



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 18TH MARCH, 2008 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE
ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor Chairman
Mrs B Watson
Mr. T Thompsett
Mrs. K. Wride
Mrs. C Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mrs C Nicholson
Mrs S Akers

I Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES: Mr K Speirs

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting on 19th February, 2008 were signed as a true record. The Minutes of Planning Meetings on 23rd February, 2008 and 8th March, 2008 were signed as true records.

3. MATTERS ARISING: **Dog Bins** – LDC have admitted an error in accounting and have charged the PC for dog bin emptying at an area where there is only a litter bin. The money will be reimbursed to the PC at the end of March.

Election Costs – LDC had contacted the Clerk to say that the estimate for the next election are likely to be in the region of £2,800-£3000.

Half Moon Junction - Councillors met the Safety Officer and Mr Johnson ESCC who said Highways would put slow signs on the road, and were looking to design a map type sign for placement in advance of the junction for westbound traffic. It was not known when this sign would be erected. There is no signpost to say where to go at the junction; Clerk to ask if a sign could be put just before the bend from Lewes to Ditchling indicating right to Plumpton. Clerk to let Mr Lambert at the College know about current issues regarding this junction. Clerk to also chase up the replacement of the 20 mph sign.

Clerk was asked to contact Dr Ashby to see if there was any news on the PRH.

Tree Inspection - Clerk had been informed by the insurance company that a tree survey has to take place every three years on trees on parish council land. Clerk had enquired and the Tree Officer LDC will do this for £24 an hour. Clerk had obtained a plan of the Bevernside. This area was difficult to identify trees that were actually on PC land so it was thought that Mr Taylor or Mr Speirs should attend the inspection to identify which trees lay within the boundary of the Bevernside. Trees at the Village Hall and Playing Field would also be surveyed.

Fencing at Skatepark - Mrs Eastwood had reported to the Clerk that the fencing was badly damaged after adverse weather, and vandalism. Mr Taylor did a risk assessment immediately; three posts were cracked and two sections broken – Mr Taylor broke one post off, put the damaged fence out of sight and put a rope round the affected area. It was not thought necessary to close the skatepark. Mrs Eastwood had met Mr Westage for an estimate to re-fence the affected area.

The quotation was to replace end posts and use a v mesh panel system fencing which Mr Westgate thought would be superior, long lasting and vandal proof, and better than chain link fencing. The quotation for the whole end section was £944 plus VAT. It was proposed by Mr Taylor, and seconded by Mrs Eastwood; all the Council were in agreement. Mrs Eastwood was to ask Mr Westgate to do the work when he said he was available in April.

Clerk read out temporary road closure C110 Station Road from the southern boundary of Station Road from Winkfield for a distance of approximately 40 metres northward; this is to carry out repairs to a defective drainage pipe. Clerk to ask Mr Stone to publicise this in the press.

Mrs Nicholson had filled in the New East Sussex Village of the Year 2008; there was more to do and when it was completed, she would give it to the Clerk to send off. Clerk to mention that PC had entered the competition in the parish magazine article.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Ms Soloman of ESCC ROW had contacted Mrs Nicholson. She said there was little point in meeting because of certain factors:

- a) they were going through several departmental changes.
- b) whilst they have launched the ROW implementation plan they have not worked out how they are going to implement it and what input they wanted from Parish Councils.
- c) they were working on a booklet over the next few months setting out how they intend to work with PCS. Once this was published they would be in a better position to meet the PC. Clerk to remind Mrs Nicholson to chase this up in the summer.

New finger post on the sign at Beresford Lane – This had now been done. ESCC will pay half the cost of the £50 charge.

Vandalism at Skatepark - Mrs Eastwood and Mrs Wride had cleaned off the graffiti at the skatepark. Anti graffiti paint had been purchased; Mr Thompsett said he would paint this area with the new paint.

Street Lighting Plumpton Green Garage – Clerk had heard from Mr Bristow (Gramm) that he had looked at Planning Condition No 16 which mentions details of street lighting to be provided by the planning authority; he knew there were no street lights in Plumpton so said he would ask LDC planning and keep the PC informed.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs Watson reported that commuters were parking in the Bevernside Car park. It was not thought a good idea to have a padlock and chain to stop this. Clerk to order a sign to be erected there 'Parking for Residents at Riddens and School users only. The posts opposite the Winning Post are not the solid type, and are not adequate for the job. Clerk to ask Highways to replace them with solid wooden posts.

The WI will not be putting a seat round the oak tree on the green, it is hoped a horseshoe shaped seat would be put on the green.

The Millenium Fund had donated £200 towards the Ecobags.

Cassie Galpin, a local Guide had been given £100 towards a Guide trip to Iceland.

There are potholes outside Little Dwelling; Clerk to report this to Highways.

Mrs Eastwood asked if Clerk had heard from PSCO about putting notices on cars parked dangerously in Station Road. Clerk had not received a reply, so would chase this up.

Mrs Wride had prepared a submission in response to the Lewes District Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011. All Councillors were asked to read this at the meeting; all agreed that this should go forward.

