



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 2009 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,  
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

**PRESENT:** Mr R Taylor Chairman  
Mrs B Watson  
Mrs. C Eastwood  
Mrs S Angel  
Mr T Thompsett  
Mrs K Wride  
Mrs S Akers  
5 Members of the Public

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 were signed as a true record.  
The Minutes of a Planning Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 were signed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

The Clerk reported that Mr Kelvin Speirs and Mrs Carole Nicholson had resigned from the Council and that letters of resignation had been sent to Mr Taylor as Chairman and the Clerk. Clerk had responded accepting the resignations with regret and thanked both Councillors for all the commitment and their hard work.

Ten electors had requested an election for two new Councillors. Clerk had received notification from LDC and had placed notices in the required places, and on the website. The election would take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. Nomination papers have to be at LDC by the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. Clerk had informed all those who had requested details to put themselves forward for election. Mrs Wride would include Clerk's contact details in the Mid Sussex Times parish news if anyone should wish to apply for details how to obtain nomination papers.

LDC Electoral Department has said the approximate cost of the election would be £2000.

Mr Taylor proposed that Mrs Watson should be made acting Vice Chairman and Mr Thompsett acting Chairman of the Playing Field, and Mr Thompsett as the third committee member on the Finance Committee, until the ASM in May when the normal election procedure would take place. All Councillors were in favour of these proposals. Chairpersons of the Public Transport Committee, and Highways Committee would be elected at the ASM.

Mr Gethen had requested, under the Freedom of Information Act, copies of the two resignation letters. Mr Speirs said this was a private letter which he did not want copied. Clerk had checked with the FOI Office and on the website and it appeared that Mr Speirs' wishes came within the area of personal correspondence. Clerk was check this further with Mr Leggo SALC, and would report back to Mr Gethen.

Clerk had picked up a box from Mrs Ridley's home that contained Council papers. Most of the contents were copies of old minutes and comments on planning applications which the Council had copies off, so these had been destroyed. A small box of papers would be kept in the Council filing cabinet in the hall. A collection of maps had also been returned to the PC.

Clerk read out letter from Mrs Ridley's family thanking the PC for their kind thoughts about their Mother. Mr Mark Ridley had provided the Clerk the name of the Solicitor dealing with her estate, as Mrs Ridley had used a personal bank account (in the name of the Trustees of the Travers Trust) to deposit monies for the use of the Trust (she was

a joint Trustee with Mrs Watson). Clerk had contacted the Solicitor and the monies had been identified in the branch of the bank, and a cheque would be sent to the Parish Council in due course. An account would then be set up in the name of the Trustees of the Travers Trust.

Mrs Angel had agreed to be a Co-Trustee for the Travers Trust.

Clerk had received acknowledgement from Mr Roy Brooks for donations sent in memory of Mr Keith Moorhouse and Mrs Foye Ridley.

Clerk had spoken to Mrs Moorhouse to say that the PC were to have a memorial to Mr Moorhouse, but it had not been decided what this should be. The Clerk also talked to Mrs Moorhouse about all the work that Mr Moorhouse had done over many years on the Council, and after he had retired, on the South Downs National Park, and that now the boundaries had been decided, he would have been pleased to see the park coming to fruition in the future.

Suggestions were made as to what type of memorial would be made to Mr Moorhouse and these would be discussed further.

Councillors thought that a planting of a tree would be appropriate in memory of Mrs Ridley. She had planted a yew tree on the green and this was looking particularly beautiful at the present time.

Mrs Denise Hall, who had been deputy Tree Warden had agreed to take on the role of Tree Warden. She would liaise with Mrs Akers about the next phase of tree maintenance under the Tree Survey.

**Parking in Southdowns:** Letter had been received from Mrs McVean expressing the difficulties of parking in Southdowns, particularly arriving in the evening to find there were no spaces, and the lack of spaces around school starting and finishing times. Mrs Wride said that PCSO Knowles was on a mission to try to sort out parking issues in the village generally. It was thought staff at the school may be taking up spaces in Southdowns, and that there may be parking spaces specifically for residents.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to Mrs McVean and ask if she has resident's parking and that the matter was being looked into. Clerk to write to the Head Teacher to ask how many staff park in Southdowns.

