



**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 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 S Green (SG)  
Mrs S Akers (SAA)

Mr O St John  
Mr P Nicholson  
Mr A Christie  
Mrs Hildyard  
Mrs B Barrell

**APOLOGIES:** Mrs S Angel, Mr T Thompsett

**MINUTES:** The minutes of a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 were signed as a true record, with the following amendment under Public Transport: Should read: trains leaving London Bridge at 5.30 to 6pm.  
Mr Baker requested the following be added to this report: ' Mr Baker MP is still pursuing Southern for more trains from London Bridge during the peak evening rush hour. The additional 17.23 service that Southern have agreed to helps Lewes and Polegate, but not as yet Plumpton.'  
The Minutes of a Planning Meeting were signed as a true record with the inclusion: Mr Flowers said he would put building materials in his front garden.  
The Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 were signed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: Comments were invited from these. Current legislation had also been sent to Councillors: this included, Growing in the Community, Lewes Carnival, Honorary Titles, Chairmanship, Council's Power to Discharge their own Functions, and Training Courses available.

**Dog Bins** – KW met Mr Stratton LDC. It appeared that PC should only have been charged for bins on PC land – there were three further bins which were not on PC land; the PC had informed LDC when requesting the bins that they were not on PC land. It is unlikely that charges will be refunded but this will be looked into.  
Mr Stratton said that the litter bins were old and could be changed, at no cost, to grey ones. RT said he would get PC's approval for this.  
Later during the meeting it was decided to request the new grey bins. There were many old and different style bins in throughout the village.  
ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Stratton.

**Signs at Smithy's Close** – These have been removed.

**Change of Venue for Election** - Too late to change name on ballot papers so polling station would be at the VH.

**House at end of Southdowns** – LDC responded there are no current proposals to

use part of the garden as a car park. A large section of the garden has been rented to the new tenant under licence, which provides a small additional income, and will keep LDC's options to use the land at a later date for an alternative use; it cannot be purchased under the right to buy scheme

**Playing Field Accounts** - Mr Ramsay had sent a list of queries on these. Most of these had been answered by Clerk who had two to check out when she could take accounts from cabinet in VH. TT would answer questions about Honeybees rent.

**Highways** - Damage to verge at the end of East View Fields will be rectified by VMT.

**Footpaths** - SAA had responded to resident's e mail regarding the state of Footpath 13a. SAA spoke to ROW Officer who said that a proposal was sent to EA as the path runs alongside the stream, but the EA did not approve the proposal so ROW have had to come up with an alternative solution. They hope to patch the path during the coming financial year with a view to making a more substantial repair at a later date when there is more funding.

**Network Rail** - NR will make their presentation at the APM. Further questions had come in from a resident who is unable to be at the APM. These questions would be forwarded to NR in advance of the meeting.

**Power Cuts** - Answers to PC questions had been received from Rachael Hawkins EDF, and High Voltage Fault History was included. These documents were very long. ACTION: Clerk asked to condense above to one double sided A4 sheet to give to those attending APM. Also to invite Mrs Preece EDF to PC meeting in May to answer further questions that public may raise at APM. Full, and shortened version of questions and answer documents are on the Plumpton PC website, and shortened version on PC noticeboards in the village.

FURTHER MATTERS ARISING: Clerk had received complaint that there had been parking outside social housing at Westgate on jumble sale days and asked if cones would be available to be put out on those days. Mr Christie said he had some cones he could give the PC. Further cones would be purchased if necessary. RT had ascertained a price for these, and Mr Christie said cones from Screwfix were particularly reasonable.

SAA asked if cones could be put at the end of Westgate as often people park right on the junction when NADFAS or jumble sales take place on the verges.

KW said she would ask Mr Johnson ESCC Highways what measures could be taken to stop people parking very close to the end of roads.

Fly tipping had occurred at the Ferrings; Clerk had reported this to LDC, who said they would remove items. It was reported that this had not been done.

ACTION: Clerk to chase this with LDC.

