



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 15TH MAY, 2007 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN
ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING

PRESENT: Mr. R. Taylor Chairman
Mr. K. Speirs Vice Chairman
Mrs B Watson
Mrs. S. Angel
Mrs. S. Akers
Mr. T Thompsett
Mrs. K. Wride
Mrs. C Eastwood

1 Member of the Public

A new Council had been elected and four new Councillors had joined the Council: Mr. T Thompsett, Mrs. K Wride, Mrs. C Nicholson and Mrs C Eastwood.

All Councillors signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office which were signed and witnessed by the Clerk Declaration of Interest forms were given to all Councillors for completing and new Councillors were given New Councillors Packs. All Councillors were issued with a new Code of Conduct. This will be confirmed at the June Parish Council meeting. The Clerk was confirmed as the Financial and Proper Officer and Standing Orders were confirmed.

Elections of Councillors took place:

Mr. Taylor was elected Chairman. Proposed by Mr Speirs, seconded Mrs. Watson

Mr K Speirs was elected Vice Chairman. Proposed by Mrs. Angel and seconded by Mrs Akers

Mr Taylor was elected Chairman of Village Hall. Proposed by Mrs. Akers and seconded by Mrs Watson

Mr Speirs was elected Chairman of Playing Field. Proposed by Mrs Eastwood and seconded by Mrs Wride

Mrs Wason was elected Chairman of Planning. Proposed by Mr Speirs and seconded by Mr Taylor

Mr Speirs was elected Chairman of Public Transport. Proposed by Mrs Watson and Mr. Taylor

Mrs Akers was elected Chairman of Village Care. Proposed by Mr Taylor and seconded by Mrs Angel. Mr Speirs would take on the responsibility of Highways, to be a sub section of village care.

Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Eastwood were elected as Chairpersons of Footpaths. Proposed by Mrs Akers and seconded by Mrs Wride

Mrs Angel was elected Neighbourhood Watch representative. Proposed by Mr Speirs and seconded by Mr Taylor.

Mrs Watson was elected Travers Trust Representative. Proposed by Mr Taylor and seconded by Mr Speirs

Mrs Ridley will remain Tree Warden with Mrs Hall assisting her.

Mrs Wride would be the PC's representative for the Action Plan, and report on Bevern Stream Initiative and Rural Voices Rural Choices.

Mrs. Nicholson would be the PC's representative for the Novington Sandpit Committee.

All the Council were in agreement with these elections.

The following were elected to stand on Committees.

Village Hall. Mrs. Akers and Mr Thompsett.

Playing Field. Mr. Thompsett and Mrs Eastwood.

Planning. All Councillors

Finance. Mr. Taylor, Mr Speirs and Mrs Watson.

Village Care. Mrs Wride and Mrs Nicholson.

The Clerk explained the present Code of Conduct and Declaration of Members interests, signing the Interest book and a few general issues on her role and Council procedures.

Mrs. Nicholson had signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and had sent a letter to the Clerk to say she would be willing to help on committees including Village Care, Footpaths, representative of Action Plan and Novington Sandpit.

1. APOLOGIES:

Mrs. C Nicholson

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 17th April, 2007 were signed as a true record. The Minutes of a Planning Meeting on 24th April, 2007 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Clerk read out letter from Mrs Beard thanking her for flowers that had been sent by the PC. She said that Mr Ken Beard was improving and hoping to be out of hospital soon.

Emission Signs - Clerk had obtained costings for these from Signs and Labels and had contacted Highways, and the Rail Authorities as to the where the proposed signs would be placed. Mr Johnson Highways had telephoned to say that planning permission should be sought but that these signs were not legal. Clerk contacted Department of Transport who said that a recent survey had been done and that the signs were not effective and could make matters worse by switching off and then switching on engines at railway crossings. Council decided not to have the signs. Clerk to write to Mr Flowers thanking him for his help with this matter.

Highways – Clerk read out letter regarding signs for B2116 Ditchling Road Closure – diversion signage. Signs would be placed at Offham and Ditchling. This work was to have taken place between 8th and 14th May, but had not been done. Clerk to ask why this had not been done.

Signpost at South Road – Clerk had received a telephone call from Highways to say that the PC would be expected to make a contribution towards a new sign. Council were not happy about this. Mr. Speirs had arranged a meeting with Mr. Brooke (Highways) to walk round the village. The signpost would be discussed, also the ongoing problems outside Old School Cottages, and Barnfield. It was reported that the white road markings in the village are very feint in certain areas; Also that outside 27 Westgate the footpath is breaking up. These issues would be discussed at the meeting.

Orchard Cottage, The Rest, and West Dene – the hedges have been cut in these areas.

Affordable housing – It was decided not to pursue this matter at the present time.

Mobile Office - Clerk had visited the bus on Newick Green and had been impressed. It provides facilities for computer tuition and has information regarding ESCC facilities including libraries. Council asked Clerk to find out if the service could be available in Plumpton. Clerk said there appeared to be a waiting list.

Plumpton Green Garage - Work on the demolition of the old Plumpton Green Garage was due to start on the 16th May. Mr. Speirs asked Clerk if she would check conditions on hours of work.

Clerk had received an e mail from Mr. Barnett Planning to say that the £15,268 from the developer for a leisure facility would not be forthcoming until after the first property was sold. He thought the suggestions put forward by the PC would qualify for the funding.

