



MINUTES OF ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING
HELD ON 19TH MAY, 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
3 Members of the Public

The following elections took place:

Chairman: Mr Taylor. Proposed by Mrs Akers and seconded by Mrs Wride

Vice Chairman: Mrs Watson. Proposed by Mr Angela and seconded by Mr Taylor

Village Hall Chairman: Mr Taylor. Proposed by Mr Thompsett and seconded by Mrs Eastwood

Playing Field Chairman: Mr Thompsett. Proposed by Mrs Akers and seconded by Mrs Watson.

Planning Chairman: Mrs Watson. Proposed by Mr Thompsett and seconded by Mr Taylor.

Public Transport Chairman: Mrs Wride. Proposed by Mrs. Eastwood and seconded by Mr Taylor.

Environment Chairman. Mrs Akers. Proposed by Mrs Wride and seconded by Mrs Watson.

Highways Chairman: Mrs Wride. Proposed by Mrs Akers and seconded by Mr Thompsett

Footpaths Chairman: Mrs Akers. Proposed by Mr Thompsett and seconded by Mr Taylor.

Neighbourhood Watch: Mrs Angel. Proposed by Mr Thompsett and seconded by Mrs Watson.

Travers Trust. Mrs Watson. Proposed by Mr Thompsett and seconded by Mrs Angel.

District Representatives: Mr Thompsett and Mrs Wride. Proposed by Mr Taylor and seconded by Mrs Akers.

Mrs Denise Hall Tree Warden. Assistant: Mrs Akers.

All Councillors voted in favour of the above.

Mrs Cullen Clerk was confirmed as Financial and Proper Officer. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were confirmed.

Committees: The following will serve on committees:

Village Hall: Mrs Akers

Playing Field: Mrs Eastwood, Mrs Wride.

Planning: All Councillors.

Public Transport: Mrs Watson

Environment: Mrs Eastwood

Highways: Mr Taylor

Footpaths: Mrs Eastwood.

All Councillors were in favour of the above.

Mrs Watson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Taylor, Mrs Taylor and the Clerk for all their hard work over the recent difficult time.

Mr Taylor and the Clerk thanked Mrs Watson.

APOLOGIES: None

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting on 21st April, 2009 were signed as a true record with the following amendment: Page 5: under Voluntary Speed Reduction: Should read Sussex Safer Roads and 5000 'car stickers'.
The Minutes of a Planning Meeting on 9th May, 2009 were signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING:

Insurance: Clerk had contacted Suffolk Acre asking for a quote for itemising skateboard area equipment, as the insurance policy did not cover for individual items, though fully covered for public liability; it was thought that the only potential damage would be if the items were graffitied. The cost would be £11.50 per £1000 of equipment. Councillors thought it was sensible to take out this extra cover. The Summer Fun Day would be covered under the existing Policy.
ACTION: Clerk to request extra premium for skateboard equipment.

Allotments: There had been 6 people on the waiting list, but one person was from another village and the other was not on the electoral roll both of which were requirements. LDC recommended that if 6 people requested an allotment, then the PC were obligated to actively look for land to provide these. There was thought to be no suitable land belonging to the PC for allotments, the Playing Field has covenants on it that could prevent any allotments there. The Action Plan were also looking at this situation. The shared garden scheme could be considered. It was decided to ask landowners if they had any land suitable.
ACTION: Clerk to ask in Parish Magazine whether any landowners in the village would be able to provide areas for future allotment requirements.

Racecourse: Clerk had received comments from Councillors about the application for a licence, which she had passed on to Clare Shepherd. These included increase of traffic, noise, and hours of events. Clare Shepherd had replied that all these possible problems would be carefully monitored.

Parking in Southdowns: Clerk had heard from the Head at the School that she would ask staff not to park in Southdowns.

Mr Hawthorne had sent Clerk notice of a debate initiated by Mr Baker MP on 5th May, 2009 in the House of Commons regarding the effect of recent timetable changes on the constituents of Lewes.

Trees at Playing Field: Clerk had not received a reply from EDF. It was reported there had been drastic tree cutting at the tennis club, but it was thought the only the tops had been taken off and this could have been worse.

National Park: PPC had been informed by Defra is currently consulting on a proposed addition to the SDNP in Plumpton-East Chiltington area, which has not been the subject of public consultation. This is a fishing lake and backs onto the railway, and is in East Chiltington.