**Tubs at the Station:** Mr Nicholson had suggested that maybe the Horticultural Society could sponsor these and take on the responsibility of them. Mrs Eastwood said that she had handed all the paperwork to Mr Peter Baker to present at the VAP Steering Committee meeting, and wait for the outcome of the meeting before any further action is taken.

**Additional parking for the Station:** Mrs Eastwood said that Southern had commented that Network Rail would not proceed with extra parking at the station, as there were access issues at the sub station. The Parish Council were hoping to pursue this matter further, and were still in communication with Network Rail.

**Walk Round Plumpton College – planning:** This had taken place and Mr Lambert had taken councillors up on the Downs to look at the new buildings. The walk round was very useful and Mr Lambert said that he did not think there would be any further development as funding had run out.

**Old Garage Site: S106 Agreement -** Nothing had been heard from Mr Bristow of Gramm.

**ACTION:** Clerk to chase this up.

**Skateboard Park:** Clerk had heard from Mr A. Frost LDC on ways in which noise could be deadened from skateboard equipment: a. filling the void beneath the ramps with sand (space has to be lined to prevent sand coming out. b. taking out the main skating surfaces and refixing them with a rubber buffer between the surface and the frame.. c. screening with dense thicket of shrubs. d. move to another area.

Mrs Akers had contacted Mr Shorter to see if he had any suggestions.

There had been further damage to the fencing.

**ACTION:** Clerk to ask Mr Westgate to make a small repair to this.

**Dangerous Tree:** Mrs Wride had received a report from a member of the public to say there was a dangerous oak tree between Rylands and Shambles which was falling over the hedge and was considered a serious hazard should it fall into the road.

**ACTION:** Clerk had reported this to Highways. Mr Taylor and Mr Beard had looked at the tree, and agreed it needed urgent attention.

Mrs Eastwood thought that Mr Hutson should be informed of this. Mrs Akers thought the Tree Officer should be involved. Clerk though ESCC would inform him about it.

**Highway matters:** Mr St John had reported that the bus stop sign on the junction with Plumpton Lane and the southern entrance of the racecourse has been badly positioned. Clerk had contacted ESCC but there had been no response.

**ACTION:** Clerk to chase this.

Mr St John had reported that he thought there should be THINK signage at the Half Moon end of the village and on the B2116 where it passes the Half Moon and the College.

Mrs Wride said that the signs could only be put up within an existing 30mph limit area.

Repeater signage: Mr St John thought the posts for the 30mph should be a standard, preferably low height, so they could be kept clean.

**ACTION:** Clerk had reported this to Highways.

Mr St John had enquired about a traffic survey that was being carried out near the Half Moon. Clerk had contacted ESCC and this was being carried out on behalf of the Department of Transport by Parsons Brinkerhoff Consultants.

Clerk had filled in a survey on services provided by ESCC Highways. She had particularly mentioned Mr Andy Brooke who had been very helpful to PPC.

Strengthening Local Relationships: Mrs Stroude had written to Clerk to say that she had arranged that Plumpton would attend these meetings with Highways to discuss highway matters with officers. It was thought it would be a good idea to give this a trial to see how it goes.

**Footpaths:** Mrs Nicholson had reported the very poor state of the stile on Footpath 30, north of Plumpton Place. This was reported to Southdowns ANOB and had been replaced.

Mr St John had reported the poor state of the footpath near the College.

Clerk reported this to Southdowns AONB.

**National Family Week:** Clerk reported that Fields in Trust were setting up National Family Week Sports Days on 30<sup>th</sup> May and Guinness World Record attempt for the largest picnic on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Villages with playing fields were encouraged to have events in their area on these days.

**VAP:** Mrs Nicholson had sent information about the Plumpton Goes Green Team to work up a methodology for conducting a Historic Landscape Characterisation Study for Plumpton. The Parish Council was interested in this and would welcome future information about it. Mrs Watson said she was concerned and not happy about a part of the document that referred to planning and allied disciplines, and said that planning issues were nothing to do with the VAP.

