of the train at Plumpton. He had replied.

The practise of removing a car which had been tampered with and was insecure was to take it to the Police pound where a charge of £105 for the recovery and £12 a day was the standard charge. These costs are recognised by a member of the ABI (insurance) in the event of a legitimate claim. Mr Rose had said on the telephone to the Clerk that the no claim bonus should not be affected. Clerk to write to the people whose car had been vandalised giving them Mr Rose's contact so they could discuss this further with him.

Trees – Mrs Nicholson reported that she had met Mr Wynn Tree Officer, Mrs Hall, and Mr Hutson and they had spent four hours looking round the parish to the north. Mr Wynn was very interested in learning about the habitats in the parish; he was now more aware of the history of some of the woodlands and any information of the work that had been, logged he would be interested to know about. He had looked at the TPO's on Oakwood and specific restrictions had been put on the recent application for the clearance of the area before building the tennis court.

Half Moon Junction - Mr Johnson Highways had met Mr Taylor, Mr Speirs, Mr St John, Mr Hills and Mrs Wride on site to discuss this problem. IPC thought that the best way to make this junction safer was to shave off part of the bank, but this would cost a lot of money and would have to be agreed by the landowner.

A further meeting with the Highway Safety Officer would take place on 25th February, 2008. It was agreed that this issue required positive action. There had been another minor accident on 18th February when a car coming from the Lewes direction had skidded into the forecourt of the old garage.

Mrs Nicholson suggested that she could take photographs at the junction over an hour to hopefully, capture the dangers here.

Litter Bin – The litter bin outside the Village Hall had not been emptied for some time. Clerk to report this.

Footpaths – Clerk had heard from Mr Culpin ESCC that the location 2 stile/footbridge X2 on footpath 27c is more waterlogged due to recent heavy rain and things were getting worse; he had instructed a contractor to install three steps leading up the bank. This should be done before the end of March.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs Akers said that the dog bin at the end of Strawlands was not being used. It was decided to resite it. Mrs Eastwood said she thought it should be put opposite Wells Close. Clerk to ask Mr Malcolm Beard to remove it from Strawlands and resite it, and to ask him to contact Mrs Eastwood for the precise location. PC asked if Mrs Eastwood would thank Mr Avery for letting him have the bin on his land.

Mrs Akers that she had received a price of £380 approximately for hedge laying at the allotments.

Mrs Nicholson asked if a form could be obtained from Airs for the New East Sussex Village of the Year 2008 competition so the PC could apply.

She said she had not received a reply to the request for funding for the Ecobag initiative from the Millenium Fund Committee. Clerk to contact Mr Satchell.

She had attended a meeting discussing updates on Section 106 agreements at LDC. She asked if there was an angle to get money for other projects. New Government laws are planning to abolish 106 agreements.

Mr Thompsett had been asked by Mrs Ridley where village maps are to be kept. Mr Taylor said he would like them back so he can store them; they could be put on show at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Mrs Eastwood said that she had done some litter picking at the Playing Field and noticed some racist graffiti in the skateboard area on the metal of the ramp at the end facing the nets.

Mrs Akers said that some young people from the village wanted to paint over this,; they were appalled at what was written. The PCSO had been contacted and she would report back any information to the Clerk on this crime, which had included vandalism to the fencing. Clerk to contact LDC to see where graffiti proof paint could be obtained to paint over this.

Mrs Wride reported that PC's can respond to the Sustainability Community Strategy 2000-2011 by the 31st March, 2008 if they wished to. Clerk had obtained the document and Mrs Wride had it if anyone wanted to look at it. She felt that all rural parishes should be asked for three areas of priority that they wished to put forward. She would report to the Clerk further on this.

Sandpit – Mrs Nicholson reported that Mr Nicholson had tried to arrange a meeting with parties concerned but this had not been taken up.

Action Plan – Mrs Wride reported that there would be a meeting on 4th March at 7pm in the village hall to look at the findings of the Plan, with a Power Point presentation.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2017 – Mrs Nicholson had done a very good summary of this plan which had been circulated for all Councillors to read. It was thought a good idea that there was a meeting with a ROW representative to discuss it further, as it says ESCC want to work with parishes, but PC would like to find out what powers they would have. Clerk to contact ROW to arrange a meeting with Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Eastwood and Mr Speirs if he was able to attend.

20 Year Rule – Mrs Akers had obtained information from LDC Legal department about setting up a 20 year rule; there were forms to fill in, and she, Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Eastwood would meet to do this and look at areas that would benefit from the ruling.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr Taylor said that the WI would like to put a seat round the oak tree on the green, and that Plumpton College were designing it. Mrs Nicholson said that Mr Wynn thought that if this is done the pounding of feet around it would compact the roots and cause damage to the tree. Mrs Watson would speak to Mrs Karen Beard about this.

Mr Taylor said that the new lighting bars had been used for the pantomime and that more lighting may be purchased.

The vents in the ladies toilets had been broken.

The dishwasher had been adjusted and now works well.

Mr Thompsett was looking at the area by the sub-station which was uneven and ascertain what can be done there.

A spring clean of the hall will take place in March.