Mrs Wride said signs at been put up at the playing field car park indicating a space for Honeybees. One person had parked in the wrong place, but otherwise this was helping the situation.

Sandpit – Mrs Nicholson reported that the operator had expressed reluctance in holding liaison meetings and the ESCC representatives had not been forthcoming with their help in establishing the meetings or reporting on any site inspections. A meeting had taken place with Mr Hawthorne, as District Councillor, who had sent a letter on behalf of the local Residents Sandpit Committee to Mr Baker. There had been a lack of inspection by ESCC and the operator had not complied fully with the final pre commencement conditions with regard to the Conservation management Plan and the related after care scheme. There had been no liaison meetings recently. ESCC had, in response to Mr Baker, agreed to carry out an annual site inspection and had also agreed that at this time, did not feel that more regular inspections were currently required. Mrs Nicholson said that it was hoped that the conservation management plan would be submitted in final form shortly and that the operator might be persuaded to have a liaison meeting shortly. Anyone seeing lorries going to the Sandpit should get dates and times, and registration numbers of vehicles, if possible. Mrs Wride asked Mrs Nicholson that in the light of the letter from Mr Baker, that the Liaison Committee would be re-instated, and whether the committee would be the original elected members that would serve on it; Mrs Nicholson said that this was intended.

Action Plan – Mrs Wride reported that a presentation had taken place to most of the Parish Councillors. Mr Taylor had spoken to Mr Hawthorne who would talk about the plan in his report at the APM; Mr Taylor was concerned that if it was on the agenda, there would be many people attending and the small hall's capacity is only 70 people (for safety reasons); there is a regular booking for the large hall at the time, and as they have to accommodate the pantomime and players events, Mr Taylor said it was not fair to ask them to vacate the large hall on the evening of the APM. It was decided that a preliminary results display would be put in the committee room between 5pm and 7.30 pm prior to the APM. The Action Plan committee would put up posters advertising this, and the Clerk would contact Mr Stone to put this in the press, and parish magazine article if it came out before the APM.

Neighbourhood Watch Cold Calling – Mrs Angel said there had been a spate of cold calling recently in the village and it appeared that many of these people did not have licences. Mr and Mrs Young had 250 small cards printed by Vista Print free of charge with details of contacts if the above should occur. A further 250 had been ordered at a cost of £12.65. Mrs Angel had negotiated obtaining 400 door stickers from Trading Standards for no charge. It was thought these could be distributed with the parish magazine.

Parish Communications - Clerk had been asked to check certain issues with regard to publication of parish council minutes. She had contacted Mr Leggo at SALC who said that the correct procedures were in place and the minutes were able to be published before signing, on notice boards and the website, with a disclaimer saying that they were draft minutes and would not be ratified until the next parish council meeting. The same rule applied to the parish magazine article which is short extracts from the minutes. Agendas were now to be sent out in paper form, and not electronically, to all councillors.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

A spring clean had taken place and Mr Taylor had thanked all those who had helped. Mr Thompsett had obtained two quotations for the path at the back of the hall near the pond. These were for £400 and £600. This would be discussed at the Village Hall Committee meeting.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of February, 2008 were Admin £1244.94, Playing Field £3968.66 and Village Hall £7,605.84. Clerk explained for the benefit of new Councillors that March and April were very busy months as the VAT, tax return and account balancing took place.

Mr Greening, the internal auditor had been asked if he would like to attend a course available; he declined, as he felt the Admin account is a small account. Mr Speirs

prepares the playing field accounts, and Mr Satchell the Village Hall Accounts to be sent to the Charity Commissioners for audit, when these had been balanced by the Clerk. The Village Hall had been zero rated for Non Domestic Rates. The Clerk asked that it could be minuted that she is authorised to spend £250 in an emergency, and Mr Taylor authorised to spend £500. Incidents had occurred recently when trees etc had been damaged in bad weather and emergency action had needed to be taken. This was agreed by the Council. Allotment rents are to be increased to £20, £5 more than in previous years. Clerk was looking into insurance quotations to change companies. The present company had not out paid out on the recent claims. Clerk read out letter from LDC regarding Council Tax Base; Band D equivalent number of properties – 656.42, local precept for this band is 40.08. The precept of £26,312 would be paid in two instalments on 7th April and 8th September 2008.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Mrs Eastwood said that some tidying up at the playing field was necessary. She had obtained an estimate from Mr Westgate for £80 to remove two old goal posts, and two tin huts; Mr Speirs had agreed this. She also asked if a bin could be placed by the playgroup area; the wheelie bin had been stolen; LDC would not empty bins unless they were adjacent to the highway. Clerk to ask LDC for another litter bin. Mrs Nicholson said that there had been flytipping at the Ferrings; some items had been removed, but there was a fridge remaining. Clerk said LDC had a scheme to remove this, and Mrs Nicholson was to give the exact location and Clerk would enquire if it could be removed. Mrs Akers said that there were a lot of conifer clippings along Streat Ridge, Clerk to ask if these could be removed.