Pit Stop: Clerk read out letter from Mr Holden regarding the state of the Pit stop, saying that its appearance has deteriorated, and requesting that LDC or the owners do something about this. Mr St John had also drawn this to the attention of the PC, wondering if any details could be obtained of the Executors of Mr Bridgeman who owned the Pit Stop. He felt there could be danger due to contamination of old fuel tanks which had been filled with concrete.
ACTION: Clerk to write to LDC Planning, Legal and Environmental Health to see if they were able to help with this problem, and to see if there were any records of Mr Bridgeman's Executors.

Additional parking for the Station: No response had been received from contact with Network Rail who seemed a little confused as to who was dealing with this. Clerk to send copy of e mail from Southern and see if there had been any further progress about obtaining suitable land at the station for parking.

Old Garage Site: S106 Agreement - Mr Bristow had given Clerk a contact at LDC Planning to chase up the funds. No reply had been received from this contact.

The postman had been unable to deliver letters because there had been no post boxes on the properties. These had now been put up. The street sign would be put up shortly.
ACTION: Clerk to chase this S106 funds with LDC Planning.

Estate of Mrs Ridley, deceased: Clerk had received an e mail from Solicitors to say there was £151.93 in the Travers Trust account and this would be forthcoming in the future. Clerk had heard from Mrs Ridley's family to say they were interested to hear that a tree would be planted in her memory, and they would like to be kept informed of when the planting would take place.

Skateboard Park: Mrs Akers said that she had not had any information from Mr Shorter. It was not thought to be easy to deaden the noise, even though Mr Frost LDC had come up with suggestions. It was not thought to be a good idea to lift the equipment to put any material under it, as this could invalidate insurance.
ACTION: Mrs Akers would speak to Mr Shorter.

Dangerous Tree: This had been reported twice to Highways, but no action had been taken. Another tree had come down on Plumpton Lane and this had caused the road to be blocked while it was removed.
ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways asking for tree between Rylands and Shambles be removed as a matter of urgency.

Sandpit Lorry: There had been no reply about the complaint sent regarding the lorry.

Fountain Pub: No reply had been received from Conservation Officer LDC Planning.

Minerals Plan: PC had registered for the next round of consultations for this.

Highway matters: Mr St John reported that the Half Moon layby was very overgrown. Clerk had reported this and it had been cleared.
A meeting had been set up under Strengthening Local Relationships with Highway representatives, the County Councillor and PPC. Mr Taylor, Mrs Wride and the Clerk would attend on 16th July, 2009, time and venue to be decided.

Footpaths: The signpost at the start of Footpath 36 would be installed in the near future.

Water Charges: Nothing further had been heard from Mr Baker MP, or Mr Sharrock, Fields in Trust.

Annual Play Inspection: This had been requested. Mrs Eastwood asked if she would be able to attend this.
ACTION: Clerk to give details of contact at LDC.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs Akers presented the recent SOCS newsletter, a successful AGM had taken place. SOCS had rated the facilities at the Hall very highly; they would like to use microphones in the future.

SANDPIT: Mr Nicholson had sent Minutes of a Meeting on 21st May, 2009 which had been circulated to all councillors.

Mr Nicholson said that extraction was very slow 1000 tonnes last month. Mr Taylor reported there had been few lorry movements.

VOLUNTARY SPEED REDUCTION: Mrs Wride reported that 5000 new car stickers would be given by Sussex Safer Roads, and there had been a stand at the Plumpton College open day recently. The Crime Reduction Partnership would be giving 5000 leaflets. Rotherfield had signed up to the scheme.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of March, 2009 were: Village Hall £11,731.42, Playing Field £19,191.88 and Admin £8532.69.
Mr Taylor said the cost of the election (£2000) would be contested when the account comes in; there were two other sets of elections on the same day, which should reduce the cost.
The 2009 Audit was signed by the Chairman and Clerk, and was passed round to Councillors. All were in agreement to it being signed and sent off. The notice for appointment of date of the exercise of electors' rights would be put up in July.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Clerk read out letter giving details of a community transport workshop session on the 24th March. This was of interest to the PC and Mr Nicholson requested a copy for Jill Medhurst VAP; Mrs Angel and Mrs Wride also requested a copy.
Clerk to request again more timetables in Haywards Heath giving time of return buses to Plumpton, also details of Saturday buses.
New train timetable, but there were no changes. A new one would be issued in August.

ENVIRONMENT:

Mrs Eastwood asked for a bid for £50 to plant more bulbs in the village. This was agreed under S137.

