



**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2008 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 K Wride  
Mrs. C Eastwood  
Mrs S Angel  
Mrs C Nicholson  
Mrs S Akers

Mr T Hawthorne  
Mrs F Ridley

Elections of Councillors took place: Mr Taylor was elected Chairman. Proposed by Mrs Watson, seconded Mrs Wride. Mr Speirs was elected Vice Chairman. Proposed by Mrs Wride, seconded by Mrs Angel  
Village Hall: Mr Taylor was proposed by Mr Speirs, seconded by Mrs Nicholson.  
Playing Field. Mr Speirs was proposed by Mr Taylor, seconded by Mrs Angel.  
Planning: Mrs Watson was proposed by Mrs Wride seconded by Mrs Eastwood.  
Public Transport; Mr Speirs was proposed by Mrs Akers, seconded by Mrs Wride.  
Footpaths. Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Akers were proposed by Mrs Wride, seconded by Mr Taylor  
Village Care: Mrs Akers was proposed by Mr Speirs and seconded by Mrs Watson.  
Neighbourhood Watch. Mrs Angel was proposed by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs Eastwood.  
Action Plan. Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Wride were elected to be the PC's representatives for the Action Plan.  
Travers Trust. Mrs Watson was proposed by Mr Taylor seconded by Mrs Angel.  
District Representatives; Mr Thompsett and Mrs Wride were elected by Mr Speirs, seconded by Mrs Watson.  
Tree Warden: Mrs Ridley was elected by Mrs Watson, seconded by Mrs Eastwood.  
All the Councillors agreed to the above nominations.

The Clerk was confirmed as the Financial and Proper Officer and Standing Orders were confirmed

The following were elected to stand on Committees:

Village Hall; Mrs Akers and Mr Thompsett.

Playing Field: Mrs Wride, Mrs Eastwood, Mr Thompsett.

Finance: Mr Taylor, Mr Speirs, Mrs Watson.

Planning: All Councillors. Housing and Development Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Wride.

Village Care and Environment: Mrs Wride and Mrs Nicholson.

Highways: Mrs Eastwood, Mrs Watson.

Public Transport: Mrs Watson.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Mr T Thompsett

**2. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 were signed as a true record, with the following inclusions. Page 2 – booklet about recycling: add to last line: the summer fare.  
Under Village Care: third line add 'dog' bin.  
Under Best Village Competition: Clerk to retain copy of this document.

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**3. MATTERS ARISING:** **Wheelie Bins** - Clerk had got quotes but companies not keen to just sell one bin and carriage charges would be very high. B & Q sell the bins; Mrs Akers said she would purchase one on behalf of the PC from B & Q.

**Plumpton Green Garage** - Mrs Watson had suggested the name Hill Side for the new development as Mr R Hills family had lived there in the past. Clerk to inform Gramm and Post Office about this suggestion.

**Tree Inspection** - Mr Speirs met Mr Wynn and a tree inspection took place. Mr Wynn said that a poplar tree at the Bevernside was hollow and should be felled. It was not certain whether this was on parish council land or on the boundary. Clerk to write to Mrs Hyde whose property is on the boundary to say that the council propose to have this felled when the nesting season is over. Clerk to ask Mr C Symes to fell this tree. Clerk had checked tennis club lease to see if the club were responsible for trees. It would appear they should be kept in good order by the Clerk. Clerk to write to Secretary Mrs Allan to ask her if this is done. Mr Wynn reported that there was problem with three small trees on the village green which he thought a strimmer may have damaged.

**Best Village Competition** - Mr Taylor, Mr Speirs and Mrs Nicholson had attended a meeting with AIRS on 15/5/08 in the village. The judges were particularly interested in involvement with children and the elderly in the village. Mr Speirs said he thought they may feel there was a possible gap for facilities for young people. The judges were impressed with the action plan.

**Rights of Way** ROW Officer had said that the signpost required may be Footpath Plumpton 20, and details have been passed to the maintenance team asking for a new signpost.

Public Footpaths 27d and 30 both fall within ANOB and South Downs Joint Committee would contact direct regarding the queries on these two paths.

Further details were required on the footpath Plumpton/Streat Street 20 Plumpton 24 boundary; no complaints had been received about these footpaths.

