



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 15TH APRIL, 2008 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
Mr. T Thompsett
Mrs. C Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mrs C Nicholson
Mrs S Akers

I Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES: Mrs K Wride

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting on 18th March, 2008 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Dog Bins – The dog bin has been removed from Strawlands to opposite Wells Close. The bracket has yet to be removed; Clerk to contact Mr Beard.

Half Moon Junction - Clerk had heard from Mr Johnson that though this area enjoys an excellent crash record in the last three year period, the concerns of the PC were noted. A map type sign for placement in advance of the junction for westbound traffic would be erected to show the general layout. It was also agreed that two slow markings would be placed on the road in the vicinity of the approaches to the junction. It was not known when this would take place.
The sign Maximum speed 20 is not used anymore; instead a red sign with the legend 'Reduce Speed Now' exists.

PRH - Clerk had heard from Dr Ashby to say that the PCT decision was still awaited and the Maternity Department was the most severely threatened department.

Tree Inspection - Clerk had heard from Mr Wynn who asked if the Clerk could contact him at the end of April or beginning of May to arrange a site meeting in advance of the tree survey.

Best Village Competition - Mrs Nicholson had completed this and Clerk was asked to send it off. All Councillors had sight of this document.

Rights of Way Clerk had been informed of new telephone numbers for the Rights of Way team; this is initially through the Highways Contact Centre.

Highways - Clerk had been informed that: Plastic posts should not have been erected opposite the Winning Post. Wooden ones had been erected but it was agreed that these were on the wrong side of the verge and would not prevent cars mounting the verge. Mr Speirs would contact Mr Brooke to find out why they had been put there.
Potholes in Station Road – these would be dealt with.
Kerbs – during a site visit in the Southdowns area and the setts by the Winning Post

these appeared to be all right. Subsequently highway markings have been put round these areas.

Water in Southdowns – this appears to be from a natural spring and minor drainage works will be carried out here.

Litter Bins - Clerk had heard from LDC that they only provide free litter bins on the Highway so would not put one in the play area and this would cost £200. Mr Speirs said that a wheelie bin had gone missing, and any bin that was not at the entrance to the playing field would have to be moved weekly by him so that it could be emptied. Clerk to get cost of large wheelie bin. Clerk to mention in parish magazine that these bins are very expensive for the PC to purchase and to ask residents to use the bins provided as there appeared to be a lot of litter in the area.

Mr Speirs asked Clerk to tell LDC that the black sacks the PC purchases from them are very thin and tear very easily.

Plumpton College – Clerk read out letter from Mr Lambert saying that he did not think slow signs at the front of the college would make any difference. He noted the comments about cars being driven at high speed and also the condition of the Bostal; this is the responsibility of the College and it is maintained in a satisfactory state for the purpose of agricultural vehicles and there is adequate room for walkers. Mr St John had subsequently asked the Clerk to contact him again as the area was very muddy, but there had been no reply.

Road closures – Mr St John reported there had been a problem at a property in Plumpton Lane where a telegraph pole was collapsing in a garden. It was thought that this could be rectified when the road was closed for maintenance in the future. Mr St John also reported a lorry parked in the Half Moon layby where the driver said he had been asked to use the road south of the Sandpit for access. Everyone was reminded to get times, registration numbers and name of the company on any lorries not abiding by Sandpit conditions.

Booklet about recycling - Mrs Akers reported that West Sussex have a booklet which gives advice on recycling and reuse of compost, and wondered if ESCC has one. Clerk to enquire about this.

A leaflet had been produced about a Re Think Rubbish Event; Mrs Akers would look at this and see if anyone could attend.

Dog friendly stiles - Clerk had received a letter from the Monday Group saying that they are able to fit suitable dog latches to most stiles and fit them as standard on all new stiles near to villages and would be willing to put these on any suitable stiles in Plumpton.

Mrs Akers said that ESCC had kits for this. Clerk was asked to tell the Monday Group about these. It was thought that if the Monday Group installed them, they would charge. Clerk thought that every landowner who had a footpath suitable for the latches should be contacted to ask their permission to install the latches. Clerk would draft a letter. Mrs Akers had a list of those stiles which would benefit from these latches.