FOOTPATHS

Mrs Akers reported that Mrs Nicholson had contacted her that there was to be a meeting with Mr Tweed ROW Manager for an update on the ESCC Rights of Way Survey on 21st May, 2009 at 2pm. Mrs Akers was unable to go. Mrs Eastwood said she would try to go if it was in the village.
Clerk had also been sent a letter by Mr Tweed saying that the majority of the initial survey had now taken place.

HIGHWAYS

The pothole had still not been repaired in Wells Close. The layby near the bridge has mud and water clogging up the drains. The hatching on the road in the turning bay had not been done. The area round the white bridge was overgrown and signs were obliterated by this.
The bus stop at the Plough was overgrown, and in the NW sign into the village at the south was not able to be seen because of overgrown area.
ACTION: Clerk to report above items to Highways.
Mrs Wride reported that there had been two crashes in the village, one at the Half Moon junction with a car turning right and a motorist being involved and a smash in Station Road.

PLANNING:
HOUSING

The following application had been granted: LW/09/0308 Cheriton, Station Road. Erection for two storey pitched roof rear extension and single storey pitched roof side extension.
Clerk reported that there had been a meeting with Mr Frost, Mr Baker MP, Mr Hill, Mr Hawthorne, Mrs Watson, Mrs Wride and herself at LDC to discuss the consultation on agricultural determinations. This had been a positive meeting, and Mr Frost had agreed to discuss this with the Planning Committee at a meeting in June, and get back to the Clerk. Mr Baker MP said he would send information on planning laws.
It was agreed if there problems with livestock at the site (Old Brickworks) this should be reported to LDC Enforcement.
It was thought a good idea to send copies of the notes of that meeting to residents living near to the site adjacent to The Old Brickworks.
Mrs Watson reported that she had contacted Enforcement Planning regarding the Half Moon and Lentridge Barn. She had been told that the permission applied for at the Half Moon had been refused but it was thought a full application may follow.
Enforcement had reported that all the equipment at Lentridge Barn was to build a garage, the shipping container and caravan would be moved.

POLICING AND NWATCH

Mrs Angel reported that the travellers had left Beddingham and ESCC would be going to court for possession proceedings, and would be looking at longer term solutions through discussion with residents and partners.

Timmy Small has been arrested.

Crime Reduction Partnerships: signs put out to aim to convey to criminals on notice that they are about in plain clothes.

Paul Healy a Lewes resident that has been causing problems on the Ousedale Estate, has been caught and is spending three months in prison.

Ringmer Community College received £750 to assist with the cost of funding up to 12 young people from deprived backgrounds to attend an outdoor pursuit week in Wales.

Lewes Rotary Club received £500 towards the running costs of the Carnival, and Neville residents associations received £500.

Two new assistant constables: Nick Wilkinson and Ch Supt Olivia Pinkney.

A new police station is planned in the North Street car park in Lewes, there will be 50 car parking spaces available.

PCSO Julie Whittaker Jones had reported that Chailey, Plumpton and East Chilmington had been almost crime free for the last few months.

There was some concern about the Cold Calling sign, as this could jeopardise the sale of poppies for the British Legion. Mr Young had spoken to Mrs Stroude at the Green Fair about this.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mrs Stroude to see if she could help answer the question.

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 main hall would be resealed.

Mr Hawthorne had forwarded an e mail from AIRS to say that the Village Hall was not a member in its own right of AIRS, though the PC was.

Mr Taylor said that because the PC own the hall and run it, he did not feel that a second membership was necessary.

ACTION: Clerk to contact AIRS to say PC did not think it needed a separate membership.

Mr Nicholson drew attention to a Village Hall Open Day in the AIRS newsletter.

It was reported that the Green looked a lot smarter and the grass cutting looked very neat. A pile of grass cuttings had been observed in the wooded area by the pond, but it was not known who had put them there. Mrs Akers would keep an eye on this.

PLAYING FIELD:

Mr Thompsett reported that a meeting had taken place on 22nd April, and the following had been discussed: It had been ascertained that the Tennis Club had a separate electricity supply, and they were paying their bills for this. The immersion heater to one of the hot water cylinders at the Pavilion had been turned off and this had save approximately £200 in electricity costs.

Following the APM, the planning application for the basketball court had been withdrawn. Mr Thompsett had contacted Mr Hawthorne to suggest a meeting with interested VAP members about this facility.

Fire signs had been put up in the Pavilion, after guidance on what was necessary from Mr St John. Risk assessments are being done weekly. Mrs Eastwood had now taken on the duty of cleaning the Pavilion and it was hoped she could have extra hours for this.