Clerk to reply that nothing had been heard from the South Downs Joint Committee, so this needs to be chased. Clerk to report that the problem on the Eryl footpath is a broken piece of wood which is a danger. It appeared that maybe the Monday Group had made a temporary repair, but a more permanent one was needed.

Clerk had received an e mail from the Monday Group to say they had not conducted any work behind the Fountain Pub. Clerk to chase this up to see who had done the work. It was thought handrails on all stiles would help walkers. Clerk to ask the Monday Group about this.

**Highways** - Potholes at the end of East View Fields and South Road had been repaired.

**Waste and Minerals Plan** – Mr Nicholson had prepared a submission which had been sent off and acknowledged by ESCC.

**Bin emptying around bank holidays** – Details of these are on the website and in the parish magazine.

**Queens Award** – Mrs Nicholson had attended a gathering at Plumpton College for those organisations put forward for the award. The results will be known on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2008.

**Dog friendly stiles** - Clerk read out draft letter to landowners where it was thought a good idea to have dog friendly latches on footpath stiles. This was approved and Clerk would await list of suitable stiles, before sending letters to landowners.

**Website Flyers** - Mr Green had sent a sample of a flyer he thought could be sent out with the magazine alerting people to the facilities of the website. PC approved this with the addition of the wording 'or shop' in the second to last paragraph. Clerk to ask Mr Green to organise printing and distribution and to bill the council for this. It was thought maybe the website could include more items about the action plan in the future.

**Bus Services** – No reply had been received to this letter. Clerk to chase this up.

**Skateboard Area** - The fencing work had been done. Mrs Akers had downloaded information from eibe the company that installed the skatepark equipment. This information said that it is extremely quiet, amongst other characteristics. Clerk to send a copy of this to Mr Spencer who had complained of the noise from the skatepark equipment.

**Proposed Pharmacy at South Chailey surgery** - Clerk and Mr Taylor had heard from Chairman of Newick PC that this had been proposed and it was thought this could put the Lloyds Pharmacy in Newick at risk of closure. This is an important facility for Newick.

It was thought that Plumpton residents may find it useful to have prescriptions made up at the South Chailey Surgery but understood the concerns of Newick and Chailey residents.

**Station** - Clerk had contacted Network Rail regarding the signal box. A reply said that they were not in a position to paint the box, but it had been noted that scaffolding was already up. Clerk had written to Southern regarding the light problem mentioned at the APM.

**Allotments** – A request had been made for a tap by allotment holders. Clerk to contact South East Water.

**Old School Cottages – water** - Clerk read out letter from Southern Water saying that the work had taken place here on 2<sup>nd</sup> May to repair the affected part of the sewer and they were satisfied that the problems have now been resolved.

**Speeding on B2116** - Clerk had received an e mail from Mr St John about speeding on this road. Clerk to ask PC Vitler to come to the area with the speed gun.

Action Plan: Questions were asked as to how the make of teams going to be organised? Are there going to be Terms of Reference? Will the teams be a good cross section of the community? It was hoped that the right people would come forward as volunteers to be on the committees, and Parish Council's approval would be sought on many issues involving the plan.

Mrs Watson aired some concerns; She felt that maybe the Church did not want to hold a Sunday school, and that clubs and societies may not want to increase their activities to increase their memberships, this is for individuals to decide.

It was proposed to adopt the Implementation Plan of the Action Plan which was the final version produced as at 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2008. An addition regarding disability should be added – 'Engage with users of mobility aids, i.e. wheelchairs, mobility scooters, walking frames and walking sticks etc. and the visually impaired to seek a better understanding of the access difficulties experienced'.

It was understood that the constitution and steering committees with Terms of Reference for sub committees would be set up on the Action Plan.

Mr Speirs proposed the adoption and Mr Taylor seconded this. All the Councillors were in agreement.

It was proposed by the Action Plan Committee that there should be changes to the agenda to reflect that the Council supports the Plan, and to be in line with Action Plan subject areas. After some discussion, and points raised that were not in favour of some of the changes, it was decided to use the following new headings for the agenda:

Finance. Public Transport. Highways (including pavements) - Parking and Speeding, Environment – Village Care, litter, recycling – Footpaths and Bridleways – Report of Tree Warden. Communications. Policing and Neighbourhood Watch. Planning. Housing and Development. Village Hall. Playing Field. Local Businesses. Youth Council.

