



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 19TH JUNE, 2007 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT:

Mr. K. Speirs Vice Chairman
Mrs B Watson
Mrs. S. Angel
Mr. T Thompsett
Mrs. K. Wride
Mrs. C Eastwood

1 Member of the Public

1. APOLOGIES:

Mrs. C Nicholson, Mr. R Taylor, Mrs. S. Akers

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15th May, 2007 were signed as a true record. The Minutes of a Planning Meeting on 2nd June, 2007 were signed as a true record.

The Audit was signed off by Mr Speirs and the Clerk; this will be sent to Mazars, the external auditor.

The Council resolved to adopt the revised Code of Conduct without the inclusion of paragraph 12(2) and paragraph 7. The District Solicitor and the Standards Board would be informed by the Clerk. The Clerk also asked the three new Councillors present to sign a declaration that they will observe the Council's Code of Conduct.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Mobile Office - Letter from ESCC; there were no spaces available but ESCC would contact Clerk when there was one available.

Seat for Percy Law – The seat had arrived and would be concreted in at the south east corner of the playing field which the bowmen use. The plaque was awaited. Clerk had spoken to Mrs Law and she asked to have 'In memory of Percy Law. He loved his family and his village' put on the plaque. Mrs Law also asked if 'donated by Plumpton Parish Council' could be on the plaque. PC did not think this was necessary but if there was room on the plaque this could be done.

Seminar on Biodiversity 19th July, 2007. Councillors were not able to attend this seminar.

Guideposts in the Village – Clerk had received a quotation from Mr Anderson. Highways had agreed to pay half the costs of replacing the one at St Helena Lane and repairs and maintenance to those opposite the Plough and opposite the Half Moon. It was not clear what costs applied to which posts, so Clerk was to ask for clarification. It was decided that the St Helena Lane and the Plough would be replaced/repared, but not the one at the Half Moon.

Hedge at Brookdale – this had been cut.

District Association Meeting – Clerk had received notification that there would now be one meeting a year for this association as it was understood that some people wanted to revive this to a fully functional committee. Mrs Wride was elected District Representative and would attend the meeting on 11th July, 2007.

Planning Training 17th July, 2007 – Councillors were not able to attend this training as it clashed with the July Parish Council meeting.

Speed Management – Letter from ESCC regarding progress that had been made on revising the policy on local speed limits at the Road Safety Conference. Clerk had been asked to write to Mr Bryn Kemp at ESCC saying that the council have a serious problem with para 6b which indicates that unless average speeds are below 33 mph and the accident record is poor, an order will re-instate the speed limit to 40 mph.

Clerk had been asked by a resident of Wells Chase whether the road would be repaired. This is a private road; the resident had subsequently heard that the owner of the road would be taking action.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mr Taylor had received complaints about a disturbance at Plumpton College, causing a great deal of noise, shrubs damaged at Plumpton Place and evidence of camping. This had gone on until 1 am. It was thought it may have been the Ball that was taking place at the College. Clerk to write to Mr Lambert.

Mrs Watson said that the signal box was in a bad state of repair. Clerk to write to the appropriate rail authority. Residents had mentioned to Mrs Watson their concerns about the future for refuse collection, would there be wheelie bins and would they have chips? Clerk to write to LDC.

Mr Thompsett had not yet received the quotations for the car park at the playing field.

Mrs Wride said the Action Plan questionnaire had been printed and it was hoped it would be back by September. RVRC – a letter had been sent off by the Clerk regarding speeding issues.

Mr Speirs reported an accident at Inholmes Cottages involving four cars which had been written off; it was thought this was due to cars travelling at 25 mph and swerving to avoid a cat. It was thought this sort of issue could come up in the questionnaire for the Action Plan. Mrs Wride said the Vale of Sussex wanted to log all minor accidents that do not involve the police. Clerk to put in parish magazine that anyone witnessing such incidents should report this to Mrs Wride.

Mr Speirs said that he had got permission from Mr Avery to put the dog bin up at the north of the village. The bin had been ordered and he would contact Mr Avery again about its actual siting.

Clerk was asked to obtain a list of Listed Buildings from LDC. Mrs. Watson thought she may have one.