Cardboard Recycling: Mrs Nicholson had sent information about this as the VAP Recycling Team were looking into having a cardboard collection; it had been

recommended that the site was not visible from the road, and ideally should be locked at night. Suitable sites would be looked into and the team had agreed to keep the chosen site tidy. The Scout Headquarters occupier did not wish to have the facility there and the church area was considered too visible from the road.

PC thought it was a good idea to have cardboard recycling.

**ACTION:** Mr Thompsett would put the idea of expanding the current recycling area at the playing field to accommodate cardboard collection to the PF committee at a meeting to see if this would be considered as a suitable site.

**Dog Bins:** Mrs Wride had seen an article in the Mid Sussex Times regarding the cost of dog bin emptying. Several local authorities were looking into obtaining cheaper methods of emptying bins as the cost was considered very high in most areas for each bin. LDC were involved in discussions; they had said that the dual bins were not available for this purpose. Brighton and Hove were looking into having these bins.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to LDC Waste and ask if LDC would be participating in the above discussions.

**WASTE CHARGES:** The PC would not be charged as they do not pay business rates on PC owned properties.

**Allotments:** Most of the rents due for the year had been paid. There is now an obligation for Councils to obtain either, by leasing or buying land for allotments if they are requested as there had been a huge increase in demand recently. Plumpton has only three people on the waiting list, and it was considered that if this number rose to ten, then the need would be looked into. A garden share scheme is being tried in Lewes but it was thought this could be a potential security risk, as those who were offering their gardens may be of the older generation, and it would not be safe for strangers to work their gardens.

Mrs Nicholson had e mailed the Clerk about a resident who was interested in an allotment. Clerk had contacted the person by e mail to ask if they wished to be placed on the list.

Mrs Nicholson suggested that maybe the existing allotments could be split to make more. Mrs Akers said the plots were quite small, and the annual rents had been paid already.

**Temporary Road Closure:** Level crossing would be closed from 2300 on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 until 0600 on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2009. Diversions would be in place.

**Land Adjoining The Old Brickworks -** A meeting had been arranged with Mr Baker MP, Mr Frost LDC Planning Director, Mr Hawthorne and representatives from the PC on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2009 at the Liberal Democrat Offices in Lewes. The Clerk, Mrs Watson and Mrs Wride would attend.

**Water Charges -** Still no further response had come from Mr Baker MP.

**ACTION:** Clerk to chase this up.

**Members Briefings on Anti-Social Behaviour:** A session on this would take place on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at Lewes Town Hall. No Councillor was able to attend.

**Police Report at the APM:** Mr Nicholson asked in an e mail if the PCSO's report on crime in the village could be put into simple terms, rather than percentages with no reference points.

Clerk said this had already been discussed with the PCSO's and this format would be presented at the APM.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

Mrs Watson said that the bus sign had not been erected at the Plough.

Clerk had reported this.

**ACTION:** Clerk to chase this up.

Mrs Akers said that there was traffic coming through the Ridgeway on race days and it was thought that this was because of the use of SATNAV. She asked if a notice could be put up at the Streat end to say that this was a 'no through road' and possibly block off with cones on race days.

Mrs Wride said there was no brown sign to indicate racing at Plumpton at the Half Moon turn.

**ACTION:** Clerk would ask Racecourse Manager about signage on the Ridgeway and suggest that a brown sign be erected at the Half Moon junction.

Mr Thompsett said that the silver birches near the Tennis Club land had been cut down by EDF.

**ACTION:** Clerk to ask EDF if they could inform Council when removing trees on PC land.

Mrs Eastwood said that car boot sales had been taking place on Saturdays and Sundays. Mr Taylor said these had now ended.

Mrs Wride requested that the plums on the village sign logo were rather a bright yellow on the website against a blue background and suggested that the photo used on PC headings was used instead. Council agreed to ask webmaster.

**ACTION:** Clerk to ask the webmaster if this was possible.

Mr Taylor said he had noted in the newspaper the Racecourse applying for variation of licence to include plays and films and performance of dance on Sundays. It was thought this could be in opposition to other facilities in the village and that it could be a problem with noise to those near the racecourse.