It was felt that there would be occasions when some of these headings would not be used, and could perhaps have been added at a later date, but that they should be included at the present time and amendments could be made at a later date.

#### **4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

Mr Thompsett was not present at the meeting and he sent a letter saying he had received a report about speeding down Riddens Lane. He had also had a report about dog fouling on the paths in the village, and also horse fouling.

Mrs Angel asked if the dog bin at the twitten could be moved to near the bridge near area and placed on the allotment side away from the seat. Clerk to ask Mr Beard to move this.

Mrs Akers handed the Council a SOCS Newsletter.

Mrs Eastwood said that there is a marking on the road near the school crossing that looks like another crossing opposite Bevernside. Clerk to ask Highways why this is there.

It was reported that someone had erected a log cabin in the extension to Plumpton Wood; this was used as a camp site and is part of an Ancient Woodland. Clerk to contact Enforcement Officer LDC Planning.

It was reported that there was a hole in the bridge on a footpath in Lumberpits Lane off South Road. Clerk to report this to the ROW officer.

It was reported that there was a leaning tree in the footpath off the twitten between the pond on the green at the back of the houses.

Mrs Ridley said that she had an unpleasant experience when a 'knockerboy' had been to her house; the Police had been called. Clerk to put this in the magazine warning people about these incidents and to call the Police if this should happen.

Mrs Ridley reported that there is excess water on a bridleway at Lumberpits Lane running north up from South Road to Beresford Lane; Mrs Ridley believes that the excess water causing bogs and mud, may be due to water coming from The Firs which runs through Polecat Wood is making the area impassable. Mrs Ridley had received a letter from Mr Cazalet who had contacted the ROW Officer who had visited the area and confirmed that water was coming from this property. Mrs Ridley said the excess water was dangerous to children, and those riding ponies.

The Firs is a big house, with two holiday lets and a converted garage into a granny annexe which uses a lot more water than smaller properties. Mrs Ridley thought the problem could be rectified by digging a ditch on the bridleway side which would take water to the stream. The ROW Officer reported that she has added Lumberpits Lane to the list of paths requiring surfacing work, but the list is long and other paths are in a worse condition, but it was hoped it would be done when funds allowed.

Clerk to contact Planning to ask them to check the situation of the excess water coming from the Firs.

Mrs Nicholson asked about the entrance to Southdowns on the north side, regarding having a drain to take the water that runs down that area. Mr Brooke had been to look at the area when it had been wet and said this needed sorting out. The underground spring needs investigating. It was decided to keep an eye on it and report if there were any further problems.

Mrs Wride reported that she and Mr Thompsett had attended the District Association Meeting. It appeared the rail link between Uckfield would mean there would be a fast train from Eastbourne to Haywards Heath, which would mean one less train stopping at Plumpton. Devolution of Highway maintenance had been discussed and all local parishes are going to use the new system. There is money available in the school travel plan for children going safely to school (£4000). Clerk to ask Highways if children signs could be put up. Clerk to ask Mrs Wride where these should be placed.

#### **5. VILLAGE HALL:**

It was reported that the contractor was having difficulty with the grass cutting as the mower was not really big enough. Clerk to ask Contractor to mow the whole area for the Village Fare on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Mr Taylor reported that the kitchen would be refurbished during the next financial year, and the lighting project would be on going. Money for these projects is taken from savings, jumble sales and fund raising and not from the precept.

**6. FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of April, 2008 were Admin £6745.31 Playing Field £10,704.50 and Village Hall £13,286.89. Clerk apologised for not having prepared the budget sheets, but Mr Satchell had been unable to come to set up the accounts for the next year. This had been done on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. Budget sheets for two months would be available at the next meeting

Clerk said that there were details of courses on the table for councillors to look at and they should look at the website for future courses if they wished to attend them.

**7. PLAYING FIELD:**

An inspection of the play area would take place through ROSPA; £55 would be paid for an inspection and risk assessment.