Mrs Akers sent a report to the meeting; she asked about the footpath from EVF to the bridge over the railway which is in need of attention. She asked for clarification of whether the accommodation at the Coach House was being used for holiday lets. Clerk to write to LDC Planning. She asked for confirmation that the hedge at Tenterden was being cut as part of the village green maintenance – this was in the contract. Mrs Akers asked for notices 'no ball games' to be put up at the skateboard area; Mr Speirs would do this. The hedge by the fish and chip layby needs cutting. She asked who was responsible for clearing the bus shelters of rubbish; this is the responsibility of the Scouts who are sent a donation each year for this. Mrs Akers reported that white lines were still in need of redoing at: exit from the playing fields, Station Close, Riddens Lane, Southdowns and Woodgate Meadow. Also hatchings put in the layby opposite North Banres Lane.

She asked if residents could be encouraged to cut back the verges in front of their houses, but the PC thought that this would make residents query what they paid for in their council tax, as the County Council usually does it.

The idea of having public toilets in Plumpton was discussed as Mr Thompsett had received enquiries about having them in the village. It was thought the capital costs and maintenance would be prohibitive. Mr Taylor and Mrs Akers had asked the Clerk to say they were not in favour of these, due to maintenance etc. There were toilets outside at the Fountain.

Mr Speirs said there was an outside toilet at the pavilion, but if it was left unlocked it was vandalised.

Mrs Eastwood asked how the parish council's profile could be raised. She suggested having photographs of each Councillor with what they were responsible for within the Council that could be placed on PC noticeboards and on the website, so that residents could put a face to a name on the Council. Clerk asked if all councillors could bring a photo to the next PC meeting. Clerk would ask Mr. Satchell if he could put these together and laminate them.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Nothing to report.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of May were Admin £8,920.45, Village Hall £10,658.91 and Playing Field £7301.49.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

There had been complaints about a party at the Pavilion at the weekend 16th June. A resident had complained of noise outside the shop. Mr. Speirs said that there are only approximately six parties a year; there was nothing for the young to do and preventing them having parties could risk alienation of the young. Mr. Speirs said he tried to keep the bookings of parties to those from the village.

8. PLANNING:

The following planning permissions had been granted: LW/07/0219 Jenners Farm, Ashurst Lane. Formation of sand school.

LW/07/0417 11 Southdowns, Plumpton Green. Room in roof with dormer to rear and two velux windows to front.

Letters concerning applications at 11 Southdowns, and 2 Osborne Villas had been received by the Clerk; copies of these had been sent to LDC planning.

It was pointed out that comments sent in from the School regarding the application at 11 Southdowns had been received but the PC were not able to respond to ESCC Planning but could go back to LDC Planning saying that the problem of the window overlooking the swimming pool at the school was highlighted in PC's comments.

Clerk to send copies of the letter regarding 11 Southdowns to Mrs Stroude.

Mrs Watson had been contacted by Mr Barnett LDC Planning to ask why 2 Osborne Cottages application had been turned down by the PC when it had been previously approved; she said that there was now a new Council and they had reviewed this in a different light.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

Nothing to Report

HIGHWAYS

Clerk had been contacted by Highways to say the work had not been done on the B2116 as work was being done at Tidy's Yard at Ditchling by the utilities. Highways were not sure when the work would be done.

Mr Speirs and Mrs Wride had walked round the village with Mr Brooke ESCC Highways. Several issues were mentioned. A grit bin was requested at the Old School Room; Clerk to write to ask if anything was to be done about this.

East View Fields signs – Village Maintenance teams could repair this but they had been already for this year.

Footway outside Old School Cottages – this had been dealt with.

Pavement outside the Winning Post - this had been dealt with.

Footway outside 27 Westgate – this had been caused by an oak tree; no action would be taken at present but it would be reviewed in three months time.

Faint road markings in Plumpton particularly the White Bridge.

Edging pavement at East View Fields and Bus shelter – the maintenance teams would probably do this.

Hedges at Moorings, Lyndhurst, Rosevale, Devon House, 3 Inholmes Cottages. Clerk to write asking if these residents could trim back their hedges. The hedge outside the shop is in need of trimming but it was thought it would destroy the hedge if it was cut

back. Clerk to put in Parish Magazine asking residents trim back their hedges if they were encroaching on the footway outside their houses.
Edging pavement outside Well House – opposite Wells Close.
Review of pavement between Westgate and village shop. Clerk to write to BT to ask them to put in smaller boxes between the telephone box and the shop where the pavement is uneven.