**ACTION:** Clerk to e mail the Racecourse Manager asking for details of the events.

Clerk to then e mail Councillors with her reply to see if any action is necessary as any comments have to be sent to LDC within 28 days.

Mr Taylor reported that a Dudman 32 ton truck which was loaded and covered went through the village heading north on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.

**ACTION:** Clerk to report this to Sandpit operator.

Mr Taylor had been asked by Mr Richard Wells if a preservation order could be put on the Fountain Pub as his family had built it in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to Planning to enquire about this.

A member of the public said the pub was owned by Youngs Brewery, there are plans to refurbish it and there are three applicants interested in the licence.

**SANDPIT:** Mr Nicholson had sent a report: There had been very little activity on site; test digs of varying colours of sand had been carried out and market testing is underway. The long reach excavator has temporarily been removed from the site. Screening and stockpiling continues with a maintained level of approximately 2-3 weeks demand now stocked.

Mrs Wride had apprehended a driver who had been driving in an unacceptable manner and had reported this to the site officer. She had given the driver a Slow Down scheme leaflet.

Mr Nicholson added that there would probably be an application to apply for an extension eastwards and that this would have to be fought.

(See details below in finance about grant application).

**VOLUNTARY SPEED REDUCTION:** Mrs Wride said that Sussex ACRE were now sponsoring this and there would be a new logo to incorporate their name.

Mr St John suggested that the graphics were reversed so that everything went the same way. Other PC's had sent in funding which was being held in the Parish Council Admin account. There would be a meeting the following week and a bank account would be set up. Sussex ACRE had given 5000 leaflets free of charge.

## **FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of March, 2009 were: Village Hall £4280.22, Playing Field £15,592.10 and Admin £531.97. Half the precept had been received from LDC and the VAT claim had been paid.

All Parish Council accounts had been balanced, and the Admin account had been signed off by the Internal Auditor, and he was preparing his report for Mazars, the external Auditor. The Audit will be signed off at the May PC meeting.

Mr Taylor had received a letter from Mr Miller enquiring on how the precept had been spent over the last financial year and why the precept for the next financial year had been increased.

**ACTION:** Mr Taylor asked Clerk to write to Mr Miller explaining what the costs had been, and why the precept had been increased.

Grant applications had been received from Katherine Walden, for sponsorship for a dog show for Lowland Search Dogs, Victim Support, and Mr Nicholson for £250 towards professional advice that may be necessary in the future regarding the following issues that may occur at the Sandpit. 1. Due to low levels of demand it is unlikely that the operation will be able to use the full c 300.000 tonnes allowed in the existing consent and the operator may well apply for an extension of time later in the pit's life.

2. There is a possibility that the operator may seek to extend the site to the east of the existing site as and when demand is stronger and towards the end of the pit's existing consented life. There may be issues concerning the Waste and Minerals Development

Framework which will determine the county's minerals sourcing and usage, and meetings are taking place.

PC decided not to donate to the Lowland Search Dogs, grant of £50 to Victim Support and to put Mr Nicholson's request on hold for the time being. There were concerns about the funding of the forthcoming election, which would put an enormous strain on the budget for the next financial year.

Clerk to put those interested in applying for grants in the Parish Magazine article.

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

The new timetable would be out next week and there would be some changes. It was thought Virgin may be interested in the franchise.

#### **ENVIRONMENT:**

Nothing to report.

#### **FOOTPATHS**

Mrs Akers reported that the footpath at Ashurst Farm going towards the College 17F has no sign to show the way to Footpath 36 which goes towards New Barns pond.

**ACTION:** Clerk to Rights of Way Officer.

#### **HIGHWAYS**

There is a large pothole opposite Little Wales Farm Cottages in Plumpton Lane.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to Highways about this.

Mrs Akers said the white lines had not been reinstated near the entrance to Southdowns and there were no white lines outside the Playing Field car park entrance, where it was thought there should be, as this was a major exit. A 'no parking' road sign in turning circle opposite the Winning Post, was suggested as it was difficult for the School Road Crossing Patrol Mr Blencowe to do his job.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to Highways about this.

