



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH MARCH, 2009 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 Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mrs C Nicholson
Mr T Thompsett
Mrs K Wride

APOLOGIES: Mrs Akers

Mr Taylor asked everyone to stand for a few minutes in tribute to Mrs Foye Ridley who had died and had been a Parish Councillor for many years. Mr Taylor had asked the Clerk to write to Mrs Ridley's family on behalf of the Council and the letter was read out. Councillors thought that they would like a memorial token for Mr Moorhouse and Mrs Ridley, and suggestions were put forward of a tree planting or a bench; there was a bench in memory of Mr Ridley on the Ridge, so Mrs Ridley's memorial could be incorporated in this. Mrs Watson said Mrs Ridley had planted a tree on the green in the past. There would be further discussions on this at the next parish council meeting.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting on 17th February, 2009 were signed as a true record with the following inclusions which Mrs Nicholson requested: Under Environment: Mrs Nicholson presented a proposal for noting by the PC put forward by the VAP Plumpton Goes Green Team for the production of an information resource to help Plumpton residents make decisions about reducing their carbon footprint. The team decided that it should ideally be ready in time for the Green Fair proposed for the 7th March. The information will be presented in leaflet form and on the VAP website. Mrs Nicholson presented a proposal for noting by the PC put forward by the VAP Wildlife Team for the launch of a new Society to be called Plumpton Wildlife and Habitat Group. The Society would be launched at the Green Fair. VAP was also supporting the final production of the digitised map prepared by the Plumpton Habitat Survey. Delete: last three sentences under VAP – any items not covered elsewhere. Page 3: under miscellaneous: 'after Mr Speirs' – remove 'contractors' and delete 'layby near the school' and substituted 'station area'.

MATTERS ARISING: Minutes of the VAP Sub Committee meeting Appendix to Sub 09/003 03.02.09 had been circulated to Councillors.

Buses: The Saturday and Sunday timetables had not been put up.

ACTION: Clerk to chase this up.

Dog Fouling: A resident had reported that there had been increased dog fouling in the twitten near the Village Hall. This had been reported to LDC Dog Warden, who was to visit the area. Mrs Akers had put up a temporary sign in the twitten and LDC had sent official signs which would be erected in suitable areas in the village.

Mrs Nicholson said it had been reported to her at the Green Fair that there was a lot of mud near the pond on the green and also dog fouling.

ACTION: Clerk to ask residents in Parish Magazine article to remove dog mess themselves or use the bins provided.

Station Adoption: Clerk had been sent details of this which encouraged ways in which to smarten up stations as a vitally important part of the community. It was directed mostly to those stations that are not manned, and Plumpton is not one of these, and is well looked after. It was thought that a few tubs could be planted with flowers to enhance the station, though it would mean they would have to be looked after by the PC.

ACTION: Clerk to mention in magazine article to see if anyone would be interested in organising the tubs.

Additional parking for the Station: PC had contacted Network Rail and Southern to ascertain if they would be able to provide extra parking space for commuters. A possible site had been identified, and Network Rail, whose land it is on, was asking their Enhancement Manager to look at the site.

It was thought that they would charge for parking, which could mean that commuters would park elsewhere in the village rather than pay the charges. The PC had concerns about charging for parking, and there were resident's concerns whom live near the possible site.

Parking: Mr Speirs reported that an LDC refuse vehicle could not get down Barnfield to collect refuse as there were cars blocking the way. It was felt that LDC should report this problem.

Trees: - Clerk had written to the residents of properties who could have been affected by recent tree work near the village green. One resident had contacted the clerk to say that there were brambles at her rear entrance that needed clearing. Mr Taylor said these had been cleared.

The remaining work on the oak tree on the green had been done. Mr Taylor said the fir trees would need attention in the future.

Fly Tipping: Mid Sussex Times had reported to the Clerk that a substantial amount of items had been dumped near the Ferrings on the bridleway. Clerk immediately reported this to LDC and it had been cleared straight away. LDC would be looking into this matter further.

Mr Speirs said that he thought a letter should be sent to Mr Stratton LDC thanking him for his prompt response in dealing with this matter.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Stratton.