SAA said that SOCS had cleared the pond on the village green. SOCS would be having their AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, at Beechwood Hall in Cooksbridge and Dr Margaret Pilkington would be doing a presentation on the River Ouse Research Project.

Tyres at North Barnes Farm: Mr Hawthorne had been alerted to a pile of tyres at the farm and had contacted LDC Planning Enforcement. Visit had taken place and ESCC Enforcement Officer had also attended; this case falls under the CC jurisdiction as it is classed as waste matter. Owner has to be given a reasonable time to comply either by using the tyres or removing them from the land.

Mr Christie had contacted EA who had said they would investigate in the light that it had been suggested that farming activity on the land had ceased. Mr Christie said the tyres could be seen from the recreation ground and he thought the farm was no longer a working farm; the tyres were a fire risk, and look unsightly.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Hawthorne if there had been any further developments with this reported by LDC.

No Cold Calling: SA had collected slips placed in the box and collated them; 27 said

they would support the scheme and 6 said they would not.

Mr Baker asked who is allowed to call. Clerk gave him a copy of the July minutes which showed that political and religious groups were allowed to call, charities are not allowed, however if a resident calls for a particular charity such as Poppy Day, then this will be allowed. Charities that put an envelope through the door and come back a few days later to collect it is permitted. It was decided that the box would be placed on the signing in table at the APM in case anyone wished to complete a form. The subject would be discussed further at the APM.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:** BW asked who had given permission for the blackthorn to be cut down at the allotments; it was nesting time and this should not have been done.

SAA said that she thought it was an allotment holder who wanted more light to his allotment. Allotment holders were not allowed to cut down trees, shrubs and hedgerows that were existing on the allotments without permission from the PC.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to allotment holders asking them to liaise with PC before removing any of the above foliage from their allotments.

It was thought that the old hedge looked dead, though there is a new bit of growth on it. It was thought it may be late coming out, but it should be looked at in the future to see if it was growing.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

**SANDPIT:** Mr Nicolson said that he had noticed more traffic in the last two weeks; he would be visiting the site shortly.

**VALE OF SUSSEX:** A representative would be coming to the APM with concerns about the rail crossing. A representative of CPRE would also be coming to put questions to NR. CPRE were also interested in the recent issue of the possible landraise site at Piltdown.

### **FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of March, 2010 were Admin £2409.62, Village Hall £8,210.55, Playing Field £6358.78. The first half of the precept had been received from LDC and the annual VAT claim (£4561.97) had been received. Accounts had been balanced, and tax return would be done on line during April.

S137 grants would be available for small amounts for village organisations, and application forms can be obtained from Clerk.

**ACTION:** Clerk asked RS and KW to publicise this in press and parish magazine. VH and Pavilion had been zero rated for business rates as they are charities.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

KW said that she had looked at the NR disc – this showed how many pedestrians had crossed the crossing; it had also been filmed on a race day.

Mr St John asked if he could have a look at the disc.

### **HIGHWAYS:**

KW would attend meeting with the VAP and ESCC about radar boxes on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. Mr St John said that initially three boxes would be used.

Road Closure: C323 Honeypot Lane junction to C11 Station Road junction – South Road – 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 for two days.

Confirmation was received of work to be done by VMT.

PCSO Knowles had been in Plumpton with the speed gun at the following times and dates and the results were:

4.3.2010 pm (school time) 2 vehicles caught speeding in 45 minutes

25.3.2010 pm (school time) 2 vehicles caught speeding in 60 minutes

31.3.2010 Lunchtime 0 vehicles caught speeding in 45 minutes.

Mr St John asked about the lack of signs when entering Plumpton (rather than PG), and wondered how residents felt about this. CE said that this had been put in the magazine and had received one response. This had been discussed at the SLR meeting and Highways had said that if signs were to be erected it would be to the detriment of other items that may need doing more. The public would be asked at the APM if they thought the signs should be erected.

