



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 21ST MARCH, 2006 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor – Chairman
Mrs B Watson
Mr T Hawthorne
Mrs. S. Angel
Mrs S Akers
Mr. K. Beard

1. APOLOGIES:

Mrs. C. Thompson, Mr. K. Speirs, Mr. P. Ramsay

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting on 21st February, 2006 were signed as a true record.
The Minutes of a planning meeting on 25th February and 4th March, 2006 were signed as true records.

Under Transport in February's Minutes, it was minuted that Mr. Hawthorne had been overcharged for a train fare to London. The overcharging of the fare occurred on the train by a conductor and not purchased at Plumpton Station. (see below under Matter's Arising)

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Boots Fairs The Appeal has been dismissed. The Racecourse are only permitted to have 14 Boot Fairs in each calendar year. Clerk read out a letter from Mr. Davis saying that he was contacting the organisers of the fairs about the rubbish problem, excess vehicle movements and speeding from those attending the fairs.

11 fairs had taken place in 2005 and 4 had taken place by the end of February. Four further fairs had been planned for March and April 2006, and the season restarts in October. Clerk to check with Mr. Davis that there will only be 6 fairs from October to the end of the calendar year.

Clerk to update Mr. Nicholson on the dismissal of appeal for more bootfairs.

Van on Bridleway in East Chiltington - Clerk had received a telephone call from Reality Home Delivery to say that the driver in question had been told off regarding the incident. They stated that on their AA satnav system this bridleway was shown as a road, and that is why it was used.

Hedges - Clerk had received a phone call from the owner of the Well House saying that the hedge had been trimmed back and that she had been in communication with Highways, who had told her they did not intend to pursue the matter. It was thought that the hedge was still overhanging the footway. This will be discussed further at a walkround in the village with Councillors and Highways.

Allotments - These had now been marked out and there were two new ones available. Clerk to contact the two people on the waiting list and Mrs. Akers would show them where their allotments would be. The rent would remain the same £15 pa, though it was thought that Mr. Blencowe should pay £20 as his plot was considerably larger than the others.

Bin at Half Moon - Clerk had chased up LDC about emptying this bin.

Highways- Clerk read out letter from Highways saying that the pothole by the playing field down the track to the tennis club had been repaired. Mr. Speirs had checked and this had not been done. Clerk had telephoned Highways and they were checking this to see if it was in their remit to repair it, but Clerk had not received a return call; Mr. Brooke had not contacted Mr. Speirs about a walkround of the village. Clerk had chased this up,

Bluebird Community Bus - Clerk had heard from a representative of Bluebird to say that this service was not running in Plumpton, but that they were willing to think about having a service if the PC could help towards the funding. Mr. Stone had advertised this service in the Village Voice column in the local press; Clerk asked him to put in his next article that this service was not running in Plumpton at the moment, but may in the future.

Overcharging of rail fare - Clerk had received a letter from Southern saying that this matter would be looked into and that Mr. Hawthorne should write and give exact details of what happened.

Mr. Green had written to the Council stating that he had been upset by the minute which inferred that he, as Station Master, had overcharged Mr. Hawthorne.

Mr. Taylor had asked Clerk to write to Mr. Green saying that there had not been any inference that it was he that had overcharged the rail fare, but saying the Council were sorry for any misunderstanding or concern it had caused him. Clerk had also written to Southern saying that the ticket had been purchased on the train from a conductor and not at Plumpton Station.

Village Maintenance Teams - Clerk had heard from Mr. Jacobs who had said that the clearing of the ditch at Bevernside may be difficult and there may be deposits on the road as a result. Clerk to contact him and ask him to leave this work until a solution can be found to remove water from this area.

Mrs. Akers said that the problem was caused by a pipe leading to a BT manhole cover, and that water was laying in the allotment area. Clerk to write to BT, cc to Highways asking if this could be investigated.

Clerk to ask VMT if the footway on the corner of Barnfield, near the post box could be levelled off as it had broken up.