Walk Round Plumpton College – planning: Clerk to contact Mr Lambert's Secretary to suggest the 20th or 27th April, 2009 for this.

Half Moon Junction: Letter from Mr Lambert asking for support from the PC to have signs at this junction as a serious accident had taken place recently. Clerk had also contacted Mr Johnson ESCC and County Councillor Mrs Stroude about this

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Lambert saying PC does support the need for signage at this junction, and also Mr Johnson ESCC.

Old Garage Site: - It was understood that properties on this site were now in the hands of two local estate agents. It was hoped that when the first house was sold that the S106 funding would be forthcoming.

Skateboard Park: Mr Speirs had been contacted by LDC and asked to attend a meeting on 16th March, 2009 regarding complaints of noise from the skateboard park from residents who live nearby. Two residents, two Police Officers, Mr Taylor, Mr Speirs and Mr Hawthorne attended. Residents put forward their point of view and there was an element of noise coming from the skateboard equipment, but it was not bad and no-one had complained before.

ACTION: PC to look into availability of material and cost to deaden the noise.

Action had been taken at the park near Tescos in Lewes to reduce noise and Mr Speirs had spoken to Mr Frost about this.

Mr Taylor said the options were to put foam to deaden the noise, move it or close it, and it was hoped something could be done.

Highway matters: A list of potholes and items requiring attention on the highways had been sent to Mr Brooke; some of these had already been done.

Verge 41 East View Fields – this has been filled in and repaired, but it was feared it would not last long.

Strengthening Local Relationships: Quarterly meetings are held for local Parish Councils to discuss highway matters, with representatives of Highways and County Councillor Mrs Stroude present, and it was thought PPC could benefit from this. Mrs Wride suggested that Plumpton arranges to have these informal meetings. It was agreed that this would be done.

Clerk to contact Highways about the following:

Reinstating of verges around Southdowns. (it had been noted that a car was regularly parked here outside a property and was damaging the verge).

ACTION: Clerk to write to resident.

Suggestions were made to grass crete this area; Mrs Wride though this would urbanise the village.

Reinstate two setts in front of 4 East View Fields.

Ask Highways to liaise with Gramm to reinstate verge opposite Smithy's Close.

Village Maintenance Teams: Forms had been sent. Areas earmarked by PC for attention:

White Bridge to Racecourse – repair verges with soil.

From the Racecourse down to Rylands – repair verges.

Weed and clear twitten between East View Fields and Railway bridge.

South of Warren House – attention to verge.

ESCC asked if Council would be prepared to work with Sussex Probation Service who have offered services of a supervised team undergoing Unpaid Work Orders, and could carry out more extensive works. These teams can not be used near live traffic and require toilet and washing facilities.

PC thought it would not be possible to provide toilet facilities as PC properties were always locked when not in use.

Salt Bin East View Fields – The bin has been moved and all bins have been filled up.

Land Adjoining The Old Brickworks - Clerk had not heard from Mr Baker MP about this, but it appeared that LDC Planning were reluctant to have a meeting to discuss this.

Water Charges - Nothing had been heard from Mr Baker MP. Clerk to chase this up.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mrs Watson mentioned the discussions about transport to doctor's surgeries. Newick have 45 volunteer car drivers for this, but it was thought they may not get enough for Plumpton to run such a scheme.

Mrs. Watson had contacted the Bank regarding the Travers Trust of which Mrs Ridley was a Trustee. She had informed them of the change of Trustee and signatory forms would be sent. Mrs Angel had agreed to be the new Trustee.

Mrs Nicholson thanked everyone who came to the Green Fair and that it had been a success.

Mrs Eastwood said she had received positive feedback from young people about the basketball area that was to be erected at the Playing Field, and also the bulbs that had been planted in the village.

Mr Taylor asked the Clerk to prepare a list of items which had increased the PC's precept for the forthcoming year.

Mr Taylor said he would ask Mrs Wride to speak about the VOS initiative during this report.

Clerk was asked to advertise the APM and try to have larger posters so that there were larger visible signs advertising the meeting.

SANDPIT - Mrs Nicholson reported that SOCS had reported heavy siltration from the Ferrings and this had been reported to the EA. They had logged this wrongly and could not find a trace of the complaint. The recent rain had controlled the situation.