The stage fan was not working, Mr Taylor had repaired it.

The recent jumble sale had raised £966.

The Village Fare would be on 5th July, 2008.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of December were Admin £5310.34, Village Hall £6069.25 and Playing Field £3398.24

Mazars had been appointed Auditors for the next year.

Clerk reported that PC McDonald, Mrs Stroude and Mr Hawthorne would be attending the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillors were asked if they had any items for the agenda for the APM.

Clerk had sent off three insurance claims, two for removal of trees from properties in East Views Fields which involved PC land, and one for damage to the skateboard area due to vandalism. Clerk was looking at insurance quotes for the future.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Mrs Eastwood said she had been looking at grants for the playing field for maintenance to be done here. Honeybees had asked if they could have a hardstanding to use when the ground was wet. She was hoping to get three quotes which could include an area for basketball. The bin at the playing field was missing.

8. PLANNING:

The following applications had been granted:

LW/07/1442 Half Moon, Ditchling Road. Listed Building Application for folding/sliding doors to rear

LW/07/1509 Lentridge Barn, Station Road. Renewal of temporary planning permission LW/06/0685 for the retention of caravan for living accommodation storage shed and storage container during conversion of barn to residential.

LW/07/1481 railway Cottage, Station Road. Formation of hardstanding and crossover.

LW/08/0135 Coach House, South Road. Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey (existing garage to be demolished).

LW/08/0136 Old Plumpton Green Garage site. Amendment to roof design to Units 5 and 6 to create an additional single bedroom.

Mrs Watson and Mr Speirs declared an interest in the above application and signed the book.

It was thought that a site visit should take place for both these applications. This will be on 23rd February, 2008 at 9 am in the village hall.

Mrs Wride had asked Mrs Watson if there was an area suitable for a conservation area in Plumpton. PC said that it was thought there were no suitable areas.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

Nothing to report.

HIGHWAYS:

Nothing further to report.

10. FOOTPATHS:

Mrs Akers reported that she had received an approach from a resident about dog friendly stiles. PC thought it would be a good idea to have these and also make them more user friendly for disabled people. Mrs Eastwood had asked the ROW Officer and landowners who own land where the stiles that are not dog friendly are sited, are under no obligation to make them dog friendly. Clerk to put this information from the ROW Officer in the Parish magazine article.

Mr Akers and Mr Gamble had cleared all the chalk from Percy's Patch. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to them.

Mrs Nicholson asked if a footpath map could be out on the website. She was asked to contact Mr Green to see if this was possible.

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Nothing to report.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Mrs Angel reported that there had been reports of the following crimes from the PCSO. 11/1/08 Two males were caught trying to steal lead from a property of Station Road.

29/1/08 A male and female were seen knocking on doors trying to sell fish and pictures. They were stop checked by a PCSO and did not have a hawkers licence.

31/1/08 A metallic green SEAT was seen in East View Fields; the informant saw four youths in the vehicle and it was felt that they were checking out other vehicles.

Clerk to put PCSO's telephone number in the parish magazine article, so residents can report incidents.

13. TREE WARDEN:

Nothing to Report.

14. REPORT OF CLERK:

Clerk presented to the Council: Bago litter catalogue, St Peters and St James' Caring magazine, Fit for The Future HOSC decision and referral to Secretary of State, New SALC Legal Topic Notes, South Downs Joint Committee Annual Review 2006-07, Sussex Air Ambulance, Wicksteed Playscapes, SOCS Newsletter Winer 2008, FWAG New for 2008, SALC courses available, Sussex Speed Management information, Tree Warden Report (activities since 1/4/07 until 1/1/08, Action in Rural Sussex Health and well being edition, SALC Winter Bulletin, letter LDC The Rural Local Action Team,

Sussex Air Ambulance – letter asking for donation. This will be reviewed in the new financial year.

Clerk had received Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England. PC's had been asked if they wished to make comments on this. Clerk had read through the document and felt there was no need to respond.

Clerk had received a letter from Cassie Galpin asking for a donation towards a guiding trip to Iceland. Clerk was to write back to say that the budget for donations had been spent for this financial year but to apply to the Millenium Fund.

News from the School: A nature table had been set up near to Year 2 classroom, the children from Years 4 and 6 had been on visit to the Globe Theatre and Tate Modern. A new group had been formed last year Think Tank; parents and children from the School Council meet a governor and the headmaster to talk about aspects of school life. Open Days for parents had taken place on 16th and 17th January; the school bell had been renovated. A spring concert would take place on 28th March. The school was sad to report the news that Mr Kevin Marquess who taught badminton at the school, had died after a short illness.

Clerk had received an e mail from Peter Clark Chairman of Governors asking if a Councillor would like to be on the governing body. No Councillor was able to take this position on, but Mr Taylor asked Councillors if they would ask around the village to see if anyone was interested.

Clerk had been sent an e mail by the Police informing them of a traffic accident where a Slovakian national had hit an elderly gentleman in Uckfield resulting in serious injuries. The information was passed on in case there were any tension or concern, as this was committed by a foreign national, within the village of Plumpton.

CHAIRMAN