



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 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. Angel  
Mr. P Ramsay  
Mrs. C. Thompson  
Mr. T Hawthorne

Mr. R Burman  
Mrs C Eastwood

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mrs S Akers Mr. K. Beard
- 2. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 were signed as a true record.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:**

Clerk read out a letter from Mrs. Beard thanking Councillors for the card and vouchers for Mr. Beard. He is still in hospital; all the Councillors and Clerk wished Mr. Beard well.

**Highways** – Clerk read out letter from Highways saying that the ditch alongside the allotments would be receiving remedial work. The pavement issue at Barnfield had been sorted out. The signpost issue was not easy to resolve and would be investigated and dealt with as necessary. The work to resurface the pavement outside Old School Cottages would be programmed to be completed in April. Mr. Speirs said that the pavement in Barnfield would crumble again if more permanent work was not done. Clerk to contact Highways to arrange a site visit for Mr. Speirs and a Highways representative. Mrs. Watson said that the signpost issue needed to be rectified as this was a junction.

**Emission Signs** - Mr. Flowers had sent pictures of suitable signs. Clerk would ask Highways and Rail Authority permission to erect these signs and would get costings for aluminium ones.

**NHS Meetings** – There would be a meeting to discuss issues of services across East Sussex at Lewes on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2007. Other venues were available but this was the nearest to Plumpton.

**Affordable housing** – This issue would be discussed after the election.

**Issues regarding noise from skateboard area** - Letter read out from Mr and Mrs Spencer regarding noise from the skateboard ramp. Complaints were also made about parties in the sports pavilion which generated noise on some evenings. Clerk to reply saying that the PC will look into soundproofing for the skateboard ramp. The letter had been shown to the PCSO who said that there had been no complaints to the Police regarding noise from the Pavilion except for one party, which the PC had been informed about. Mr. Speirs said that there were about 6-8 parties a year and there had been no complaints. It was suggested that a thicker and taller hedge round the skateboard area may help to absorb the noise.

**Southern** – Clerk read out letter from Southern saying that due to sickness etc. they had sometimes to redeploy staff from smaller stations to cover Lewes and Haywards Heath, which was why there had not been cover in the booking office at Plumpton Station. Someone had been recruited to take over the position but it would probably be mid June before they were in post.

**Plumpton School** - Clerk had reported the problem of vehicles driving over the roundabout at Southdowns and the contractor had been informed. Clerk would now receive regular newsletters from the school and would report items of interest to the PC at the PC meetings.

This month's news: Lots of evening organised, Books Galore, Fantasy League, Red Nose Day, Books for Madagascar, Jumble Sales and Entertainment afternoon. There was reference to ask parents not to drive over the roundabout when coming to the school. Future events would be a spring concert and a learning afternoon.

**Road Closures** – Clerk read out letter from Highways saying that the B2116 Ditchling Road would be closed between 8<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> May, from the junction with the U5657 Novington Lane to the junction with C110 Plumpton, a distance of 616 metres. Clerk to write to ask for diversion notices in Ditchling and an alternative route via Chailey, and also a sign at Offham.

**Revised Code of Conduct** - There would be a revised code of conduct which comes into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007. Councils have until 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2007 to adopt this. This will be adopted at the May meeting.

**Recommendations made by LDC Standards Committee** – Clerk passed round letter regarding recommendations on planning issues.

**Village Green** – Clerk had been informed by ESCC that the green could now be registered. She had filled in the relevant forms and has an appointment with a Notary Public at Adams and Remers to have the document witnessed.

#### **4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

Mrs. Thompson reported that there was a lot of litter in North Barns Lane. Clerk to put this in the parish magazine article. Mr. Ramsay suggested that Clerk send letters to the owner of the shop and the scouts to ask them to put rubbish in the bin. Mr. Speirs would look at the site and see if there was anywhere suitable for a litter bin. Mr. Speirs said there was no dog bin the northern part of the village. He would see where a suitable site would be, and ask Mrs. Akers if Strawlands may be a suitable area. Mr Taylor reported that there was a problem with visibility regarding a hedge at Orchard Cottage, Plumpton Lane. The hedge appeared to be falling over and this was on a dangerous bend. Mr. Speirs would speak to the owner.

#### **5. VILLAGE HALL:**

Mr, Taylor said that a meeting had taken place regarding improvements on the stage, lighting etc. The kitchen water heaters were causing a problem, and the cookers may need replacing. He had received a complaint that the hand dryers in the toilets were inefficient.

#### **6. FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of March were: Admin £4,732.54, Village Hall, £10,312.78, Playing Field £11,711.53. The precept and the VAT had been paid. All accounts had been balanced. Audit papers were in and Mr. Greening had been sent the papers to give a report as Internal Auditor. The insurance would be in the region of £5300 for the year; this was due in June. All allotment rents had been paid.

#### **7. PLAYING FIELD:**

Mr. Speirs reported that a demonstration of a new mower had taken place and it was proposed to purchase this at £6000 approximately plus VAT. The existing tractor was old and could have a second hand value. There was a five year warranty on the new mower. It was proposed by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Mrs. Angel to purchase the mower, and all the Council were in agreement with this.

Mr. Speirs had obtained a quotation for a car park extension. This would be for eleven further spaces on the north side of the hedge. This would cost £5695 plus VAT for 150 mm of hardcore and 100mm of road planings. A quotation to repair the existing car park would be Option 1 to lay and roll road planings, £3975 plus VAT, or Option 2 to infill pot holes and make up low areas and lay and roll macadam surface £7750 plus VAT. Mr. Hawthorne said there were doubts from people in Barnfield about extending the car park. A suggestion was made regarding having a basket ball area or a five a side area located in an extended car park, which would be covered under the Agreement for funds to build a leisure facility (new developer Gramm, Ditchling of the old Plumpton Green garage site). Clerk would contact LDC to say that PC would like the above leisure facility under the agreement.

**8. PLANNING:**

There would be a planning meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 at 6pm to discuss 11 Southdowns.

Amended plans LW/07/0158 2 Osborne Villas. Addition of 'dummy' pitched roof to extension. Clerk to write to say PC agree to this.

Mrs. Watson thanked everyone for attending planning meetings during the past year.

**9. VILLAGE CARE:**

Nothing to Report

**10. FOOTPATHS:**

Mr. Speirs said that the bridleway south of Novington Lane was obstructed by hedges from properties The Rest and West Dene encroaching onto the footpath. Clerk to write to residents of these properties.

**11. PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT:**

Nothing to Report

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH:**

Nothing to Report.

**13. TREE WARDEN:**

Mrs. Denise Hall had offered to assist Mrs. Foye Ridley with tree warden duties.

**14. VILLAGE ACTION  
PLAN:**

Mr. Hawthorne reported that the draft questionnaire had now been done, and at the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April the committee looked at comments on the pilots of the questionnaire. There had been lots of support from Action in Rural Sussex.

**15. REPORT OF CLERK:**

Clerk presented to the Council: South Downs View Newsletter, Your County magazine, Play brochure, Creating an NHS fit for the future brochure, Glasdon leaflet, Action in Rural Sussex newsletter, Waste and Minerals Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Sussex Markets leaflet, Walk Wonders leaflet, Cycling In East Sussex, Lewes area bus timetable, Gopak leaflet, District Link, LDC Minutes of Committees Winter Cycle 2006/07.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Beard, Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Hawthorne for all their hard work with the Council.

Clerk to obtain tickets for the count of the election on 4<sup>th</sup> May for those requiring them.

Clerk to get estimates for a seat in memory of Mr. Percy Law; a plaque would be put on the seat.

**CHAIRMAN**