Issues regarding noise from skateboard area - Mrs. Akers reported that the ramps at the skateboard area were insulated with a surface coating, and it was felt that nothing more could be done. Clerk to write back to complainants to say they should report any particular incidents of noise nuisance to the Police.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs. Akers reported that SOCS were hoping for continued membership for the year of £50; this was agreed. The reported that there was now a gate at one of the allotments and sheep netting had been put up which would mean Mr. Westgate would not now need to fence the area. Mrs. Akers would contact Mr. Westgate. She reported that the hedge at Brookdale was overgrown; Clerk to write to owners. She reported that the fence at the skateboard area was in a bad state, the wood had splintered. A suggestion of a chain link fence was made. Mr. Speirs would ask Mr. Staplehurst to repair the fence.

Mr Speirs said that another quotation should be obtained for work on the car park extension. Mr. Thompsett said he would get a further quote. Clerk to send him a copy of original specification.

Dog Bin - It was decided that the end of Strawlands may be a suitable place; Mr Avery owns this land. Mr. Speirs would speak to him to see if he agreed to have a bin there.

Memorial Seat – Councillors chose a seat in memory of Mr. Percy Law from the KCS catalogue at a cost of £260.45 plus VAT, plus the cost of a plaque. This was proposed by Mrs. Watson and seconded by Mr Speirs, all the Council were in agreement with this. Clerk to order the seat and write to Mrs. Law as to the wording of the seat.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr Taylor reported that there had been several meetings to discuss electrical work to be done , and it was thought work on the back of the stage would be done first.

There had been complaints about dryers and a quote for a more powerful dryer would be £293 plus VAT. This would involve rewiring of all circuits. It was thought that paper towels could be used from a dispenser for bigger events, which should help with the problem.

The cookers are stained and may need a professional clean. Mrs. Karen Beard would look into how much it would cost to replace the cookers.

Mr. Taylor said he would be doing work on the stage curtains. There had been some damage to the chair store area. Mr. M. Beard had painted all the exterior doors and windows. A new tree had been planted to replace a broken one.

The Clerk had received a reply from ESCC to say that the application to register land as a village green had been received. Clerk had the document witnessed by a Notary Public in Lewes.

A quotation had been received from Mr. Woolgar for maintenance of the village green £2672 per annum. This was proposed by Mr. Thompsett and seconded by Mr. Speirs. All were in agreement. Clerk to accept this quotation and ask Mr. Woolgar to check the borders and cut out any dead wood, and to confirm he would keep the hedge on the boundary of Tenterden trimmed.

Mr. Ken Beard had offered to liaise with the Council over the maintenance of the village green area.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of April were Admin £5895.01, Village Hall £15,436.36 and Playing Field £15,049.88. Mr. Greening, the internal auditor had signed off the internal audit, and the full audit would now be prepared by the Clerk for confirmation at the June meeting.

The insurance for the year had been paid.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Mr. Speirs said the playgroup had got a new shed. Clerk to thank Mr. Gamble for the new noticeboard at the Pavilion, when his account had been received.

A new tractor had been purchased. Clerk was handed three sealed bids for the old tractor. The highest bid was from Mr. Glyn Wells £675 for the tractor and £50 for the gang mowers. Clerk to write to him to say he had been successful with his bid.

- 8. PLANNING:** Clerk had received a letter regarding an application for The Warren. This had not been received by Mrs Watson so she would chase it up with LDC.
ESCC Planning Application for retention of 1 single mobile classroom, Plumpton School. There were no comments to make on this application.
The following applications had been granted:
LW/07/0158 2 Osborne Villas, Plumpton. Erection of two storey infill extension and single storey rear extension.
Mrs. Watson said that planning meetings normally took place on Saturday mornings at 9.30. They are sometimes at different times during the summer, including evenings. She asked if Councillors could let her know if they could attend.
- 9. VILLAGE CARE:** Nothing to Report
- 10. FOOTPATHS:** Ms. Sophie Homewood ROW Officer said she did not have time to walk the footpaths, but could go to certain areas with problems. Clerk would ask Ms Homewood to contact Mrs. Eastwood to arrange a meeting to walk these footpaths. The stiles at the footpath near the Fountain are too high. The footpath East View Fields from the railway to the stables; there is still a problem with the electric fence and there have been lots of complaints.
- 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Nothing to Report
- 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mrs. Angel reported that Mr. Young had said all was quiet on the neighbourhood watch front. The PCSO had not been in the village recently, but this may have been because she was on a late shift in the evening. There had been a public Police meeting in April but the Council had not been informed.
- 13. TREE WARDEN:** Nothing to report.
- 14. VILLAGE ACTION PLAN:** Mrs. Wride said that it was hoped that the questionnaire would be out and back by September.
- 15. REPORT OF CLERK:** Clerk read out a letter from the Happy Circle requesting a donation. Council agreed to £60
Clerk read out e mail from Mr. Stone requesting the fee for editorial space in the Parish Magazine and asking if the sum could be increased. The Council agreed to increase the sum to £350.
Clerk gave a brief report on a newsletter from the School. The Morris club had completed their tour of Sussex, they had performed at Fletching and Danehill. There would be a meeting for parents on 24th May regarding the National Curriculum's requirement that children learn about aspects of reproduction and relationships. Assessment for children in Years, 3, 4 and 5 would take place during May.

Clerk presented to the Council: SALC Three Counties Training Spring Bulletin, East Sussex in Figures Newsletter, ESCC In Touch newsletter, NPFA Trustees Report and Accounts for 31st December, 2006, Plumpton Village Action Plan Minutes 8th May, 2007. Action in Rural Sussex Village Hall Mailing Spring 2007, Save the DGH Pride of the Community Eastbourne and Hastings Consultation Document, LCS Magazine May, 2007, SOCS Spring Newsletter 2007, Lottery Funding Developing Communities Project News.

CHAIRMAN