



MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 9TH MARCH, 2010 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor Chairman (RT)
Mrs B Watson Vice Chairman (BW)
Mrs. C Eastwood (CE)
Mrs K Wride (KW)
Mr R Stone (RS)
Mr T Thompsett (TT)

Mrs D Hall
Mr O St John
Mr P Nicholson

APOLOGIES: Mrs S Akers, Mrs S Angel, Mr S Green

MINUTES: The minutes of a meeting on 9th February, 2010 were signed as a true record.

Meeting on 15th February, 2010, following issues were discussed and are formally ratified at meeting on 9th March, 2010.

LW/10/0095 Old Chimneys, Beresford Lane. Erection of front extension and alterations to form annexe for Mr and Mrs Goodmead. PC approved this application.

The wording of a response was agreed to send to Mr St John in reply to his letter regarding the RST.

A vote was taken on providing all households with a copy of the Business Plan. Six Councillors were in favour, and three were against. It was decided to deliver copies to all households.

MATTERS ARISING: Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: Comments were invited from these.

Dual Purpose Bins - This is now under further discussion with LDC with a specific meeting arranged.

Pit Stop - LDC Planning decided not to go to Cabinet about this but to pursue the owner.

Accident Report Forms: Clerk had contacted Sgt Theelke who said he was prepared to give the forms a try until the APM, when he would be present and report whether they were being used.

National Park Poll - J Carr of Willingdon and JEvington and N Harrison of Southease Parish Meeting were elected.

Incentives for Landowners: PC's comments were sent off.

Deaf Outreach Bus- This bus was in the Village Hall car park recently and was very successful and thanks were conveyed to the PC. It will be coming again on 15th July, 2010.

VMT - PC's requests for items of highway maintenance to be done under this scheme had been sent off.

Winter Maintenance Policy - PC's comments were sent to Highways. It appeared that Highways had included many of the issues mentioned by Plumpton PC and other local Councils on the agenda for discussion.

ESussex Waste and Minerals Policy: PC had sent in a response regarding potential landraise sites in the area, and the response had been confirmed. Mr Nicholson thanked the PC for their input on this very important issue. Clerk read out further information on the proposed landraise site at Newick from the Chailey Parish Magazine.

Footpaths - At the SLR meeting RT requested more details on the 'Access for all scheme' from ROW; this had not been forthcoming. SAA had walked the proposed path with a member of the VAP footpath team.

Trees on Bevernside Land: A request had been received from a resident in the Riddens to have an ash tree felled as it was thought to be dangerous, particularly in high winds. Clerk had ascertained this tree was on PC land.
ACTION: Clerk had reported this to RT who had contacted Mr C Symes and the tree would be felled.

Rubbish in Riddens: RT had cleared most of this.

Telephone Box at Plough: This was still not working inspite of PC reporting it faulty over two years ago. Clerk had seen a motorist who needed help trying to use it recently without success.
ACTION: Clerk had contacted BT and reported it again.

Insurance – RT had asked Clerk to enquire form insurers about the VAP's request to possibly add a Community Based Plan onto the Council's existing Emergency Plan; this would be a plan to help during times of adverse weather, clearing areas of snow and using 4 x 4's to help out stranded people. The Insurers have advised against the plan being added to the EP, as it would not be Council lead, would not be included in the Council's insurance, and it would not only be Councillor's that would be taking part in activities such as driving 4 x 4's or clearing snow. They have suggested the VAP get independent cover for the proposed plan.

Network Rail – Clerk sent CD with results of traffic census taken at station. Response from Mr Pickard NR to questions raised at PC meeting on 9th February, 2010. Summary of responses:
Clear view of crossing from racecourse: Vehicle activated signs could be installed; position of bus stop could be a problem – issues will be discussed with PC and DC.
Risk from children's play ground - very little difference in risk assessments between a gated crossing and locally operated manually controlled barrier crossing.
Trespass guards – not required for Plumpton at present but would be fitted for a barrier crossing.
Sussex RUS – reason the proposed barrier crossing was not included under this strategy as it would only make reference to any level crossing renewal/upgrade if works were part of any enhancement that would result in improvements to train services, such as higher line speeds or improved headways.
Signal Box – controlled from Three Bridges Signal box. Not be practicable to control from Lewes, and there are no current plans to change this.
Use of infra-red cameras – not standard or approved for MCB-CCTV crossings.
Consultation Period - two months period when all interested parties may make representation. No requirement to consult outside consultation period but good practice that NR consult with PC.