10. FOOTPATHS:

Mrs Eastwood reported that she had received further complaints about the footpath near the stables. There had been a report of a resident's dog being bitten by a dog there and needing vet treatment. Mrs Eastwood had contacted the ROW Officer who said the tenant at the stables was doing nothing wrong. It was thought that a compromise could be reached by putting the stallion which appeared to be the problem into another field, but this was not possible as it was worth a lot of money and had to be within view. Mrs Eastwood would go to see the tenant and try to come to a reasonable compromise. There had been complaints about the hedges that back onto the Fountain being overgrown. Mrs Eastwood would inform the Clerk which properties these were and letters would be sent.
Clerk had received an e mail from Mr Carden regarding the Footpath 18 East View Fields. This path has become very dirty, with rubbish strewn everywhere and the gate to the bridge not replaced. The bridge has slippery steps and was corroding. Clerk to write to Network Rail and Highways about this.

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Mr Speirs said that there was now a train going to London at 8.58 am which stops at Plumpton, Monday to Friday.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Mrs Angel reported that there had been several burglaries at the cottages behind Plumpton College. Two suspicious people had been seen (one white, one black (males)) with a large van reversing down driveways; if these people are seen, the Police should be informed. There had been disturbances near the cottages at the Half Moon. A new PCSO had been appointed, Wendy Baulcombe. All PCSO's would patrol rural villages on a rota basis. PC asked Clerk to write to the Chief Constable to say they believed residents would like to get to know the PCSO, rather than having different ones. PCSO Whittaker Jones was now doing admin every Thursday so would not be in the village.

There had been a disturbance at the Riddens Flats and this had been reported to the PCSO.

Mrs Angel said she was not being informed of Police Authority Meetings. Chief Inspector Gough had gone, and since he had gone there had been no information; there have been several Chief Inspectors since then.

Clerk had been sent notes of a meeting between SALC and the Chief Constable. Salient points were: speeding through villages – this was an ongoing problem and the Chief Constable was asked what steps could be taken by parishes to assist the police reduce the problem.

PCSO's standing as Councillors. It was thought this could produce a conflict of interest. Neighbourhood watch by e mail – this was running particularly well in East Sussex. The Chief Constable is to retire and SALC thanked him for his frank and open style and wished him well in retirement.

Mrs Wride said that there is funding for villages for window locks, fire alarms, and personal alarms. Also Farm Watch which would mark equipment such as saddles free of charge. Clerk to include this in the Parish Magazine and asking those who would like this service to contact PC Kieran Macdonald.

13. TREE WARDEN:

Mrs Ridley was pleased to have the help of Mrs. Hall as an assistant.

14. REPORT OF CLERK: Clerk presented to the Council: LDC Making Things Happen, Invitation to Awards Ceremony Plumpton College, ESCC Supporting People Programme leaflet, your County Magazine, Newsletter St Peters and St James Hospice, NFPA Annual General Meeting notice, East Chiltington PC Minutes, LDC letter Artwave, Focus on East Sussex 2007 annual monitor, Farming and Wildlife booklet, Action in Rural Sussex 2006/07, LDC letter regarding budgets for children's activities in villages.

Emergency Services Display 1st July, 2007 at Eastbourne. No Councillor was able to attend this.

Letter from Mrs Haycocks regarding Lewes Climate Control asking if a documentary could be shown to residents of the village 'An Inconvenient Truth'. Clerk to write to say that Council were not sure who would be interested and it was thought a better idea to advertise this in the Parish Magazine asking for interested people to contact Mrs Haycocks so that a showing could be arranged and the village hall booked for this event.

Schools Newsletter – Fifteen new laptops had been donated by the PPTFA. The swimming pool was due to open on 4th June, 2007 and an after school swimming club was to start. Ice cream would be on sale on Fridays after school, proceeds to PPTFA.

Interviews had taken place for a deputy head teacher. Mrs Wride said that a new deputy head had been appointed.

Southdowns Parking – drivers were reminded that parking on the mini roundabout is not permitted between the hours of 8am and 4pm.

A drug awareness week would take place on 12th July, 2007 at 7.30 pm in Newick Primary School Hall.

Letters of thanks were received from Parish Magazine Mrs Brooks to thank PC for £350 for editorial space.

Letter of thanks from Mrs Ransley for donation towards the Happy Circle.
Letter from Care Club asking for hiring of hall to be waived for lunches for the next year; the cost of the lunches still remain at £3.50. Council approved this for the next year.

Mrs Wride asked about the affordable housing scheme as this would be part of the action plan; at the May meeting it had been decided that for the time being, the Council would not take this further, but if the need arose, this would be followed up.

CHAIRMAN