## **ENVIRONMENT:**

SAA had looked at the willow tree reported by Mr Blencowe that overhangs his allotment, and agreed it needed cutting back; she had asked Mr Symes to do the work.

SAA said she had a key to the padlock at the car park near the allotments. All allotment holders had received a letter to say that she held the key if they needed it. Further to the above item about dog bins, it was thought that the bin in Wells Close would be better placed at Strawlands. SAA said the one at Wells Close was overflowing on occasions.

CE said that Jacqui Hutson was hoping to liaise with Mr Brook ESCC Highways about the management of the verges, which had been identified for the use of wildlife.

There were currently four verges (Verge 1, 9, 16 and 17) that would be cut. There appeared to be a potential problem with visibility at the one in St Helena Lane. CE said she would keep this in mind when discussing the mowing

SAA said she would look at the next phase of tree work to be done from the Tree Survey list.

CE mentioned to Mr Nicholson that she would be approaching the team connected with the Adopt a Station scheme to see if there would be any funding towards bulbs for the village.

## **FOOTPATHS:**

SAA said that ROW had been in touch with NR about the footpath from East View Fields to the railway bridge and some work had been done there.

Footpath 56: some branches had been cut down.

Footpath 36: stile had been replaced.

## **PLANNING AND HOUSING:**

LDC letter regarding new planning controls South Downs National Park.

Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 to update Parish and Town Councils on the emerging Core Strategy. The Rural Settlement Strategy, the Rural Settlement Study and to discuss other issues such as community needs; KW and BW would attend.

Affordable Housing: Letter from LDC asking if Mr Rowe could visit PC to talk about this.

ACTION: Clerk to invite him to June PC meeting.

## **POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

SA sent a report to the meeting. New Sergeants for Lewes are: Dan Hiles, Kevin Petkin and Mark Baker.

Awards made to DC Bonita Cowley who helped recover £1000,000 of assets from fourteen victims of fraud. Daniel Carpenter for helping identify a London gang who were charged with aggravated burglary – burglars received custodial sentences.

PCSO Ash identified a drugs factory in Lewes.

Comparison of crime figure with this time last year:

554 fewer victims. 97 fewer car crimes. 328 fewer damage reports. 69 fewer victims of crime.

No major happenings in Plumpton village.

## **VILLAGE HALL:**

RT reported that there was a problem with the urn at the hall, and it had received attention; there was a standby one for people to use.

RT said that the VH Committee was to put forward a proposal to SALC for a PWLB loan for £35,000 to be paid over 15 years to pay for kitchen and bar refurbishment and work to the stage. The payments would be paid for out of village hall funds. All Councillors agreed to this proposal.

The Village Fair would be on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2010.

There had been a report of the willow being overgrown and blocking out light from a property at the social housing, also tree roots from a hazel in the stream which had self seeded and was encroaching on gardens.

SAA would look at these and report back.

Three quotations had been received for the Village Green maintenance. One was favourable but it was thought that it should be more specific and items put in writing before all the quotes could be considered.

ACTION: Clerk to ask contractor to send more detailed quotation.

A decision would be taken at a subsequent meeting as to which quotation would be accepted.

## **PLAYING FIELD:**

TT sent report to meeting. Next PF meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Basketball court finished and money spent in time. Result looks good, CE was congratulated for all her hard work for organising the grant. Clerk to write to Dave Brown Drivepoint and David Westgate to thank them for a job well done. Meeting took place to discuss new rates with Honeybees and the Activity Scheme – compromise reached and new rates agreed for 2010-2011. New Pavilion PFC and VAP putting forward proposals in early autumn. Play Park. PFC and VAP putting forward proposals in early autumn. Energy Audit – this is with VAP Green team who will keep everyone updated.

Water supply- being investigated as it appears Tennis Club may be using water paid for by PC.

Repairs and Maintenance – some changing room windows and front entrance doors to be replaced using fund raising money. A quotation for £2226 from Safe Style UK had been received; a deposit of £222 was required. A length of the corridor floor covering is to be considered for replacement.