Listed Building Consent – Works on operational railway are undertaken under permitted development. As signal box is listed, anything within the cartilage will require listed building consent, which includes the gates. NR in touch with LDC Planning; proposal to remove to alter gates would require listed building consent.

During the meeting further discussion took place:

ACTION: Clerk to contact LDC planning to see if gates are to be listed in their own right through English Heritage. Clerk asked to tell Mr Butler NR that the presentation they intend to have for the APM would be first on the agenda.

Race Days – NR understand that use on these days will be increased and signallers will be instructed to do their utmost to keep traffic moving as freely as possible.

Power Cuts - EDF contacted Clerk on 11th February, listing all the cuts in the area from June until 11th January, and stating that they install bird diverters and anti fauna devices and tree trimming to try to alleviate problems of transient power cuts. Their equipment is checked regularly and voltage lines are checked by helicopter and on foot.

RT instructed Clerk to write again to EDF, and copy to CEO EDF, Mr Baker, MP and Mr Hawthorne, and request that a representative attend a PC meeting to answer the public's questions.

Clerk received telephone call from head office at Ipswich, the day after her letter had arrived, saying that Mrs Preece who is based at Crawley would respond to PC and come to a meeting to answer questions.

She contacted Clerk but was not available to come until the May PC meeting. Clerk said it was important that PC had answers for the public before then, particularly as the APM was on the 20th April; she said she could not attend before.

A statement was received from Mrs Preece apologising for the inconvenience caused to residents, and that the long and short power cuts were due to a fault on overhead line network which has now been located and resolved. There was a very small hole in a piece of equipment (disc insulator) which resulted in rain ingress and subsequently caused power cuts. At the same time, a tree was removed, which is high winds would have caused some momentary interruptions. A fact sheet about compensation was attached to this statement.

This was placed on the website and reported in the press and parish magazine.

Mr Baker MP and Mr Hawthorne had both written to EDF, and Mr Baker MP had put out a statement.

During the meeting RT said that transient power cuts were sometimes caused by birds on the wires, and this could cause flickering of lights. It was felt that EDF should be asked to attend a meeting before the APM or to put out a more detailed statement about the situation and to reassure residents that the fault had been addressed.

ACTION: Clerk to tell Mr Baker MP and Mr Hawthorne about this to see if they agreed that EDF should be pursued to attend a meeting or put out a further statement.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

KW – Heard that 1 Southdowns was to be let by LDC and because it had a large garden, mention had been made by LDC of possibly considering this space as a car park.

ACTION: Clerk to write to LDC Housing Officer, cc Mr Hawthorne to enquire whether this is to be considered.

Saturday Meetings – It was decided to hold one on 9th October, 2010 at 9.30 am and sometime during March 2011 (date to be decided).

AGENDA ITEMS

SANDPIT SANDPIT - Mr Nicholson's report was read out. Some traffic through the village but not aware that this was a particular problem. Recent heavy rain did cause the lakes to rise and some outflow but, due to the limited working recently, this does not seem to have caused any unwelcome runoff. Volumes going out from the site have improved a little, but are still at a depressed level; the construction industry remains in the doldrums.

The return of the plovers for another successful year was anticipated.

VALE OF SUSSEX: NTR

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of February, 2010 were Admin £3971.93, Village Hall £5,254.30, Playing Field £10,958.53. Clerk had prepared VAT claim.

Clerk had reviewed Insurance Policy. Bus Stop at Plough had a value of £277 which was not thought to be enough. Clerk enquired what value was to be put on new hard basketball court; insurance company had recommended insuring it for malicious damage only, instead of all risks.

ACTION: Clerk to increase cover for bus shelter to £2000, and to put hard surface on cover for £5,000 for malicious damage only.

Letter from LDC Finance confirming precept set at £36,121.00 to be received in equal halves on 9th April, and 3rd December, 2010. Band D equivalent number of properties 661.30.

Clerk asked to submit form to SALC for approval to apply for PWLB loan for refurbishment work at the village hall.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

KW reported that Mr Baker MP would not be lobby for more trains from London Bridge to Plumpton from 7.30 am to 6pm as there were was more interest in larger places such as Lewes.

Southern – there are more carriages on earlier trains on the Victoria line, London Bridge trains do not benefit from this.

HIGHWAYS:

SAA sent a report that there were several potholes near Little Wales Cottage and outside Little Dwelling on Station Road.

ACTION: Clerk would report this to Highways.

As a result of the SLR meeting and a mention in the Parish Magazine, one resident had enquired to have white lines across the entrance to their property. Clerk had given details of who to contact.