Village Rider - Clerk read out a letter from ESCC saying that the vehicle had broken down and a replacement vehicle was not available. A mechanic was sent to sort the problem out and the vehicle was back on the road in the mid afternoon. Clerk to write to ESCC asking for reassurance that this will not happen again. The morning bus to Haywards Heath did not arrive on the 11th March; Clerk to report this to CC.

RVRC Meetings - Clerk heard from Mr. Leggo and Mr. McGillivray regarding PC representation at the meetings that:

a) the agenda is sent out as far in advance of the meeting as possible to give PC reps the chance to obtain a view from other councillors.

b) no decision arrived at a RVRC meeting is acted upon for ten days to give a cooling off period for reps to go back to their PC for a view; if there are PC's who object strongly to the RVRC decision, the matter should be referred back to the next meeting.

Mr. Hawthorne thought this was a good policy and thought that Mr. Leggo would keep an eye on the situation.

Bevern Stream Initiative - This scheme wants Council's to back a specific project. Clerk to say that speeding would be their preferred choice. This would include the 30 mph speed limit extension to the north and south and traffic calming. Clerk to write to Hamsey Clerk about this.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs. Watson said that the bus fares had gone up 25%; it was pointed out that money from government for concessions were not necessarily being used for these fares, and could go into a pot for the County Council. Young people were getting on the bus and getting off when they knew how much the fare was. Mr. Hawthorne said that the CC dictates the prices and that they were struggling to meet their budgets.

Mr. Hawthorne said that Ms. Biggs has requested the public liability insurance with regard to having a SID in the village. She needed to know where the site of the SID would be. The areas thought the most suitable would be: layby Old School Cottages, LentrIDGE Farm, Village Hall end of Westgate. Several volunteers had been recruited. Mr. Hawthorne reported that there would be a meeting on 29th March at Chailey School regarding transport for young people who had done their own survey; this will be presented at the meeting and all are welcome to attend. The footpath marker 27c by The Rest on Plumpton Lane was laying on the ground. Clerk to report this to Rights of Way Officer.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

It was agreed by all Councillors present to purchase a photocopier for use of the Village Hall Secretary at a cost of £210 plus VAT. Clerk would order this. Mr. Taylor said that it had been suggested that a line of storage cupboards on the stage would be cheaper than a storage area upstairs. It was hoped to have a freestanding noticeboard outside the hall advertising events. Mr. Taylor said he may have a look at the British Legion plaque to see if he could do anything about the lettering. Mr. Taylor had looked into using a plastic material to replace the broken and damaged tiles on the large hall side facing the car park; it had been suggested that a moulded board may look better than plastic and Mr. Taylor was looking into it. The cards for the new door entry system had been handed out, and holders would be informed when this system would operate from, Lighting bars – Mr. Taylor would cost replacements for these. There had been no feed back on a village fair and it was too late to organise one. The recent jumble sale made £869.45 profit. Another one would be held on 21st October. Mr. Taylor reported that one youth club cupboard had been cleared and the Brownies were now using the cupboard. There were two tennis tables in the hall left from the club, and the rest of the items were to be advertised. Users of the hall were turning the mixer tap in the kitchen off too tightly. There had been a complaint by people had been asked not to smoke in the hall, that there were no notices round the hatches. Mr. Taylor would look into getting more notices.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of February were: Admin £3005.54, Village Hall £16598.18, Playing Field, £9,223.13. Clerk was not sure whether the books for the Admin account would be able to be balanced for the APM as the bank statements usually arrive after the beginning of the month, and the meeting was on the 4th; she would do her best to do this however. A letter had been received stating that there was a Nil rating for the Village Hall. Clerk read out letter from LDC regarding Council Tax base. The Band D equivalent number of properties would be £651.19. The precept of £24,519 would be paid in two halves, April and September 2006. Clerk reiterated the conditions under the Code of Conduct and Member's interests to the Council, and that all letters from the Council should be sent by the Clerk on behalf of the Council, rather than from Councillor's themselves.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Mr. Speirs had telephoned Clerk to say that work on the storage sheds would start around Easter time. Mrs. Law had approached Mrs. Watson about a plaque in remembrance of Mr. Law at Percy's Patch. Mrs. Watson would look into this. Mr. Hawthorne had received a request from the tennis club to put down a concrete path going towards the club house, approximately 10 foot, and also grass crete between courts for extra parking. Clerk would check terms of lease. Mr. Speirs to look at this with member of the tennis club to see if it would be acceptable. The hole had not been repaired, and it was thought that if there was any concrete left over from the path, this could be used to fill the hole in.