8. PLANNING:

The following planning application had been granted: LW/08/0042 Sunnyside Cottage, Plumpton Lane. Erection of a two storey side extension, alterations to existing single storey rear extension and two dormer windows to front elevation (existing garage to be demolished). A further letter had been received regarding planning application LW/08/0173 The Plough Inn.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

Mrs Wride reported that some of the kerb stones had been knocked off in Southdowns, and sets damaged near the Winning Post. There was water from a property looking to the left at the entrance to Southdowns; it may be from front gardens and due to the water level of the stream. Clerk to report these issues to Highways. Clerk to contact PC Vitler to ask if he could visit the village to operate the speed gun. Mrs Angel reported the puddle which occurs in wet weather outside 2 Old School Cottages. Clerk to report this to Highways.

HIGHWAYS:

Nothing further to report.

10. FOOTPATHS:

Mrs Akers reported that three blackthorns were laying on the top of trees at Percy's Patch and needed attention. She would contact Mr Symes.

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Mrs Watson reported that the new bus passes to be issued in April could be used throughout the UK.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Mrs Angel reported that the PCSO had sent her details of the vandalism at the skatepark. The fence enclosure was kicked down and obscene graffiti was sprayed over the ramps. This has resulted in the closure of the skatepark for several days. Mrs Wride reported she had found a red child's mountain bike in a hedge; she had reported this to the PCSO. Clerk to ask Mr Stone to put this in the parish pump and to ask anyone who may own it to contact Mr Young

13. TREE WARDEN:

Nothing to Report.

14. REPORT OF CLERK: Clerk presented to the Council: Patina request for funding (this will be looked at during the April meeting), PCT News Feb/March, District Link newsletter, Town and Parish Standard March 2008, Your County Newsletter, Cycling East Sussex booklet, NALC LCR March 2008, Retirement Villages brochure, Clerks and Councils March 2008, Enjoy England Celebrate St Georges Day, Sussex Heritage Trust Awards 2008, Glasdon seating collection, Furniture Now information, ESCC Review of Rural Speed Limits, REA sports and leisure facilities, Daytime closures of roads (Plumpton B2116 closed from junction with Plumpton Lane just west of the entrance to the College, four days from 2nd June, 2008. Alternative route is via Plumpton Lane Station |Road, South Road, Ste Helena Lane, Middleton Common Lane, Folders Lane East, Common Lane, North End, Lewes Road and vice versa.)
(B2116 Ditchling Road closed from junction with Plumpton Lane for a distance of 615 metres in an easterly direction, for four consecutive days from 27th May. Alternative route via Ditchling Road, A275 Resting Oak Hill, A275 South Road, Mill Lane, Honeypot Lane, South Road, Station Road, Plumpton Lane and vice versa.)
E mail from SALC regarding speed limits at Chiddingly, submission from Mr MacGillivray regarding Central Rail Corridor Board Lewes/Uckfield Rail Link Project, JAKK Country Furniture Designs, East Sussex Economic Partnership Conference 2008.

News from the School: Walking bus continues to be popular. First meeting of the Think Tank has taken place. Security at the school is being reviewed. School Council met to discuss how to spend £1000 restricted funds from the PPTFA. There was a celebration of Leaning Afternoon on 10th March. A film afternoon has taken place showing High School Musical 2. Staff members are currently busy planning and ordering resources in preparation for the Design Technology Focus Week straight after the holiday.

In response to parent questionnaires, the school have updated the school website with lots of information about the role of governors. A meeting will be set up for all parents and families on 1st of April with a representative of ESCC working for the improvement service of schools. Healthy School week begins on 31st March.

Clerk had received an e mail from Deborah Cook regarding Farmers Markets which she manages for Common Cause Co-operative which is a Lewes based not for profit organisation that works towards the sustainable production and consumption of food. She is contacting local villages to determine what opportunity there is to highlight the service, and asked if a poster could go up in Plumpton.

Clerk read out letter from Mr Flowers regarding speeding in Plumpton Green; he said he had witnessed many people breaking the speed limit, and this included C and S coaches; Clerk to acknowledge letter and to say they are taking measures to help with this, and to ask him to contact C and S coaches with his observations.

Mr St John reported that the road leading up to Plumpton Bostel was very uneven and the bottom of the area was a mudbath. This is used by the College. Clerk to contact Mr Lambert.

He reported that the 'in' entrance off Plumpton Lane at the Half Moon through to the car park at the rear will be blocked off and the 'out' exit on to the B2116 would be the only entrance; the new owner felt this was safer for families as the pub and the garden/field would not be cut in half making it safer for children; the new owner is also not admitting those under 21. There are refurbishments taking place.

Mr St John reported the B2116 closure during the May half term and resurface in July. There had been some fly tipping of silage by the College but this had been taken away.

Mr St John had noticed several young people from the College speeding and not wearing seat belts; Clerk to report this to Mr Lambert.

Mr St John asked if the parish magazine article could be put on the website. Clerk would ask Mr Stone and Mr Green.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 15th APRIL, 2008.

CHAIRMAN