Mrs Wride said that she had noticed a Dudman lorry driving very fast down St Helena Lane; she had gone to the Dudman Office and asked if the driver could be asked to slow down and they were helpful; she left a VOS leaflet.

The SOCS AGM would be on 22nd April, 2009 at Plumpton Village Hall at 7pm.

VOLUNTARY SLOW DOWN SCHEME – Mrs Wride reported that the present campaign was going into Mid Sussex and that ESCC had presented it to Uckfield. The website, sticker and leaflet had been redesigned and the intention was to spread the scheme throughout Sussex. 1000 people had signed and 8 villages were now involved.

Finance would potentially come from Crime Reduction Partnership and Safer Roads and Councils which have signed up are giving small amounts of funding.

No bank account has been set up yet, and Mrs Wride asked if the Parish Council admin account could be used temporarily until a VOS bank account was set up. This was agreed.

Mr Speirs said there had been a large vehicle coming down North Barns Lane which had blocked the lane, and the driver said he had been sent there by his satnav.

Mrs Wride said she would see if bridleways could be taken off satnav, but it was thought this could be difficult.

Village Directory - Clerk had been sent an e mail by Mr Green who had been contacted by Mrs Akers regarding the intention of the VAP communication team to produce a booklet for the village to include residents who are new to the village, or those who do not have internet access to the website and the information it gives. This would contain details such as clubs and societies, bin collection days, useful telephone numbers etc. Mr Thompsett said it would be cheaper to put it in the parish magazine than the cost of producing a booklet.

There had been a village directory many years ago which the Clerk had updated regularly and this was given to newcomers and copies were in the two shops at the time.

The VAP would look into the production of a village directory.

CLERK'S APPRAISAL: Clerk had filled in Appraiser's section of her annual appraisal and had discussed the Appraiser's section with Mr Taylor, Mr Speirs and Mrs Watson. Their comments were read to the Council and the Clerk read out her comments, and objectives for the following year.

Councillors made no further comments on the contents.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of February, 2009 were: Village Hall £4222.04, Playing Field £16,443.42 and Admin £1325.54.

Council Tax Base was Band D 654.67 for 2009/2010.

The VAT return had been completed, and would be sent off. The end of year tax return was in progress.

Waste transfer note had been returned to LDC Waste and Recycling. Charges have increased from 1st April, 2009 for commercial premises.

ACTION: Clerk to check if charges would be imposed in view of the fact that both PC properties are zero rated for business rates.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A simplified bus timetable had been made up by the VAP. Mrs Watson said it needed a small amendment: the 824 bus runs in the afternoon to Plumpton.

London Bridge Trains: the Brighton train has been re-instated. There had been no information about the meeting with Mr Baker MP. It was thought there would be changes before the summer timetable was published.

ENVIRONMENT

A lot of items have to be taken to the tip after each jumble sale, instead of recycling these items, as they do not get taken to the next sale, except books which do get taken to subsequent sales. The VAP would look at the best way to recycle unsold items. It was thought that an unofficial boot fair had taken place at the racecourse on 15th March, as very few people had attended it. PC to keep a note of whether this was counted in on the allowance of 14 per annum.

HIGHWAYS

Clerk had received e mail from ESCC with information about salt bin supplies and different types of repairs to potholes in the light of the recent bad weather.

PLANNING:
HOUSING

Nothing to report.

POLICING AND
NWATCH

The PC had been informed about a Local Neighbourhood Panel meeting to be held at the Pavilion at 7pm on Monday 6th April, 2009; this had been initiated by the Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership. PC wondered who would attend this meeting, and whether the Crime Reduction Partnership should clarify their remit for this panel. PCSO's should be encouraged to go back to their Superintendent if not many people attend this meeting.

PCSO Whittaker Jones had attended the Green Fair, and had played an active role. Money had been stolen from the WI stand at the Farmers Market in Lewes. The offender had been caught and the money recovered.

Mrs Wride had learned at the RVRC meeting that PC Ross would be replacing PC Vitler carrying out speed checks with the speed gun in the village.

