



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING HELD 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 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)  
Mrs S Akers (SAA)  
Mrs S Angel (SA)

Mr O St John  
Mr P Nicholson  
Mr P Baker  
Mr M Newman

Mrs M Preece EDF  
Mr W Blackburn EDF

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr T Thompsett, Mr S Green, Mr R Stone

**EDF Representatives Mrs M Preece and Mr W Blackburn: RECENT POWER CUT ISSUES**

Mr Blackburn said that there had clearly been many problems in Plumpton, some were high voltage and others low voltage. He referred to a map to show why some areas were affected and not others.(areas marked pink and yellow) Some circuits were fed out of Lewes and there were different sub stations and high voltage feeders in the area.

Q Are all the lines overhead?

A Some smaller areas are underground but 90% plus are overhead.

Mr Blackburn said that the yellow circuit on the map had caused the most problems, which were mostly environmental, birds, squirrels, windborne materials; EDF have to try and cope with this. The transient problems are where the system trips and this causes a small dip and slight dimming of electricity; after four trips the supply would fail and need attention.

Q Why were there faults on good weather days?

A Sometimes trees caused a problem.

The incidents that had occurred over the past year were explained by Mr Blackburn; these are all listed in detail on the PC website, and on PC notice boards.

Mr Blackburn said EDF are not satisfied with the supply and performance in Plumpton, and it was not what customers were expected to receive. All the incidents had been unrelated. A full patrol of equipment had taken place in March and equipment in poor condition was looked at.

Q How often do the patrols take place?

A Every 4 years approximately; new regulations and risk assessments ensure that the poles are inspected regularly. In some areas of high risk the patrols are done more frequently – the patrols are done from an engineering point of view.

Q A tree came down in East View Fields and the line came down on the road. The Engineers had to be called twice to rectify this?

A We knew about this.

Q The south of the village was out for a whole day. What is happening?

A This was probably planned improvement work, cables being replaced. There is a planned interruption this Thursday. There have been three planned interruptions, two have already taken place.

Q The pink and yellow line (on map), could one take over the supply from the other if one fails?

A If the section is in the middle it can be fed from another section.

Q Telephone contact is very poor, you can't get through to the right person when you want to report something.

A The emergency only number is listed in the telephone directory, and if there is a fault on the high voltage system there is often an automated message on the emergency telephone line.

Q Customer service is very bad. I have a neighbour who is over 80 years old; I had to get her a camping stove, she could not keep warm, or cook anything; there is no gas in the village, she had nothing.

A EDF are in partnership with the Red Cross and if the supply is off for a long time, they will sometimes come out and provide hot drinks etc for residents. They knock on doors and have a priority list of those who are vulnerable. They are not able to supply heaters because of health and safety in case someone should fall over a heater and injure themselves.

Q What about those who are medically depending on electricity for life saving equipment, those who are particularly vulnerable?

A EDF keep in touch, the Red Cross will come out to those who request it.

Q You say that all the incidents are unrelated, all overhead wire problems. Is there a programme for underground cables?

A No there is no programme, some people do not want it – underground cables are more prone to damage and there are lots of problems.

There have been 5-6 low voltage incidents in the area, with a smaller number of customers affected; these were centred around the sub stations.

Q There is no gas, people cannot keep warm, it is a major problem. Shouldn't villages like this be looked after?

A It was unusual to have this amount of problems.

Q Have you got records of places where there is no gas supply?

A We don't hold these records.

Q There were too many problems that went on a long time. You should have looked at them a bit more seriously.

A All faults were logged.

RT – Maybe staff should feed back when faults are reported.

A The next level of staff look at the faults – those with more engineering knowledge.

Clerk – The PC wrote many letters to EDF when the PC were first alerted by the public to the problem, having not been able to get any answers themselves. Most of these letters only received an apology and a sheet explaining compensation procedures. PC could never get in touch with anyone who would listen. There were about six different people communicating with the PC in the end, but nothing was done, until the Clerk wrote to Mr De Rivaz; Mrs Preece then contacted the Clerk. Mr Baker MP then sent a letter which was responded to by Mr De Rivaz but the PC has never had a response from him.

A I agree that it was not properly handled.

RT – the structure fell down badly.

CE said that it was good to have EDF to explain what had happened and it was a positive sign that the Red Cross was involved to help vulnerable people.

Mrs Preece said she would send the form for registration to be put on the Red Cross list for those needing extra support; she would also send some paper copies. Clerk would put the form on the website and distribute copies to areas in the village where they could be used by residents.

RT thanked EDF for coming to the meeting.

## **MINUTES:**

The minutes of a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 were signed as a true record.

The minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 were signed as a true record.

The minutes of a Planning Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 were signed as a true record.