8. PLANNING:

The following listed building consent has been granted:
LW/05/2473 The Old Mill House, Plumpton Lane. Listed building application for alterations and renovations of replacement structure to be used as a studio and form viewing areas for existing mill building (amendment to approval LW/05/0684 to show revised roof design) for Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson.

Planning Application LW/06/0121 Land at Westcroft, Plumpton Lane, Plumpton. Sales sign advertisement application for the erection of a non-illuminated freestanding sales board and two flagpoles for Rydon Homes Ltd. Clerk approved this application. Clerk had heard from Planning Enforcement that the tenant had moved out of Ashurst Cottage; these were now to be holiday lets, and the owner had decided not to proceed with planning permission.

An advertisement had been found on the web for a fully furnished one bedroom chalet at Beresford Manor Farm. It was thought this was breaching planning conditions. Clerk to contact Enforcement Officer LDC.

Problems had been experienced by residents of the Paddocks with the garages owned in Riddens Lane by the Beetle Garage. It appeared that cars were being sold from these garages, causing a noise nuisance to residents. Research had shown that these garages had been built as private garages but had been sold one by one to the owners of the Beetle Garage; there had been no planning permission sought for business news. The District Solicitor had been contacted and nothing could be done about this until the current planning application submitted by the owners of the Beetle Garage had been dealt with.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

It was reported that there was a pile of bricks on the verge outside a bungalow in East View Fields, and this was on the public highway. Clerk to write to owners of the property.

10. FOOTPATHS:

Clerk read out letter from Rights of Way Officer to say that the stile on Footpath Plumpton 17 would be repaired.

Clerk read out letter from the Monday Group asking for a donation towards work that had been done in Plumpton. Clerk to write asking if they could be more specific in what they had done, and send a donation of £50.

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Mr. Hawthorne reported that the village rider transport timetable had changed; the first journey from Lewes at 7am now starts at the Half Moon.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Mrs. Angel reported that there still had been no police bulletins.

13. TREE WARDEN:

Nothing to report.

14 VILLAGE ACTION PLAN

Mr. Hawthorne said he hoped that there would be confirmation soon that the funding for printing would be known soon. There are currently four people on the steering group.

15. REPORT OF CLERK:

Clerk presented to the Council: LDC Draft Sustainability Checklist, District Link, East Chiltington PC Minutes, Sussex Heritage Trust Awards 2006, Town and Parish Standards 06, Local Council Review March 2006, SOCS Winter 2006, ESCC Notice of Adoption of Waste Local Plan. Action in Rural Sussex Sussex Village of the Year 2006, Cycling East Sussex leaflets, Bus Timetables February 2006.

Clerk read out letter from R. A. Brooks, thanking PC for donation in memory of Mrs. Heather Pearce.

Clerk reported that she had heard from Mrs. Stroude, Inspector Cranley (and PCSO Whittaker Jones) and Chief Inspector Gough who all hoped to be at the Annual Parish Meeting; she had not heard from Mrs. Osborne, District Councillor.

Clerk would compile a School Governor's report from a Newsletter she had requested from the School.

Mr. Taylor asked those Councillors who usually give reports to prepare them for the meeting.

Clerk read out letter from LDC regarding Local Development Framework saying two documents had been adopted: Statement of Community Involvement and Supplementary Planning Document.

Clerk read out a letter from LDC regarding dog bins. In future they intend to repair or replace any damaged bins (at PC's expense) , and asked if Council had any objection to this arrangement. Clerk to write accepting this arrangement but would like to know when any work was to be carried out and the cost.

CHAIRMAN