Mrs Eastwood reported a large pothole in Wells Close.

A member of the public said that the signs in the twitten near the hall had helped with the dog fouling problem there. Mrs Akers said that it was still a problem.

#### **PLANNING: HOUSING**

The following application had been granted: LW/08/1431 Plumpton College Application for addition of solar panel to existing south-facing pitched roof to eastern quadrangle for Plumpton College.

Mrs. Watson said she had tried to arrange a planning meeting for the application on Cheriton, but a quorum had not been reached.

This application was then presented:

LW/09/0308 Cheriton, Station Road. Erection of two storey pitched roof rear extension and single storey pitched roof side extension for Mr Hall. Mrs Wride declared an interest in this application and signed the Declaration of Interest Book.

PC approved this application.

There was an application from EDF for two new poles, in the pipeline.

#### **POLICING AND NWATCH**

Mrs Angel reported that an incident of diesel being siphoned off had taken place on the r

Racecourse on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, and the offender had been apprehended. Jewellery had been taken from a property in Station Road on 28<sup>th</sup> March, and police had attended. Beddingham had been taken over by travellers, and there had been discussions with ESCC, the Police and the travellers themselves.

Mrs Angel had attended a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April entitled A Local Neighbourhood Panel. Only 7 people attended including the PCSO's. This is a government initiative and is not a replacement for the Sussex Police Authority. Every household had received a sticker on how to contact NW and Police and one for people to use if they wanted to deter unwanted callers.

Police patrols have increased by 100% and when extra policing was needed at Christmas due to a spate of vandalism, this had been forthcoming.

The VAP had set up a Policing and Community Safety committee.

It was thought that no future panels or volunteers were needed!

Mr Young wants to set up a 'No Cold Calling Area' and have a sign attached to the NW sign at each end of the village; a Fair Trading representative had explained this scheme.

Mrs Angel said it would probably not cost very much.

**ACTION:** Mrs Angel was to ask Mr Young how much this would cost.

**VILLAGE HALL:**

A Test and Report had been done, and estimates were to be obtained for a switch on the outside lights. A new outside light would be put at the front door and a heater in the committee room. The lights in the corridor would be replaced as it was easy to knock the covers off.

**PLAYING FIELD:**

Mr Thompsett reported that there would be a playing field meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2009. A planning application had gone in for the basketball area. PCSO Whittaker Jones had obtained a CCTV camera for the skateboard area.

**VAP – any items not covered elsewhere**

Nothing further to report.

**REPORT OF CLERK:**

Clerk presented to the Council: Conference for Local Businesses 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, Newhaven, local Council Risk System software leaflet, Public Sector Equality Duties, South Downs View, Your County Spring edition, information about SALC, leaflets Sustainable Communities Act 2007, DEFRA Proposed South Downs National Park, Applause Brochure, VAP Sub Committee Meeting on 3/3/09, information on Power of Wellbeing courses from SALC.

There had been no news from the school because of the Easter Holiday.

The Council then went into Committee under Powers in Standing Orders. The outcome of the discussions were:

Mrs Eastwood was appointed Child Protection Officer for the Playing Field, due to the resignation of Mr Speirs. Mrs Watson as Acting Vice Chairman was appointed Deputy Co-ordinator of the Emergency Plan due to the resignation of Mr Speirs. Mr Speirs had agreed to help Mr Thompsett with aspects of the Playing Field management, and the Council were very grateful for this.

It was decided to send out a quarterly newsletter with the Parish Magazine giving news items and matters that had been raised and dealt with by the PC over the months. This had been done in the past, and had been hand delivered to each household, which had proved a difficult task to find volunteers to distribute it. The Editor of the magazine would be asked if this could be an item delivered with the magazine.

Clerk reiterated the importance of Risk Assessments to be carried out on a weekly basis at the three areas that are owned by the PC, Village Hall, Pavilion and Playing Field and Bevernside. She is ultimately responsible for ensuring that risk assessments take place.

Forms had been issued to undertake these checks.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2009.

**CHAIRMAN**