



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 16TH MAY, 2006 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN
ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor – Chairman
Mr. K Speirs
Mrs B Watson
Mr T Hawthorne
Mrs. S. Angel
Mrs C Thompson
Mr. K. Beard
Mr.P. Ramsay
Mrs. Ridley

Election of Officers:

Chairman – Mr. Taylor proposed by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Mrs. Angel

Vice Chairman – Mr. Speirs proposed by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Mrs. Angel

Chairmen of the following committees:

Village Hall – Mr. Taylor proposed by Mr. Speirs and seconded by Mrs. Watson

Playing Field – Mr. Speirs proposed by Mr. Beard and seconded by Mr. Ramsay

Planning – Mrs. Watson proposed by Mr. Beard and seconded by Mr. Taylor

Public Transport – Mr. Hawthorne proposed by Mrs. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Beard

Village Care – Mr. Beard proposed by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Mrs. Angel

Footpaths – Mrs. Akers proposed by Mr. Speirs and seconded by Mrs. Watson

Action Plan – Mr. Hawthorne proposed by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Mr. Speirs

Travers Trust Rep: Mrs. Watson – proposed by Mrs. Angel and seconded by Mr. Beard

District Representatives – Mr. Ramsay and Mrs. Thompson proposed by Mr. Speirs and seconded by Mr. Taylor

Tree Warden – Mrs. Ridley

The members of each committee remain the same as in May 2005. All Councillors agreed to these elections.

The Financial and Proper Officer Mrs. Cullen was confirmed and Standing Orders were also confirmed.

1. APOLOGIES: Mrs. S. Akers

2. MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting on 18th April, 2006 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

White van – Clerk had received an e mail from LDC to say that the VLO showed that this vehicle had recently been sold and is taxed until 31st July, 2006 so they were reluctant to deal with this as an abandoned vehicle until the tax has expired. An eye will be kept on this situation.

School Crossing Patrol – Clerk had received an account for a donation towards this which the PC had not authorised. It had been returned to say that PC would not contribute towards this.

Highways – Clerk had received letter from Highways: Letter regarding enforcement issue at Beetle Garage had been sent to Mr. Lake for his reply. Arrangements had been put in hand for the ditch to be cleared out. An order had been issued for works to be carried out in the vicinity of Station Road and Southdowns cul de sac. Hedge at Greencross – if this is still an issue it should be discussed with Mr. Lake. Clerk to contact Mr. Lake.
The rut in Plumpton Lane will be made safe.

Photographs of parking did not come out well on fax (hard copy had been sent already) so request was made to send copy and matter will then be investigated.
Clerk to send copy.

Public Footpath Plumpton 27C – Arrangements would be made to install a new footpath signpost at this point.

Beresford Manor Farm – Enforcement officer had visited the property and the owner had advertised for a tenant but was unsuccessful and that the chalets are being occupied by family members. Enquiries will be pursued.

Lock up garages, the Paddocks, Plumpton – Clerk read out letter from LDC saying that the garages were not used for business purposes from 1978 until September 2005, and that LDC have written evidence that the garages were used for business purposes since 1978. Following conversations with residents the garages and hardstanding in front of them have been used to park vehicles connected with the Beetle Garage for at least 30 years. It was suggested PC contact the local taxation department regarding business rates.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 – Clerk had received letter and booklet regarding this. The training course is in its final stages of development and will be available shortly. The person taking on an enforcement role should not be a councillor in the parish area where powers are to be used. The Parish Council issuing the notice would keep the revenue.
Clerk had read through the booklet, and it appeared there would be a cost to the PC and it was not thought the revenue gained would not cover this.
Mr. Hawthorne would mention this at the RVRC meeting and also the Bevern Stream initiative and it was thought it could be mentioned in the Action Plan questionnaire.

