



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 20TH MARCH, 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. S. Akers
Mrs. S. Angel
Mr. P Ramsay
Mrs. C. Thompson

Mr. R Burman

1. APOLOGIES:

Mr. T Hawthorne. Mr. K. Beard

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20th February, 2007 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Playing Field entrance: A wheelie bin had been delivered and Mr. Taylor was thanked for clearing away wood and debris from the area. A quotation for £450.00 was received from Mr. Gamble for a new noticeboard at the Pavilion. Clerk to contact Mr. Gamble to accept this offer and to liaise with Mr. Speirs regarding position of the board.

Fence in Car Park: Mr. Westgate had spoken to Mrs. Akers and this would be fixed.

Station: Clerk had been asked to write to Southern as there is no-one at the station to buy tickets and get information from. Southern acknowledged letter and said it would be dealt with.

Highway Matters: No response had been received in spite of two reminders. Clerk to chase this up.

Footpaths: Clerk read out letter from ROW Officer. It was confirmed that a site visit had been carried out and there had been a complaint about the padlocked gate and electric fence; ROW had written to landowners asking for obstructions to be removed. ROW officer would be inspecting Plumpton 30 and Street 14a and would arrange for repairs to the stile and bridge. A meeting would take place with Mr. Speirs and the ROW officer shortly. Mrs. Akers reported that the stile on Footpath 7 left of the gates has been repaired and the electric fencing removed.

Allotments: Mrs. Greenwood had given up her allotment and Mr. George had taken it over,

King George V Playing Fields: A letter had been received from the NPFA that some fields, until 2002, were charitable and liable to compulsory registration; Plumpton's field was registered as a charity, but following a consultation in 2002/3 the Commission concluded that some of these fields were not held on valid charitable trusts; Plumpton was one of those that were not held on a clear charitable trust. The following options were given: 1. Remove the field from the register of charities or 2. Use powers under Local Government Act 2000 to execute a new charitable declaration of trust over the land and retain it on the register. Clerk had contacted NPFA, who said there had been some discrepancies and that the field was possibly not included in this system. Clerk had signed and sent a declaration of trust and this had been acknowledged by NPFA.

Road Safety Concerns: Clerk had written to Mr. Wilkins ESCC regarding local road safety concerns; the letter had not been acknowledged.

Plumpton College: Clerk read out letter from Mr. Lambert saying that there was a speed limit of 10 mph on the campus and they are strict on any reported speeding by students on the roads around the college and followed up every complaint.

Emission signs: Letter from Mr. Flowers who said that he would send pictures of the signs as soon as possible.

Proposed National Park: Letter from Defra; designation process had been halted; action was being taken to resume the designation process, and they must establish if Natural England has any observations. When this has been done, further representations on outstanding matters that were not able to be fully addressed by the inquiry would be requested.

Rubbish: Clerk read out letter asking if Councils would like a mobile interactive vehicle the Rethink Rubbish Bus, to visit the village at an event to show people how to reduce the amount of rubbish each household throws away. It was thought that this could be suitable for the Action Plan launching.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs. Watson reported that the signpost at St Helena Lane had not been fixed.

Mrs. Angel reported that nothing had been done about the pavement outside Nos 1 and 2 Old School Cottages. This had been reported in November 2005 and November 2006 and May 2006 (Mr. Bailey). Two methods had been suggested, and it was thought it would be better to resurface the area; white lines had been placed last May around the area and these lines were barely visible now. Clerk to chase this up with Highways.

Mr. Ramsay presented a format to reorganise the way meetings were conducted, with certain items being discussed at three monthly intervals instead of every month, though retaining matters on finance and planning on a monthly basis. It was thought more detailed discussions could take place at three monthly intervals; urgent matters could be raised under Miscellaneous Items.

Mr. Taylor said consideration would be given to this at a later date.

Mrs. Thompson reported that she had received complaints about lack of light outside the village hall. Mr. Taylor said the switch was by the bar; he would put up signs by the door to tell people this.