BW said that there were still signs and rubbish on a newly tarmac area outside Smithy's Close where they had been doing work, which was now complete.

ACTION: Clerk to ask SE Water/Southern Water to clear area.

KW reported that the PCSO had been twice to the village with the speed gun and had clocked two people going over 40 mph. PCSO is coming as often as he can, and will give statistics when available.

KW asked if the VAP were formally asking for radar boxes.

Mr St John said that the funding was available and the VAP would officially approach the PC and asked for dates for a meeting to include the Police, Highways and PC to discuss the best positions, and to confirm what PC are doing and VAP are doing.

RT said there were options as to what to do as regards any traffic calming, this would depend on the cost of the options and what people wanted.

The boxes would be used for one week with 24 hours coverage, and it was hoped to include a Monday Race Day.

RT had noted vehicles reversing into East View Fields. Clerk had been advised of a large rut in the verge there, and the vehicle number and details had been sent to Highways, and a repair requested.

ENVIRONMENT

SAA enquired whether grass verge at bottom of East View Fields which had been heavily churned up by a vehicle had been reported. Clerk had reported this to Highways.

SAA was obtaining a key for the padlock to the car park at the allotments.

FOOTPATHS

SAA sent a report. Footpath 13a East View Fields; SAA requested meeting with ROW to find out what is to be done to repair the footpath.

Footpath 5b (East Chiltington) – very low trees over path, just before bridge over stream.

Footpath 36 Plumpton Wood – step of stile broken.

ACTION: Clerk to report these to ROW.

PLANNING AND HOUSING

The following applications had been approved:

LW/09/1306 Railway Cottage, Station Road. Erection of two storey side and rear extension with flat roof.

LW/10/0003 Greensand House, Plumpton Lane. Erection of a first floor side extension, single storey rear extension, porch at front and attached garage/store at front.

The following applications were discussed.

LW/10/0120 Plumpton Green Studios, St Helena Lane. Removal of existing fire damaged roof covering and replacement with new roof finish for Mr Overton-Hart. PC approved this application.

LW/10/0210 Sunnyside, Station Road. Erection of a detached two bay oak framed garage for Mr J Poulton. PC approved this application.

LW/10/0072 5 Westcroft, Plumpton Lane. Erection of ground floor side extension and enclosure of existing porch for Mr W Meyer

A site visit had taken place: BW, KW, SA and Mrs Hall Tree Warden had attended. PC recommended refusal of this application for the following reasons:

The porch is not in keeping with the building and its construction would be out of symmetry.

PC believed a pitched roof on the side extension would look much better than a flat roof. A pitched roof would be more in line with other properties on the site.

PC has concerns about a tree from adjoining property Fallbrook. A site visit took place and it was felt that an oak tree that has a TPO on it, could be affected as there is evidence of tree surgery on this tree, and an exposed root visible in the raised garden; this is considered to be the greatest threat to the future of the tree. Furthermore, the building of the proposed extension could mean that the soil holding much of the tree root system may be disturbed if not removed completely. It would appear that the land has been levelled to build the houses, and the raised garden on the south side has to be retained with a 2m boundary fence on top of that, with the oak tree behind it. The fence is to remain which implies that it will either be lowered to ground level or a strong retained wall will be erected beneath the fence to replace the soil of the raised bed. It is understood that LDC Tree Officer Mr Wynn had inspected the site as a result of the PC's concerns.

BW and TT had attended planning training organised by Hamsey PC. Items discussed were the parish boundary which could be extended and redrawn.

Councillors were advised when attending site visits and making comments on applications they could not respond to items such as the colour of the door, and have to be much more specific in their comments.

Also mentioned was that if LDC said they would not proceed with appeals using lack of funding as an excuse, this would not be acceptable.

POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SA had sent a report to the meeting. ES Trading Standards Officer had sent a report that the ESCC Scamnesty Campaign – Trading Standards had enlisted help of Post Officers, Banks and Building Societies in recent weeks. Victims were often asked to transfer sums of money via bank transfer or money transfer through agents such as MoneyGram or Western Union; Trading Standards have written to all the above making them aware of these scams and asking them to identify potential scam victims making help and advice available where necessary.

E mail possible scam from Crime Research UK offering a free burglar alarm. This may not be what it seems. Anyone receiving this should check with PCSO Steven Knowles. No Cold Calling Box was placed in Village Shop on 2nd March with a simple questionnaire for residents to place in box.