CE reported that the Quiz Night had gone well and ticket sales and the raffle had made money towards further repairs at the pavilion. The Football Club had put the money they had raised on the bar towards reseeding of the football pitches.

It was reported that skateboarders had been seen on the roof of the pavilion, and were using the small shed to get up there. This is very unstable and dangerous.

Mr Christie suggested using anti vandalism paint on the shed to deter people.

RT said he would be discussing the Test and Report which is due with TT.

CE said that she had looked at Percys Patch and in discussion with Jacqui Hutson thought it could be turned into a natural woodland; when the blackberry bushes were cleared the bluebells would thrive. There would probably have to be a fence to stop people walking over the area giving it chance to go back to its natural state. There could be a drainage problem. SAA suggested putting chalk down. Jacqui Hutson had suggested a proper survey of the area. CE said that there could be some bat boxes, and the school would be able to go down to the area.

All Councillors were in agreement with this proposal.

CE asked Clerk to write to Mr Lambert and Claire Shepard at the Racecourse for their generous raffle prizes for the Quiz at the Pavilion.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

CE reported that SG had given her several other local parish magazines to see how Parish Council present their reports.

## **VAP – any items not covered elsewhere:**

Team Leaders report 22.2.2010 had been presented to Councillors, also proposals for noting from VAP Footpath Team, VAP Communications Team and VAP Plumpton Goes Green Team.

Approval requested for: a. VAP Facilities Team for the proposal for children's play park to seek approval to consult, consider options, request formal quotes and research funding for play park project.

b. VAP Facilities Team for the proposal for new pavilion feasibility study.

Both these were approved by PC.

ACTION: Clerk to report approval to Mrs Nicholson.

SG asked if a combined VAP and PC team discussed the above proposals. CE said that the PFC (which includes her and TT) would report back on the meetings that discussed the issues a and b above.

## **CLERKS REPORT:**

Clerk presented to the Council: Three Counties Training programme 2010, Compost Doctor Spring 2010, Home Works leaflet, Glasdon leaflet, Health Scrutiny in East Sussex March 2010, ESCC Countywide News and Updates, Lewes District News Spring 2010, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service In partnership leaflet, SLCC Newsletter December 2009, Sussex Heritage Trust Awards, Applause Autumn 2010 Menu, District Link Spring 2010, East Chilmington PC Minutes 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

News from the School: PPTFA Jumble sale took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March raising £850, thanks to those who erected the hazel fencing around the school allotment, request for old mobile phones for recycling, Plumpton Morris Danvers paid a visit to Davigdor School.

Grant applications had been received from Crimestoppers and Victim Support. It was decided to discuss these along with any further applications that may be received at a later date.

Mr Dodd had contacted Clerk about helping are become 'plastic bag free area' asking if PC was interested in this scheme.

ACTION: Clerk to reply that Plumpton has bags for life for sale at village shop, so felt this is covered in Plumpton.

Mr Woodhouse had sent an e mail to be considered as a volunteer for the position of parish website maintainer.

ACTION: Clerk to acknowledge application and say that SG would be contacting him.

Clerk's Appraisal had taken place earlier before the start of the meeting with RT and BW. Clerk said she had worked very many more hours in the last two months, but this could level out with hopefully, a quieter month in August.

RT thought Clerk should be reimbursed for extra hours. Clerk said this had not been budgeted for.

### **BUSINESS PLAN:**

Several comments had been sent to the Clerk. It was decided that these would be discussed at a separate meeting at a later date after more comments may be forthcoming. Clerk requested to send e mail comments to Councillors.

TT sent a report to the meeting which said that it had been a great team effort and those involved should be thanked.

TT said that that the comments should receive a 'team' response with set times agreed to look at responses received.

RT also thanked those who had been involved.

### **Chairman**

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 11<sup>th</sup> MAY, 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

CPRE – Council for the Protection of Rural England