The following elections took place:

Chairman: RT proposed by KW, seconded SA.

Vice Chairman: BW proposed by SAA seconded by SA

Chairman Village Hall: RT proposed by BW seconded by KW

Chairman Playing Field: TT proposed by RT and seconded by KW

Chairman Public Transport: KW proposed by CE seconded by SAA

Chairman Highways: KW proposed SA seconded by CE

Chairman of Planning: BW proposed by SAA seconded by RT  
Chairman of Environment: SAA proposed by CE seconded by RT  
Chairman of Footpaths: SAA proposed by BW seconded by SA  
Community Policing: SA proposed by RT seconded by KW  
Communications Committee: CE RS SG  
Travers Trust Representatives: BW and SA  
Tree Warden: Mrs D Hall Assistant: SAA  
District Representatives: TT and KW

Representatives to sit on Committees:

Village Hall: SAA SG

Playing Field: CE KW

Planning: RT TT KW CE RS SA SAA

Environment: CE

Footpaths: CE

Highways: RT

Community Policing: RS

Public Transport: BW RS

All Councillors voted in favour of the above appointments

Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Mrs E Cullen as Clerk and Proper Officer were confirmed. RT (VH) and CE (PF) were confirmed as Child Protection Officers.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: Comments were invited from these.

**Dog Bins** – Still awaiting final confirmation that PC would only be charged for bins on PC land – Clerk had chased this up. New grey litter bins had been installed in some parts of the village. KW asked Clerk to find out when other bins would be changed.  
ACTION: Clerk to contact LDC.

Leighton Rowe LDC and Tom Warder AiRS would attend the June PC meeting to talk about The Need for Affordable Housing.

**Highways** - SA had reported that a C and S coach had damaged the setts on the corner of East View Fields. Clerk had contacted Coach Company. A loose drain cover which had flipped down Plumpton Lane was also reported, and bollards at the Half Moon which had been knocked down again. All were reported to Highways. Highways said they would not be replacing the bollards at the Half Moon again, but made one which was dangerous, safe. The damaged grit bin in Beresford Lane had also been reported to Highways.

**Footpaths** - Clerk had contacted ROW regarding Plumpton 17a and Plumpton 13a. Plumpton 17a: Team had dug a soakaway and filled with pea shingle to help water drain away, which should solve the problem.

Footpath 13a: Date for work has not been set so unsure when the footpath will be re-opened, and works have not been scheduled into to maintenance team's work plan. Clerk reported from SLR meeting that this footpath had re-opened after a temporary repair.

The stile at the corner of the field to the left front of the Half Moon had a broken bottom step and this had been reported to ROW.

A redundant BT pole outside Grebe which was leaning towards Station Road was reported. This had been reported to BT three years ago by the resident of the property. Clerk contacted BT who attended within two hours and promised to remove pole in the very near future.

**Network Rail** – NR had contacted Clerk to say that Mr Butler may be visiting the village on a certain date, to observe some areas, and asked if a Councillor could attend. Clerk contacted RT who suggested that KW as Chairman of Public Transport should meet Mr Butler, if the meeting was to take place. Meeting took place and KW met Mr Butler; discussion was about possible changes to the road and bus stop if automatic barriers were to be installed. All Councillors received copy of questions and answers that had been discussed at this meeting.

Clerk had heard from CPRE representative who had suggested that PC should have a preliminary meeting with the Listed Building Officer at LDC to discuss the procedure and learn more about listed building regulations if a planning application were to be put in to change the gates are to automatic barriers.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Listed Building Officer to ask for a meeting – BW and KW would attend.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: NTR**

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

**Webmaster Applications:** Clerk read out applications from LS Productions, Miss S George and Mr P Woodhouse. Councillors decided that there was not enough information in their applications, particularly whether the applicants would charge for their services and whether they would be able to update the website on a regular basis. It was thought the website should be redesigned, and easy to read. Councillors agreed that further information was needed before making a decision, and CE would discuss with individuals and come back to the Council; she asked for Councillor's views to be sent to her.

ACTION: Clerk would initially contact all applicants letting them know that CE would contact them further to discuss the above and CE would report back at the June meeting when it was hoped a decision could be made.

**No Cold Calling Scheme:** Further forms had been completed at the APM and there was a total of 37 Yes replies and 9 No. SA thought it was disappointing that more people had not filled in the forms, and she felt she could not make a decision. RT thought the matter should wait until the rest of the Councillors were present, and that it should be decided at the June meeting whether to proceed with the scheme or not.

#### **SANDPIT: NTR**

#### **FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of April, 2010 were Admin £12,181.46, Village Hall £11,711.77, Playing Field £9,376.56.