The roundabout at Southdowns had deep ruts in it as vehicles delivering to the school had been driving over it. Clerk to write to the Education Authority about this, and send a copy to the Chairman of the Governors. Clerk to write to Headmaster asking for regular newsletters as it was felt that there had been no contact with the school recently.

Mrs. Thompson reported that there had been a Sandpit meeting, and there was no activity on site and only one vehicle.

Mr Speirs reported that Mr. Peter Clark was the contact for the Plumpton Players. There is a wedding faire on 1st April; organisers had contacted LDC Planning on Mr. Speirs advice regarding banners and advertising.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr. Taylor reported that it was hoped work would be done on the stage lighting etc in the future. The hall will become a no smoking area officially on 1st July. There were notices up. The storage cupboards had been built. The carpet had been removed from the committee room. The mat at the entrance had been taken away to see if it made any difference to the cleanliness in the entrance. Mr. Ramsay said there was a mat service available that would take away and clean and replace mats.

Mr. Taylor had received complaints that the hand dryers were insufficient; he had contacted the hirers but it was not thought a good idea to return to paper towels or get more powerful ones.

Mrs. Akers had issued an official notice to a resident of West Gate who parks their car in the village hall car park on a regular basis.

- 6. FINANCE:** The balances at the end of February were: Admin £5348.73, Village Hall, £12,563.22, Playing Field £11,738.22. A cheque for £38 had been received from the Allianz Cornhill for an insurance claim for hall doors. The accounts will not be balanced for APM as the final bank statement would not have arrived by then, but the accounts to date would be presented.
Letter from LDC Finance; the Band D equivalent number of properties was 650.80. the precept of £24,845 would be paid in two instalments in April and September.
- 7. PLAYING FIELD:** The ROSPA check would take place in June/July.
Mr. Speirs said that the fence in the skateboard area had been replaced. He was obtaining a price for the resurfacing and possibly extending the car park.
Clerk would contact the VMT regarding the hedge at the playing field which had been requested as a job for the VMT.
- 8. PLANNING:** The following planning applications were granted:
LW/07/0040 The Old Dairy, Station Road, Plumpton. Conversion of outbuilding to form an ancillary residential unit.
LW/06/1559 Southern Stables, Ashurst Lane, Plumpton. Single storey extension to existing outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation for the main house (resubmission of LW/06/0978).
LW/07/0048 Old Gurrs Farm, Beresford Lane, Plumpton. Erection of a single storey timber framed orangery.
LW/06/1558 Longdown, Station Road, Plumpton. Erection of first floor rear/side extension including two dormer windows.
LW/06/1490 Plumpton Agricultural College. Erection of a new animal care centre including alterations and additions for former winery building (demolition of existing animal care unit).
Mrs. Watson said there would be a planning meeting on 31st May, 2007 at 9 am at the village hall.
- 9. VILLAGE CARE:** Nothing to Report
- 10. FOOTPATHS:** Nothing to Report.
- 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Nothing to Report
- 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mrs. Angel reported that she had received a report that three cars had been vandalised; documents were taken out of one car and bathroom fittings from another. The following week a stolen car was dumped in the Old School Cottages car park. Last weekend twenty bottled gas cylinders had been stolen from outside the shop.
Mrs. Angel reported that Mr and Mrs Young had free personal alarms for residents.
- 13. TREE WARDEN:** Nothing to Report
- 14. VILLAGE ACTION PLAN:** Nothing to Report

15. REPORT OF CLERK: Clerk presented to the Council: Three Counties Training, Sussex Heritage Trust Awards 2007, Consultation regarding transportation to Schools ESCC, Action in Rural Sussex New East Sussex Village of the Year 2007, Partial Review of the South East Plan revised Apportionment of Primary Land won aggregates, Chartserve Affordable Housing Self Build Community Land Trusts, Clerks and Councils Direct, LCR March 2007, Action in Rural Sussex Village Shops and Post Officer Survey, Playback 12, East Chiltington PC Minutes 8th January, 2007, Your County, Countrywide Grounds Maintenance, regional Housing Strategy Review Draft for Consultation February 2007.
Minutes of Village Action Plan.

CHAIRMAN