Mrs Nicholson requested that it was minuted that Jill Medhurst had put in a huge effort to the VAP team, with regard to the transport to the doctor's surgeries. Bus and car schemes are available and people are encouraged to use them, and a scheme to publicise them was being looked into. Plumpton, Ditchling and Burgess Hill had looked into these scheme which would need between 7-11 people to make them happen, and there would be a cost.

Thee had been more graffiti at the skatepark; Mrs Wride had covered up some which could be seen as offensive.

VILLAGE HALL:

The Village Hall had been given zero status for non domestic rates for the forthcoming year.

The noticeboard on the village green is very difficult to read, and it had been suggested that toughened glass was put in to replace the Perspex there at the moment.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Gamble to quote for installing glass.

Mr Taylor had filled in a form for AIRS regarding ACRE National Community Building Survey for village halls. This had been a complicated and long form.

Mr Taylor reported that some lights needed replacing, and there were electrical jobs to be done. He would install a wall heater in the committee room. Another light was to be installed at the front door. The lights in the small hall and corridors would be changed as the covers can come off. The gutters have been cleared out and repaired.

PLAYING FIELD:

Mr Speirs reported that there is a drainage problem under the football pitch and this area had been fenced off. It will continue to be used for the rest of the season. The Racecourse representative would be looking at this, and gravel banding may solve it. Mr Speirs said he would get three local contractors to quote for resurfacing the car park.

Mr Thompsett had written to LDC about potential planning permission required for the basketball area and requirements for drainage for the car park. Planning permission would be required for tarmac but not grass crete. It was thought that the entrance may have to be altered if more cars were going through it, and Highways would have to be contacted, though it was felt that the entrance was wide enough. Approximately £700 had been raised at the Jumble Sale. Mrs Eastwood wanted to thank the ladies who helped at the Jumble Sale.

A dialogue took place regarding the VAP facilities team looking into grant funding for the pavilion and play area as a result of the questionnaire. Councillors on the Playing Field Committee were concerned when a member of the VAP team had come to the Pavilion to measure up and had not given prior warning of this.

The VAP felt that their remit was to look at play parks and go back to the facilities committee, and then the steering committee before telling the PC of their findings. Members of the playing field committee felt that this was duplication of their role, and that they had sourced potential funding, which they hoped to pursue in the future.

VAP – any items not
covered elsewhere

It was reported that the Action Plan minutes had not been updated on the website since November; it was thought that these were to be updated.

REPORT OF CLERK

Clerk presented to the Council: Crypt Gallery Seaford programme, SMP booklet, Applause Programme, Furniture Now leaflet, Town and Parish Standard Feb 2009, District Link, Sussex Heritage Trust Awards 2009, RVRC Minutes November 2008, Glasdon catalogue, letter Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre, The Clerk March 2009, LDC Conservation Area Advisory Committee, East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Newsletter Feb 2009, Clerks and Councils Direct March 2009, NALC LCR Journal March 2009, invitation to SOCS AGM on April 22nd, 2009, leaflet on Bird Scarers.

The two PCSO's would be attending the APM, also PC Vitler. It is understood that he has taken over from Sgt McDonald as being the Police Officer responsible for Plumpton. Clerk suggested that she submitted an article to the Clerk's and Council Direct magazine with tributes to Mr Moorhouse and Mrs Ridley and that the Chairman and Clerk had completed over 50 years service between them on Plumpton PC.

Meetings: Transport Seminar on 24th March, 2009 at Uckfield Civic Centre.
East Sussex Rural Forum 21st April, 2009 at Uckfield Civic Centre.
South Downs Council for Voluntary Service on 24th March, 2009 Council Chamber, Lewes Town Hall.
SLCC Courses: 9th April, 2009 Common Land, Village Greens, Rights of Way and Open Spaces at Branksome Place, Haselmere. The Clerk thought that there may be a similar meeting in Sussex at some stage.

Mrs Nicholson gave the Clerk a list of County Council changes to contact details.

School News: WPC Ross had visited the school to talk about Stranger Danger. After school clubs would finish the week ending 13th March, except the Brighton and Hove Football Club which will run for two more weeks. The PPTFA are requesting that any old mobile phones are sent to the school to raise funds; Foneclub will pay £2.50 for each handset.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 21st APRIL 2009.

CHAIRMAN