The Audit had been completed: Mr Greening, as Internal Auditor had signed it off and all was in order. RT and Clerk signed off Audit with the agreement of all Councillors. Mr Greening said he would continue for another financial year as Auditor (up to April 2011), after which a new Internal Auditor would have to be found.

Clerk reported that the S137 figure remained at £6.15 per elector which was no change from previous years.

The tax return had been filed on line.

Council employees had been issued with P60's.

#### **HIGHWAYS:**

KW said that the results from the radar boxes had been received by the Clerk just an hour before the PC meeting started. The results showed that speeding was not a major issue.

The results were as follows: Outside Wenlock: 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is 31.9 miles per hour northbound: 31.3 miles per hour southbound.

Outside Strollings: 33.2 miles per hour northbound: 32.9 miles per hour southbound.  
Outside Southdowns: 34.4 miles per hour northbound: 33.0 miles per hour southbound.

(Read after the meeting but included here for information):

Outside Glencove: 85 percentile is 44.3 miles per hour northbound: 41.8 miles per hour southbound.

The 85 per centile means that 85 per cent of people are travelling at this speed or less. KW said that the figures would be taken to the next SLR meeting for their advice.

Mr Newman said he noticed there were 7-8 setts broken at the end of East View Fields.

Clerk said these had been reported and the VMT would be repairing them.

KW said that the damaged verge near the north entrance to the Racecourse had been reported to Highways, and they were sending an Enforcement Officer to ask the contractors working there to restore the verges,

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** KW said she had met Mr Butler of NR at the station, and a proposal would go to the consultant; there were three options and the costings would have to be factored in; these would include straightening the road and moving the bus stop; it was important this was included in the report.  
It was understood that NR could shave off areas of their land to straighten the road. There would be discussions over the next three months, and a consultation would take place.

RS had sent a report to the meeting to say he was upset he was not included in the meeting with Mr Butler at the station as he was on the Public Transport committee.

Mr St John said he had requested graphs showing how often the gates broke down – he felt the graphs that were shown at the presentation at the APM were misleading. He asked if these graphs could be sent.

ACTION: Clerk to chase this up.

KW said that she did tell Mr Butler that there was a local blacksmith nearby who may be able to make parts for the gates.

RT said he thought that the PC should be pushing for modernising the existing gates which could be electronically controlled.

BW said that she had seen on a website for level crossings that Billingham in County Durham had many faults with their automatic barriers.

**ENVIRONMENT:** SAA said that the tree at the allotments had been felled.

**FOOTPATHS:** It was reported that Footpath 7c Shergolds Farm, has a large puddle and walkers are finding it difficult to get through without getting wet.

**PLANNING AND HOUSING:** The following applications have been granted:  
LW/10/0120 Plumpton Green Studios, St Helena Lane. Removal of existing fire damaged roof covering and replacement with new roof finish.  
LW/10/0072 5 Westcroft, Plumpton. Erection of ground floor side extension.  
LW/10/0210 Sunnyside, Station Road. Erection of detached two bay oak framed garage.  
The following application was considered: LW/10/0459 7 Woodgate Meadow, Plumpton Green. Construction of front kitchen extension and rear room for Mr and Mrs Crouch. PC approved this application, asking for materials to match.  
A questionnaire had been sent to Clerk regarding LDC Statement of Community Involvement Review. Clerk had contacted BW and had completed the questionnaire and returned to LDC.  
CE said that she understood from a meeting at Plumpton College that there would be no more development there but there had been the application discussed above.

**POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** List of PCSO's sent to Clerk by Sgt Theelke. PCSO Steven Knowles is responsible for Plumpton.

SA reported that an elderly lady in Seaford had noticed two men who stated they were from the Water Board who entered her kitchen to turn the water off; when one picked up her purse she snatched it from him and they left. She did not report this straight away to the police. Police advise reporting such incidents straight away. Police reminded that bogus callers do target elderly people and ask all to be vigilant to those posing as representatives of utility companies and if in doubt do not let anyone into the home.

A burglary had taken place in Station Road and a mower had been stolen; residents were encouraged to take serial numbers of such equipment for a chance of detection. Mr Nicholson said that the Police would mark equipment.

ACTION: Clerk to ask PCSO if he would come to the village to do the marking – the time and date would be advertised so residents could come to use the service.

It was reported that two people had been canvassing at a property in Chapel Road and an elderly lady had come to the door who was bleeding internally; her neighbours had called an ambulance which took two and a half hours to arrive. The canvassers were very concerned about her.  
It was thought the length of time the ambulance took was unacceptable but that it was not really the position of the PC to complain about this.