A contract with the Cricket Club for mowing was in hand.

Some work regarding new and revamped equipment is being considered.

The existing surface of the car park is being considered and is in hand.

Mrs Eastwood would open up the outside toilet during the half term holiday as a trial to see if this could work for Mum's using the facilities at the playing field.

Mrs Eastwood would be doing the bookings.

EDF would be carrying out the test and report.

Mr Thompsett offered his apologies to Mrs Barrell and read out the statement:

'I was approached by a lady, I now know to be Mrs Barrell who asked me what I was doing. I explained that I was on the PC and measuring up for a basketball court in the play area. She said her VAP team were looking into the whole play area and hoped it would not affect that.

I hope the matter is now satisfactorily sorted'.

Mrs Barrell said she had been upset as it was something she did not say and put her in a bad light. She said the apology was accepted.

Mrs Eastwood said that she would like to look at the strip near the stream on the north side of the play park which has wild flowers in it, and would like to ask Jacky Morris to keep a record of the flowers and insects that are there.

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere

Mrs Nicholson had reported to the Clerk that she hoped that the Historic Landscape study would be a good project for the community. There would be an event on 25th May, 2009. The VAP were pleased that the Playing Field committee had agreed to give cardboard recycling at the existing site a trial period of 6 months, and asked Mr Thompsett to liaise with Kate Gold.

Mrs Watson said that she had noticed that the VAP Footpaths team were to produce a calendar; she recommended they checked with the Footpath Society, the Horticultural Society and the PTA – (Mrs Wride said the PTA would not be doing one) to see if any of them were doing one. Mr Nicholson said he would ask.

Mr Nicholson asked why there was no publicity in the village about the election. Clerk said it was unusual she had not received the notices, as she would have normally had them by now. The PC did not have to be involved in the process of publicising the candidates. Booklets had been sent to candidates by LDC.

ACTION: Clerk to check with LDC if notices had not arrived by the next day.

Mr Nicholson showed the Council a plan of the SE Regional Plan – it was quite extensive. The PC would be sent details of this.

Mr Nicholson said he hoped that the e mails sent by Mr Hawthorne, Mr Gethen and Mr Bowden were seen as positive. Clerk said she would let Councillors see these after the meeting. Mr Nicholson had noticed that the Council had all pulled together during this time. He hoped that the PC could work with the VAP and it was a positive step to withdraw the planning application for the basketball court.

Mr Thompsett said he had asked Mr Hawthorne for a meeting to talk about this, covering the play area, and possibly extra parking, doing this as a whole, rather than piecemeal. Mrs Eastwood said she had asked the VAP to come to a PF meeting when the play area was looked at, but there had been no minutes of that meeting.

Mr Nicholson said he was aware of the vast amount of paperwork generated by the VAP minutes which were on the table at the meeting. He would talk to Mr Hawthorne and Mrs Nicholson about their volume. Clerk said she e mailed it to everyone so that they could read it in their own homes before bringing any questions to the PC meeting.

Mrs Eastwood said she looked forward to a future and the PC working with the VAP.

Mrs Barrell said that she spoken to company representatives to do with play areas and it appeared these areas should be inclusive of all ages; there had been concerns at the APM of toddlers and older children using the play area.

There was no sign at the play area as to any age restrictions.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council: NALC E bulletin for County Associations and National Council, Clerks and Councils Direct, SOCS Spring Newsletter, ESCC School Travel Plan, Lewes Town Forum Meeting 2nd June, 2009, Fields in Trust AGM 2009, Pitt Review regarding flooding, SALC Heart of the Village Campaign, Downing Street Petition, Gopak furniture, Hop Gallery programme, FWAG magazine, Applause leaflets, Norman Baker MP leaflet 'How Can your MP help you', Kompan Playful living catalogue, The Clerk magazine May 2009, AIRS Newsletter April 2009, train timetables for Plumpton, Minutes of VAP Sub Committee Meetings, notification of Historic Landscape Characterisation Study walk around the village starting at the Winning Post at 2pm on Monday 25th May, 2009

Card from Mr Miller thanking Clerk for sending comprehensive letter regarding PC

accounts. Letter of thanks from Victim Support for donation.
Clerk had sent a letter of thanks to the PC for the flowers she had received at the APM.
Clerk would be taking holiday from 6th to 20th July, 2009.

Councillors read e mails from Mr Gethen, Mr Hawthorne and Mr Bowden which had been sent to the Clerk.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 16th JUNE, 2009.

CHAIRMAN