



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 18TH APRIL, 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 C Thompson
Mr. K. Beard
Mr.P. Ramsay
Mrs. S. Akers
1 Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES:

Mr. K. Speirs

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting on 21st March, 2006 were signed as a true record.
The Minutes of a planning meeting on 8th April, 2006 were signed as a true record.

Mr. Davis Manager of the Racecourse attended the meeting to discuss a few issues. He had contacted the organisers of the Boot Fairs about the problem with the rubbish. However, he felt that some of the rubbish may come from bins that are put out in the road for collection where bags have been pulled apart by animals, so releasing rubbish into Plumpton Lane.

Mr. Davis assured the Council that the permitted amount of 14 Boot Fairs in each calendar year would be adhered to. The remaining six will be held in October and November. Mr. Davis mentioned the problem of dog fouling on the public footpath and the adjoining area which is racecourse property. He said that this was not very pleasant for those using the car park and for his staff to have to clear it up. There have been several notices put up and he would consider having a dog bin. He asked if this issue could be mentioned in the Parish Magazine, and to ask residents to keep their dogs on a lead on racecourse property as there could be possible invalidation of insurance should an incident occur.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Boot Fairs – Clerk had checked with LDC Planning and the owners of the Racecourse are not allowed to use any of the 28 permitted events to increase the amount of boot fairs, they must adhere to the 14 permitted.

Bus issues – Clerk had heard from Ms. Hellings at ESCC to say they cannot guarantee buses and that the 824 did run later in the day after problems with indicators.

Parish Action Plan – A grant had been received from Action in Rural Sussex for £2000 towards printing costs.

Highways – Mr. Speirs had been on a walk round of the village with Mr. Bailey from ESCC Highways. The following issues were discussed.

Broken pavement at the end of Barnfield. This will be repaired.

Water leak outside Little Dwelling, Station Road. Source of leak to be investigated and remedial action taken.

House in East View Fields with bricks on verge; no obstruction of the pavement/highway, but Mr. Bailey would write to owners regarding possible damage to verge.

Ditch by allotments. Mr. Bailey to get BT to channel water into highway and not discharge into the ditch, and to have the ditch properly dug out with fall to the Bevern.

Shop to West Gate. Mr. Speirs explained the problem for disabled users because of undulating pavement. With one or two exceptions this was because of driveways and not

much could be done.

Beech hedge at Well House. Mr. Bailey agreed this was 12-18 inches onto footway and would write to owner.

Pothole/protruding drain cover at Wells Close – to be repaired.

Many roadside drains were blocked and these will be cleared.

Mr. Bailey to look at hedge at Greencross entrance and write to owner if this required cutting back further.

Clerk had received a letter from Mr. Lake ESCC Highways, who had inspected the water discharging from the BT manhole cover. He found that no water was discharging from the manhole but there was a steady flow of water through the pipe under the verge into the drainage ditch that runs southwards for 50 metres to the stream.

He had noticed two areas of running water at the junction of Station Road and Southdowns cul-de-sac, also outside Stream Cottage. Mr. Lake would discuss with Mr. Brooke what to do about this problem.

Clerk to write saying that the Council were anxious that something should be done regarding the water at the allotments as this was causing problems to an allotment holder whose plot was waterlogged. The ditch is overgrown and water fails to flow efficiently into the river.

Chalet at Beresford Manor Farm – Nothing had been heard from the Enforcement Officer – Clerk to chase this up.

Monday Group – No reply had been sent to letter. Clerk to chase this up.

Footpath Marker on 27c – No reply had been received. Clerk to chase this up.

Riddens Garages – Clerk read out letter from LDC to say that parking of vehicles connected to the business in the garages and in front of them is not considered to be a breach of planning. If there were a breach, no action could be taken as this activity has been taking place for more than 10 years, so no further action will be taken. The area of grass to the side of the garages is covered by an Enforcement Notice. This prevents the storage of motor car spare parts and scrap metal. However, it does not include any complete vehicles.

Clerk to write back saying that they were still not happy with the situation. The garages were not used for business purchases from 1976 until last September 2005, but since then they had been. It has been observed that a land rover had been parked outside the garages for many years but this was thought to be the owner's vehicle. The Council were also concerned that business rates may be appropriate on the garages and may not have been paid.

Clerk to ask concerned residents to write to LDC reiterating the activities that are taking place.

It has been observed that the Beetle Garage were re-spraying cars on the road and this may be a breach of planning permission; it was thought this was a dangerous activity.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs. Watson asked as the electricity prices have gone up, did the Council have a fixed price contract; Mr. Taylor said they did.

She said that the Hairdresser was keen to use the doctor's surgery for his business when he has to vacate the present shop premises. Mr. Taylor asked if he would write to the Council with his request. It was thought there could be problems, insurance, business rates, and the hall being part of licensed premises; it would be difficult to police coming in and out also.

Mrs. Akers asked for a donation towards SOCS. The PC donated £50.

Mrs. Akers said that her and her husband had cleared away some of the blackthorn by the allotments, and she had asked Mr. Westgate to clear it away; he may send in an account.

Mr. Ramsay asked about sums allocated on Council Tax bill to certain facilities or amenities which Plumpton did not have, whether money could be directed elsewhere for facilities that could enhance the village. Street lighting was mentioned, as this is part of the Council tax budget and mostly it is only towns that have this. Mr. Taylor said that Ditchling had two Council Tax bills, one for the lit area, and one for the unlit area. PC had looked into street lighting fifteen years ago and then it would have cost £27,000, and there were running and maintenance costs.