VILLAGE HALL:

RT reported that he would move the old football table to the scout hut so they could use it.

The towel electric dyers were getting old and not working very well. These would be removed and the paper towel dispensers would be used.

The Village Fair is on 3rd July, and a meeting will take place on 15th March at 7.30pm Clerk was asked to contact LDC Electoral Department again to ask if polling station could be changed to another venue such as the Church Annexe because the Plumpton Players have a production in the hall when it is believed the General Election may take

place.

Clerk had reorganised the Village Green contract, which is due for renewal in May putting it into two sections Gardening and Mowing. This would be sent out to interested parties for quotations.

PLAYING FIELD:

TT reported that the next PF Committee Meeting would be on 22nd March at 7,30pm. Basket Ball Court – work is nearly completed and result looks very good. Report received that skateboarders are using the area. There is no way to police this as this is a general play area, but anyone who sees this happening should ask them to use the skateboard area; there is a concern that home made ramps are pulled around the area which could present a hazard to all concerned. The fencing is in hand and would be completed soon. The grant funding for the court will be spent by the allotted time. Research has been undertaken on the hire rates charged to Honeybees and the Activity Scheme and these were proposed at the last PFC committee meeting. These rates would be more cost effective but had not been received well and it is proposed to arrange a meeting with interested parties to try and resolve the situation. Mrs Barrell has had a further meeting with users of the pavilion to ask what they would like included in a new building. A village resident has come forward to offer his architectural expertise to produce some details once the information is collected. The revamping of the Play Area has been on hold while the basketball court is being constructed. Fund raising events are being planned to coincide with the World Cup. BW – are there any ideas what could be done with Percy's Patch, it could be made quite nice. CE said she could approach the Habitat Group to see if the PC could work with them to turn it into possibly a nature reserve.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Team were asked if they could publicise the Village Fair, Millenium Fund, APM and recent comments from EDF in response to PC's communication with them. RS said that the APM was covered.

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere

Team leaders reports from the Meeting of Steering Committee in January had been sent to all Councillors. VAP had sent proposal form from VAP Youth Forum regarding a Band Night event that the Forum were wishing to organise for noting by the PC. RS said that this would be well organised and all Village Hall booking requirements would be complied with by the Youth Forum.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council: The Clerk magazine, LCR Spring 2010, Wicksteed Leisure brochure, Sovereign Play brochure, Gopak brochure, Cycling East Sussex, East Sussex Community Transport Guide, The Clerk March 2010, Rural Services Network information, T and E In your Area information, New Big Lottery Fund grant programme for Community Buildings, Lewes District Strategic Partnership Meeting 15th February, 2010, Introduction to Strategic Commissioning Plan 2010-2015 NHS.

News from the School: Two committee members had stepped down from the PPTFA, and new people are needed for this role, there is also a vacancy for a Community School Governor. Staff Training day focussed on the children's learning progress and meeting on 1st March was about putting new systems in place. A sewing club has started for children in Year 6.

Clerk had been approached by Mr Sugarman the conservative party candidate for Lewes constituency to say that he had heard about the power cuts in Plumpton and if he could do anything, he would be happy to. He also expressed concern about the lack of progress on the train timetable for Plumpton residents who need to commute from London especially in the evening.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Sugarman to say he is welcome to PC meetings as a MOP, and to thank him for his offer of help.

Clerk showed Councillors the two notices to advertise the APM and these were approved.

BUSINESS PLAN

RS gave an update and said that all Councillor's comments had been taken into consideration, and the booklet was considered to be straight forward and simple. SG was thanked for the hard work he had put in for the typesetting and some Councillors had taken photographs.

One quote had been received and a further one would be sought.

Details of quotations would be given when further quotes had been received but it was believed that the Plan could be produced within funds budgeted for. It was envisaged that it would be distributed to all properties with the parish magazine.

Chairman

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 13th APRIL, 2010.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN MINUTES:

SDNP – South Downs National Park

LDC – Lewes District Council

ESCC – East Sussex County Council

VOSS – Vale of Sussex Society

EA – Environment Agency

LCR – Local Councils Review

ROW - Rights of Way

MOP – Member of the Public

SLR – Strengthening Local Relationships

VMT – Village Maintenance Teams

VAP – Village Action Plan

RST – Road Safety Team

PCSO – Police Community Support Officer

SID – Speed Indicator Device

SALC – Sussex Association of Local Councils

AirS – Action in Rural Sussex

NR – Network Rail

EH – Environmental Health

NTR – Nothing to Report

OHP – Overhead Projector