Clerk to order two wall mounted sack holders and bags in yellow from Eureka catalogue. Mr Speirs reported that the inauguration of the bench in memory of Mr Percy Law had taken place and the family had attended.

Mr Speirs had received a quotation from Foster Playscapes for work to be done at the play area; this was £2274 plus VAT. This work has to be done, as some parts of the area were deteriorating. Another quotation was requested.

**8. PLANNING:**

The following planning applications have been approved::

LW/08/0167 The Gables, Station Road. Erection of a detached double garage.

LW/08/0013 Hackmans Farm, Plumpton Lane. Change of use of agricultural land for use as campsite and agricultural land (renewal of temporary planning permission LW/05/0078).

LW/08/0173 Plough Inn, Station Road. Erection of a single storey extension and refurbishment to provide improved restaurant facilities, disabled access and parking including refurbishment of an existing store.

PC were not happy about the decision regarding the Plough; Clerk to ask Mr Hawthorne to liaise with planning about this.

Courses for Planning: Planning Training Town and Parish Councillors – no one able to attend as PC meeting takes place on that date.

A letter about changes to the planning system had been sent; this was more for those submitting an application.

Mrs Wride and Mrs Watson said they would like to go to the Emergency Planning Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. Clerk to send form off.

**9. VILLAGE CARE:**

Nothing to report.

***HIGHWAYS:***

Nothing further to report.

**10. FOOTPATHS:**

Footpath that leads to East View Fields needs clearing. Clerk to ask Highways if the Village Maintenance team can do this work.

**11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

There are now two more trains stopping at Plumpton from London Bridge.

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:**

Clerk read out letter from Natalie Carron, the new Chief Inspector. She would be working with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partners to jointly focus on vehicle crime and safety, alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour.

Clerk read out e mail from Sgt McDonald to say there had been staffing issues with resignations, a pregnancy and some staff off on long term sick leave. PCSO Buggins would be responsible for Plumpton. There would be a course to train PCSO's in July. Mrs Angel reported that on 15<sup>th</sup> May at 1am intruders tried to obtain entry to a garage in Westgate; the offenders were disturbed and ran off.

On 0929 on 17<sup>th</sup> May a window had been smashed on a Red Cross mobile first aid unit that was parked behind Plumpton College.

Mrs Angel had also heard reports of dog knockers in the village. The Police would like to be informed of any further incidents.

There had been a problem with the delivery of door stickers

**13. TREE WARDEN:** Nothing to report.

**14. REPORT OF CLERK:** Clerk presented to the Council: Fields in Trust Annual Review 2007, Three Counties training leaflet, Clerks and Councils Direct May 2008, FWAG Newsletter, LCR May 2008, SOCS Spring 2008 issue, NHS Primary Care Trust News April 2008, Applause Rural |Touring, NALC Conference Making Local Connections, AIRS letter regarding South of England Show, LDC letter Complaints about Councillors within Lewes District, Fields in Trust – Trustees Report and Accounts, Rural Voices Rural Choices Partnership Meeting Notes, Report of Youth Awareness Event at Chailey School, Planet Product Portfolio, LDC Changes to the Work of the Standards Committee, LDC Minutes of Standards Committee in 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.  
Mr Baker had sent Clerk a break down of population of Plumpton as at 2001 Census.

**News from the School:** New rugs had been funded by the PPTFA. A visit from a representative from the South of England Show had attended the school with a range of plants, seeds, posts and a book about allotments. A gazebo is to be purchased by the PPTFA. Sports day was to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> May. A new inclusion manager, Miss Bright had been appointed for September. Table top sale would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

Grants were awarded to: £100, Happy Circle £75, Care Club, hiring fee waived for the Village Hall.

Clerk had received a letter of thanks for donation from Sussex Air Ambulance.

Mr Stone had asked for the contribution towards editorial space in the magazine; £350 would be sent.

A request had been received from the Activity Scheme for a grant; Clerk to ask for accounts to be sent before consideration

Mrs Nicholson asked if there would be any grant Funding for the Action Plan; £100 would be available when needed. Mrs Akers said that the AP Committee should apply to the Millenium Fund.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE,2008.

**CHAIRMAN**