Police Notices on cars - An email had been sent by Mr Ramsay regarding the 'Polite' notice which had been put on cars in Station Road and put through some resident's doors near the station; he felt these notices were a really threat of fines rather than working with interested parties to try to solve the issues, and there were parking issues in other areas of the village as well as the station area. Clerk to acknowledge his e mail. This had also been sent to the PCSO who had acknowledged it.

The PC had asked the Police to do something about the parking problems and these notices had been endorsed by the Council.

School Pool - Clerk read out letter from the Chair of Governors saying that the pool had been closed in March due to health and safety legislation, staffing and training of people to run it and that legislation had also impacted on the maintenance of the pool. An investment of £30,000 was needed to bring the pool up to standard, so the Governors had decided to close it with immediate effect.

It was reported that some parents would like to keep the pool open and they felt that they had been informed with no notice just before the school holiday. It was felt that a communication should have been sent to parents and the community at the beginning of the school year. Clerk to write to say they are disappointed at the suddenness of the decision, though they understood the financial and health and safety implications.

Skateboard Area - Clerk read out letter from Mr Spencer saying that the noise nuisance caused by the ramp was intolerable to his family and that of his neighbour, Mrs Humphreys. There appeared to be no restriction to hours of use and ball games were being played against the side of the ramp.

Mr Speirs said that he would put up another sign about No Balls Games. Mrs Akers said that the rules and hours of use were at the entrance to the area. The materials that were used for the equipment were considered to be the most suitable for noise levels, and the Police had recommended the location as the Council originally wanted it in Percys Patch, which the police felt was too far out of sight. Mr Speirs said he had not heard anyone else complain.

Clerk to acknowledge letter and Mrs Akers would contact company who provided the equipment to see what could be done regarding further soundproofing.

Highway works on B2116 Ditchling Road – Clerk read out letter regarding traffic management on the scheme which will commence on 21st April, 2008m and will last seven weeks.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mr Thompsett reported that residents who put up advertisements for events on the oak tree at the Plough do not remove them when the event has taken place. Clerk to put this in magazine article, and to say that this included all other notice boards in the village.

Mrs Nicholson asked if there could be more information sent to householders about rubbish collections at bank holidays. Clerk to ask LDC.

Clerk had passed information to Mrs Nicholson about holding village markets; she would look into it.

Mrs Akers had seen the booklet 'Energy and Waste Special' on the table; this had come from LDC. Clerk to put in magazine details of how to obtain this booklet.

Clerk had asked Mrs Akers to look at a document sent by the Liberal Democrats regarding the incinerator at Newhaven. Mrs Akers had looked at this document, and it was decided to contact Mr Baker MP to say PC endorsed what was said in the document.

Mr Speirs reported that Mr Percy Law's memorial bench unveiling would take place on 27th April at 10 am.

Mr Bristow of Gramm had told Mr Speirs that he had heard from the Post Office asking about a name for the new development. Councillors could not think of a suitable name. Mr Speirs had been asked by the Chairman of AIRS why the PC did not belong to this organisation; the PC do! Mr Speirs said he would tell the Chairman this.

Mrs Watson asked if the bus shelter near the shop could have the noticeboard repainted or removed, as it was in a poor state of repair. Mr Thompsett said he would look at it.

Mrs Wride had sent in reports from RVRC: PC Vitler had been asked to come to the village with the speed gun; he had contacted Clerk to say he was coming. More people would like training on SID but the battery is broken at the moment. Plumpton College would be staging a Youth Driving event as a result of a fatality and serious accident on the B2116.

Recycling: Cardboard recycling is an issue in many villages. Two pilot projects, in Rye and Seaford; decided that if cardboard is not coated in any way, it is not economically viable.

Draft Sustainability Strategy document: RVRC had not been consulted on this. Plumpton had sent in a response.

Community: Youth event held at Chailey school, resulting in young people wanting youth club, music club, basket ball court, bike dirt jump track etc.
Chair of Neighbourhood Watch said he could provide leaflets and stickers free of charge to villages, if requested.
Mrs Wride had asked if another disabled space could be made at the station as she had received a request from a resident. This was not thought a good idea.
LDAC District Association: This group had asked if another member of the PC could attend meetings; Mr Thompsett said he would go on this committee, and attend the next meeting in May.