Steps on Footpath 13b – new steps have been installed here.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mr. Beard said that he would check the ties on the trees on the village green.
Mr. Speirs said that he had noticed that the Beetle Garage were using the village hall car park to park one of their vehicles. Mr. Taylor said he would put a notice on it when it was next parked there. Clerk to write to owner of garage to say that this was private property and there could be safety and insurance implications and the car park was for the use of village hall patrons only.
It had been noticed that the drive at 10 Riddens Lane has been increased and no planning permission had been requested. Clerk to contact Planning to see if this was needed
Edgington, Station Road. It had been noticed that a log cabin building had been built in the garden for people to live in. Building regulations were required, but Clerk to check if planning permission was needed for this.
Mr. Hawthorne said that he and Mr. Speirs had carried out training to operate the SID and this will be in use soon.
He would be attending an RVRC meeting and there would be a presentation about affordable housing. He would also attend a meeting of the Bevern Stream Initiative on 17th May; the PC had sent in their comments regarding speeding. They had asked for suggestions on promoting green tourism, walking, cycling etc.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr. Taylor said a suggestion had been made to replace the tile hung area on the south side of the hall with better quality tiles and Mrs. Akers would be getting some costings for this.
There had been problems with the emergency lights; it was thought that when EDF had done the test some wires may not have been tightened up; two had to be replaced.
The Plumpton Players had experienced an incident recently when the scenery had been vandalised on a revolving stage. There had been no evidence of a break in to the hall. The new locking system would be in place soon. Mr. Satchell had suggested installing small video cameras in the hall entrance.
The Hall charges had gone up slightly.
Clerk read out a letter from Mr. Rothwell requesting the use of the room previously used

by the Doctors to run his hairdressing business when he had to vacate his present premises. He felt that this was a much needed service especially to the elderly community who could not easily get elsewhere to have their hair done.

Mr. Ramsay suggested that maybe a portacabin could be erected at the playing field for Mr. Rothwell's use, but it was thought that this would also have implications concerning planning, Charity Commissioners etc.

Clerk to reply to his letter saying that several areas of concern were being checked such as Insurance, Charity Commissioners, Planning and Ratings; also to tell him that he must keep his business going as it could be some time before there is information from the above authorities. Mr. Rothwell had thought he would visit his clients in their homes when his lease is up on his present premises.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of April 2006 were Admin £8600.12, Village Hall £18,969.05, Playing Field £13,591.73. Letter from Barclays Bank saying that paid cheques would no longer be sent after 1st June, 2006.

The Accounts for Audit were signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Clerk noticed that Chailey PC had sent a leaflet to all residents about the APM offering a drink before the meeting. East Chiltington APM had as many members of the public as Plumpton had, with a smaller parish, and their meeting had been held in the Jolly Sportsman.

It was thought a good idea to have an emotive issue on the agenda for the APM to attract people to attend and ask for those requesting grants to make a presentation about what their organisations did.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Mr. Speirs said the drainage work had been done at the end of April and hopefully it will work.

8. PLANNING:

The following applications had been granted:

LW/06/0185 Land to the west of Plumpton Racecourse. Formation of a 20m x 40m arena for equestrian use for Mr. Bredin.

LW/06/0121 Land at Westcroft, Plumpton Lane. Advertisement application for the retention of a non illuminated freestanding sales board and two flagpoles for Rydon Homes.

TPO 45 1997 Fairhaven, Plumpton Lane. Crown reduce oak tree with die-back by 30% and remove epicormic growth; reduce back branches overhanging neighbour's garden by no more than 30% of branch length, remove epicormic growth on oak tree; remove epicormic growth on oak tree.

The following application had been withdrawn:

LW/06/0128 Beetle Garage, Station Road, Plumpton Green. Hardstand parking for car sales service, customers cars and staff cars and van.

The following applications were considered: LW/06/0488 7 Southdowns, Plumpton Green. Erection of a sunlounge and minor alterations for Mr. J Thompson.

The PC approved this application.

LW/06/0543 Copse Cottage, Green Lane, Plumpton Green. Single storey flank extension comprising of a self contained granny annexe and sun room for Mr. and Mrs. Phillipott.