#### **VILLAGE HALL:**

A Contract with EDF, Term Sheet ref 1043944 Revision 2 and a contract price have been secured for the Village Hall.  
RT said he would purchase cones to be used in West Gate on NADFAS and jumble sale days. There had been a problem of dangerous parking on the end of West Gate and Station Road during NADFAS on 11<sup>th</sup> May, with a car parked right on the junction at an angle and also one on Station Road on the junction – cones would be placed at these junctions in future.  
New Mandatory Licence Conditions had been issued under the Licensing A 2003. The new conditions would be placed on the Village Hall notice board, and a copy sent to Mr Akers. Conditions 1,2 and 3 would come into force on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 and 4 and 5 would come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2010.  
SAA said she thought the village green had been cut very well; it was the first cut that the new contractors had done. The contractor had offered collection of cuttings and suggested it would be more cost effective to increase the number of cuts. This could be done 12 times a year instead of the contracted 6 at an extra cost of £240 pa. It was not thought this was necessary, but it would be reviewed and considered again if necessary.  
ACTION: Clerk to tell contractor this and also ask for a cut the week of the Village Fair taking place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The twitten had not been mowed on the first cut. Clerk to ask contractor to do this.  
Crockery for the plate smashing game was requested, but it was thought that there was probably quite a lot in store.  
CE asked about the recent loan which had been applied for by the Village Hall to PWLB; she wanted to know the term and interest rate and whether this would affect the Playing Field requesting a loan for the Pavilion and PF.  
RT said that the borrowing was for £30,000 over 20 years at an interest rate of 3% and it would not affect the PF applying for a loan.

#### **PLAYING FIELD:**

TT sent report to meeting. Next PF meeting will be on 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.  
Energy Audit – still waiting to hear from VAP Green Team.  
Water Supply – being investigated but appears that Tennis Club have been having free water for some time, and once this is confirmed they will have to have a meter installed and a charge negotiated for past use.  
Repairs and Maintenance: instructions have been given to successful company to replace some of the changing room windows and front entrance doors.  
Electricity Safety Check. This has been arranged with EDF for some time during September at a cost of approximately £600.  
The facility continues to be well used by all age groups.  
SAA said that there was considerable damage to the fencing at the skateboard park, and asked if a quotation should be obtained for new fencing. CE said there were other priorities at the moment. Clerk said that the maintenance of the skateboard area came from the Admin budget. RT said he had removed a lot of the old fencing.

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

Team Leaders report 30.03.2010 had been circulated to all Councillors.  
CE said that the status report information repeats itself, with the first page and subsequent pages saying the same thing. She asked Mr Nicholson if he would pass this comment on to the VAP.  
KW said that the team leader reports and steering committee reports were out of date with the March report received by the PC in May and it had already been published in the parish magazine.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

KW asked if the Profiles were being completed which would clarify which Councillors were on which committees. This had not been updated for a year though it had been agreed that it would be done. KW said she would update the profiles.  
BW asked if Councillors could let her know whether they were coming to Planning Meetings as it was difficult if only two people turned up on the day and the meeting could not take place as there was no quorum of three people.

**CLERKS REPORT:**

Clerk presented to the Council:  
South of England Shows, AiRS Annual Review 2009-2010, SALC-SCAPTC Legal Note on Village Halls and Recreational Grounds Trustees and Parish Councils, Legal Note 3 Snow Ice and Gritting, Charitable Trustees and Declarations of interest under the Code, Exploring East Sussex guided walks, Clerks and Councils Direct May 2010, AiRS Newsletter, Safe in East Sussex April 2010, Focus on East Sussex 2010 annual monitor, Retirement Villages Ltd brochure, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership leaflet, the Clerk May 2010, Furniture Now leaflet, information about new retirement complex in South Chailey, Transport and Environment Day is being held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2010 at Uckfield Civic Centre, information from ESCC on Health Well Being and Social Inclusion.

News from the School: Mobile Phones – anyone with old mobile phones they no longer need are asked to take them to the school office.  
Jewellery Recycling – school are collecting any old jewellery which can be sent away to be recycled to raise money for PPTFA.  
Summer barbeque is on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.  
The new Community Governor is Mr Paul Nicholson.

S137 grants: Councillors decided that these grants should be awarded to village organisations rather than outside ones, and decided not to award grants to those who had currently requested: CrimeStoppers and Victim Support. No further requests had been received.

Mr Nicholson said that the Adopt a Station Scheme would be launched on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2010, and several Southern dignitaries would be attending.

Mr St John said that he understood that Plumpton College could cut down trees on PC land that needed attention if requested.  
ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Lambert if this could be done.

**BUSINESS PLAN:**

Several more comments had been sent to the Clerk. Councillors decided to wait to review these in the future when more may have been received.

**Chairman**

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 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