Sandpit – Mrs Nicholson reported that there had been a committee meeting the previous week and things were going all right. Lorries have been told to go south, some loads were uncovered and this was against the rules. Mr Nicholson would speak to Mr Dudman. There is still no conservation management plan.
Clerk had given Mrs Nicholson the Waste and Minerals paper and Mr Nicholson was to respond to this; this mentioned potential new sites and it was thought there was only one area in East Sussex as such, which was soft sand to the east of Novington. It was agreed by all Councillors that Clerk would send off Mr Nicholson's submission.

Action Plan – Mrs Nicholson reported that Mrs Akers and Mr Thomsett had seen the presentation. Mr Taylor had been through the presentation material. The information contained the statistical results in graphical format which was tangible to look at what is going on.
There would now be a Draft Implementation Plan. The committee are hoping to have another event at the end of May on a Saturday morning with all implemented plans. It was decided to hold another meeting for Councillors to talk about this, possibly between the 12-16th May or 22nd May. A question was asked, would the PC have to adopt the plan? The answer was yes.

SOCS Himalayan Balsam Project – Mrs Akers reported that this was too big an issue for SOCS to tackle.

Flowers in the Village - Mrs Eastwood asked if there could be bulbs planted next year around the village. A grant would be discussed in the Clerk's report.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

The hall hiring rates had gone up by 5%. Mr Taylor reported that the WI would no be having the seat round the oak tree; the College were designing something in metal in the shape of a horseshoe. Mrs Watson asked if the tree was safe; this will be looked at during the tree survey.

Access to footpath – there had been quotes for this but it was decided to wait until alter into the financial year.

The last jumble sale raised £960.

The white lines in the car park need renewing. Mr Thompsett would look into this.

There is a Scout Jumble sale on 17th May.

Mr Taylor said he had signed a contract with Mid Sussex Fire to check fire alarms.

A licence had been obtained to take away rubbish to the tip after jumble sales; twelve forms had been sent so that every organisation could appoint a person who had to give their vehicle registration number within 24 hours to say which vehicle and driver would be taking the rubbish..

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of March, 2008 were Admin £367.90, Playing Field £7151.12 and Village Hall £8767.21. All the accounts had been balanced, accounts sent to Mr Greening, Mr Satchell and Mr Speirs. The VAT form had been sent and the Council's tax return. All the allotment rents had been paid.

The S137 value per elector for the next year is £5.86.

Clerk had received a quotation from Suffolk ACRE Zurich insurance for £3440.35. The quotation from Allianz Cornhill for the next year is £5608.12. It was proposed to change to Zurich; proposed by Mrs Watson and seconded by Mr Taylor; all Councillors were in agreement. There were several new rules necessary to comply with insurance regulations and included a check list to be done once a week at the Bevernside area.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Mr Speirs thanked Mrs Eastwood and Mrs Wride for tidying up the skateboard area. The surface at the play area is in a poor state, vandalism has taken place. Mr Speirs is getting quotes for a new surface, possibly tree bark.

There will be a working party tidying up between the football and the cricket season by the two clubs involved.

Mrs Akers said the blackthorn had been taken down at Percy's Path and the old elms had been chopped up.

E mail had been received from Mr Murphy asking if areas of the playing field could be made accessible as a wild life space for children, and areas of longer grass so that children could explore, hide and make dens. This would require little maintenance and volunteers could plant trees etc. Clerk to acknowledge Mr Murphy's e mail saying contents had been noted.

8. PLANNING:

The following planning application had been granted: LW/08/0135 Coach House, South Road. Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey garage (existing garage to be demolished).

The following application had been refused: LW/08/0136 Old Plumpton Green Garage, Station Road. Amendment to PP LW/06/0761 for amendment to roof design to Units 5 and 6 to create an additional single bedroom.

The following application was considered: LW/08/0238 2 Nornes Villas, North Barnes Lane. Renewal of outline permission for the erection of a detached house with integral garage (LW/05/0230) for Mr and Mrs Ransom.