Mr. Ramsay had taken a photo of Station Road with cars parked on either side, on a recent race day indicating a difficulty for other motorists to get through the village and possibly impede emergency vehicles. Clerk to send a copy of the photo to Highways, Chief Inspector Gough and the Planning Department.

Mr. Ramsay reported that the website was up and running now, and notices had been produced to put round the village alerting residents to this.

Mr. Hawthorne said he would attend a Bevern Stream Initiative meeting on 18th May. Mr. Hawthorne reported that he now had the SID and the ESCC Co-ordinator had been out to visit him to explain how to use it. Paul and Sue Mitchell, Kelvin Speirs and Tom Hawthorne had volunteered to man it. They would be given training.

Mr. Hawthorne will attend an RVRC meeting on 22nd May; at the last meeting there was a discussion on PCSO's and the role of parish council representatives on the committee.

Mr. Beard reported a large rut down Rylands Hill on the corner opposite Shambles. Clerk to report this to Highways as an urgent matter as it is dangerous.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr. Taylor reported that there was a problem with the lights and emergency lights in the hall. He would arrange for a test and report which would cost £340 plus VAT.

Mr. Taylor showed the Council documentation and samples of a new fascia material for the south side of the hall which was tile hung. The Techwood would cost £5121.85, and the woodgrain pvc shiplap would cost £2650.85. The plastic cladding weatherbeater would cost £2765 and Trimseal plastic shiplap would cost £2650. Mr. Taylor would discuss this with the Village Hall Committee.

Mr. Taylor said the new door entry system had not been installed yet.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of March 2006 were Admin £19487.85, Village Hall £14,086.43, Playing Field £8425.71. The precept and VAT return had been received and the Clerk had balanced all the accounts. The insurance had been calculated and there was an increase of approximately £400. The Audit was being prepared.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Nothing to report.

8. PLANNING:

The following applications have been approved:

LW/06/0163 Creamery Cottage, Plumpton Lane. Single storey extensions for Mrs. Stewart-Brown.

LW/06/0122 Woodfield, Beresford Lane. Single storey rear/side extension and erection of a detached timber garage (existing lean-to and porch to be demolished) for Mr. and Mrs. Cool.

The following applications were considered:

LW/06/0427 Mobile Home, the Orchard, Ashurst Farm. Retention of a caravan for use as an agricultural dwelling for Mr. Haynes. PC approved this application with the following conditions: 1. Extension for temporary permission for one unit only. 2. To be used for seasonal agricultural labour use only. 3. Use not to exceed eight months of the year.

LW/06/0424 Sevelands Farm, Station Road. Erection of a rear conservatory for Mr. and Mrs. McLean. The PC approved this application.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

Nothing to report.

10. FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report.

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Mr. Hawthorne said that the use of the buses had gone up since the inception of free

travel for some, which was a good sign. He had attended a meeting at Chailey School for transport of young people in rural areas; this was well attended and a presentation had taken place; this could go on for some years.

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH:**

Mrs. Angel reported that there still had been no police bulletins. It was reported that there was a white van in the Half Moon layby. Mr. Taylor had reported it to the police and no action had been taken. Clerk to report it to LDC.

13. TREE WARDEN:

Mrs. Ridley had sent a report to say that the oak tree in St. Helena Lane had been felled by Highways.

**14. VILLAGE ACTION
PLAN:**

Mr. Hawthorne said that this was now ready to proceed, and he hoped to arrange a meeting of the steering group shortly. At present the following had volunteered to help: Paul Mitchell, Chris Warren, Katy Wride, Paul Ramsay, Kelvin Speirs. It was hoped to have more people. Clerk to mention this in the parish magazine.

15. REPORT OF CLERK:

Clerk presented to the Council: Sussex Downs Conservation Board and East Hampshire AONB Annual Annual Review 04/05, Your County Spring 2006, Action in Rural Sussex Winter Issue, Glasdon Spring 2006 Newsheet, LDC Minutes of Committees Winter Cycle 2005/06, The Meresman Spring 2006, East Sussex Statement of Community Involvement April 2006, ESCC Waste Awareness, South Downs View April 2006, Directory of Community Transport in East Sussex.

Clerk read out letter from the Happy Circle asking for a donation. PC agreed to donate £60.

Clerk read out a letter from the Plumpton Care Club asking for support towards lunches they provide on a Sunday. Clerk to write to say the hiring charge for the Hall will be waived.

Clerk read out letter from Mr. Blencowe to say he was happy to pay £20 for his allotment as it was larger than the rest.

Clerk read out letter from Mr. Petty saying he was reluctant to pay his allotment rent as his allotment was waterlogged. Clerk to write to say this was accepted and that the problem is has been reported to Highways and was being attended to.

Clerk read out letter from Defra regarding getting to grips with clean neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005. This Act will allow PCs to issue fixed penalty notices for littering, graffiti and flyposting offences from 6th April, 2006. It will also apply to some dog control orders including banning of dogs and requiring owners to clean up after their dog has fouled land in the parish. Clerk had sent for guide, and would look on website for details of training for a representative to issue fixed penalty notices.

CHAIRMAN