PC approved this application on condition that it forms part of the family dwelling and does not exceed the permitted development area.

There was to be planning training on 12th July at Denton Island, Newhaven. Mrs. Watson was unable to go.

Letters had been received from Mr. Baker and Mr. Blythe regarding planning enforcement issues at the Beetle Garage. Clerk to send these to Mr. Frost Planning Director with a copy to Mrs. Osborne, District Councillor.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

Nothing to report.

10. FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report.

**11. PUBLIC
TRANSPORT:**

Temporary road closure to carry out maintenance at level crossing between 2300 on 4th July, 2006 until 0600 on 5th July, 2006.
Clerk read out section of letter from ESCC saying that the Saturday Service 824 (Village Rider) to Burgess Hill had been withdrawn.
Mr. Hawthorne had attended an RVRC meeting and many of the bus and coach operators were there, and discussions had taken place regarding the event at Chailey School and the proposed closures; the budget was very short and it was a case of use it or lose it with regards to bus transport. It appeared that a lot of residents did not know the buses were free to those over 60. Clerk to put this in parish magazine article and ask Mr. Stone to put it in the village voice column in the press.
There is a new train to Victoria from Plumpton at 5.30 a.m.

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH:**

The PCSO had visited Mrs. Angel to report a burglary at the Riddens and vandalism on the stage in the hall at a Plumpton Players performance.
Mrs. Angel reported that there had been a meeting on 20th March with the Chairman of Sussex Police Authority and the Chief Constable with the Home Secretary. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the proposals for the future structure of policing in the south east. It was thought the only acceptable way was to merge Sussex and Surrey Police. The response had been that there would be no voluntary merger and that there would have to be further discussions.
Clerk would complete the Local Councils Support Policy Review – March 2006.

13. TREE WARDEN:

Mrs. Ridley said that she would like to have an assistant. Mr. Speirs said he would ask Mr. Hutson. Mrs. Ridley would be contacting Plumpton College about ties round trees which were too tight and the trees were dying, and would also ask if there was anyone at the college that would be willing to help as assistant tree warden. Clerk to ask Mrs. Akers if she could observe any problems with trees when she was out walking; Mr. Speirs said he would also look out for potential problems with trees and inform Mrs. Ridley.
Mrs. Ridley said that there were two meetings on the 20th May, AGM International Tree Organisation with tree warden training and a trip round Sheffield Park. There would be a South East Tree Warden Forum on 7th October, 2006.
Mrs. Ridley said that people had planted many black poplar trees from cuttings grown at Wakehurst Gardens. She had planted some herself.

**14 VILLAGE ACTION
PLAN**

Mr. Hawthorne said that the first steering group had met and Ms. Ruth Goldstone from Action in Rural Sussex had attended. It was thought a few more people would be needed on the committee, especially a representative from an older age group. The next meeting would be on 19th June.
Clerk to ask Mr. Stone for space in the magazine on a regular basis for the Action Plan.
Mr. Ramsay asked the Clerk to make a list of possible grant funding sources.

15. REPORT OF CLERK:

Clerk presented to the Council: Public Meeting Sustainable Communities Bill information,
SALC County Circular Spring, FWAG Annual General Meeting, Clerks and Councils Direct, Tree News, Working Together Sussex Downs and Weald NHS, Local Authority Byelaws in England, LDC Forestry Authority Register, East Chiltington PC APM and Minutes May, 2006, East Sussex Annual Monitoring Report 2004/05 Minerals and Waste, Glasdon Seating Collection.

Letter from Wealden Independent Mediation Service asking for fund; this was based in Hailsham so not appropriate to Plumpton.
Letter from Happy Circle thanking PC for their donation.

Note from Mrs. Thomas to say that the Lord Lieutenant had informed her that the Duchess of Cornwall was passing through Plumpton on 26th May, 2006 at about 3 pm and it was thought it would be nice if local people were to stand on the roadside at Plumpton College to watch her go by.

CHAIRMAN