Mrs Nicholson asked why permission had been approved for the Warren this time but had previously been refused.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

Mrs Akers was asked if she would do an assessment each week of the Bevernside area in accordance with insurance requirements. Clerk would provide forms for this.

Mrs Akers reported that the bin at the end of the twitten by the Hall was not used very much and suggested moving it elsewhere, possibly to the end of the Racecourse car park.

Mrs Akers looked at the Newick Parish Directory which the Clerk had brought to the meeting. Council thought they may look into costing of preparing a similar directory for Plumpton.

HIGHWAYS:

Clerk asked if Councillors could write down the exact location and problem that they had to report regarding Highway matters. Mrs Eastwood reported that there were large potholes near Heath Farm which was due to water on the road. Clerk to contact Highways and South East Water.

There had been problems with signage with the recent road works in Station Road. There was no indication where the road works were. Clerk to tell Highways about this.

10. FOOTPATHS:

The footpath sign at Strawlands is in a poor state; Clerk to ask for a proper footpath sign.

Mrs Nicholson reported that Path 26 – has been rebuilt. Path27D has been made good and steps have been put in; work had yet to be finished; Clerk to thank ROW Officer for doing the work so far and ask when it would be finished. No work has taken place on Path 30X4. Clerk to ask if work has been done on the footpath on the boundary of Streat/Plumpton near Eryl?

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Clerk had received a letter from ESCC regarding cuts to bus services. Clerk to put this in parish magazine:

Mondays to Fridays – 0709 Plumpton Green to 0726 Haywards Heath. 1638 Haywards Heath to 1735 Lewes. 1750 Lewes to 1812 Plumpton Green (an alternative journey will continue to be available at 1720 from Lewes to Haywards Heath)

Saturdays – 0752 Plumpton Green to 0815 Lewes. 0902 Wivelsfield to 0908 Plumpton Lane. 1602 Plumpton Green to 1624 Haywards Heath. 1631 haywards Heath to 1714 Lewes.

Village Rider Lees-Plumpton-Ditchling-Burgess Hill Service 824 Mondays to Firdays. The current cost of providing this service exceeds the usual financial criteria for supporting bus services. Tender prices are being sought for four options.

Clerk to write to Transport to ask what provisions could be made so pensioners could use their passes outside prescribed times, as there was a reduction in services.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Mrs Angel reported the District Commanders Report had said that the Lewes District was the safest in the area. There had been 6.3% reduction in crime but an increase of 12% in vehicle crime. Police are currently persuing issues such as ASBOs and street drinking.

The District Commander is leaving at the end of April, and Chief Inspector Natalie Carron is taking over.

Crime in Plumpton: 23/2/08 Renault Clio deliberately scratched in Southdowns.

3.3.08 Vehicle deliberately scratched at Plumpton College.

Between 2pm 9.4.08 and 4pm 10.4.08 wheel cover from Landrover Freelander was stolen from Westgate.

Between 5pm 9.4.08 and 10.4.08 a fuel line was cut and petrol stolen from a Ford Fiesta parked in Station Road, near the road closure.

13. TREE WARDEN:

Mrs Eastwood reported that a pine type of tree near the bench opposite Wells Close (near the newly sited dog bin) which is swamping another tree. Clerk to ask Highways if it could be removed.

14. REPORT OF CLERK:

Clerk presented to the Council: NHS invitation to meeting on 28th March, 2008, Developing Communities Project News, Exploring |East Sussex, regional Housing Strategy, Achieve More performance hub magazine, Governance Matters, Wicksteed Playschemes brochure, AIRS Newsletter, Playback Spring leaflet, South Downs View newsletter, Fit Focus Newsletter, E|SCC Focus of east Sussex 2008 Annual Monitor.

News from the School: No newsletters had been received from the School inspite of the Clerk contacting them twice. Mrs Eastwood would ask at the office if they could be sent.

The following grants have been awarded: £100 to the Sussex Air Ambulance. £50 for planting bulbs in the village. £50 for SOCS.

A grant was requested by Patina Mowing on Parade, but this was not thought necessary; Clerk to ask them to contact the Millenium Fund.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 20th MAY,2008.

CHAIRMAN