



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,  
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

### PRESENT:

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

### APOLOGIES:

Mr R Taylor, Mrs S Akers

### MINUTES:

Mr Speirs, Vice Chairman chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr Taylor. He asked that all Councillors should not speak at once, or in groups, while the Clerk was trying to take minutes, as this made it very difficult to record the facts. Mr. Thompsett suggested that the minutes be less detailed, with the point made, a discussion took place and then the outcome. Mr Speirs agreed with this. Clerk said she would try very hard to report the minutes in this way.

The Minutes of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 were signed as a true record, with the following amendments. Pg 1 V Chairman seconded by Mrs Angel. P Field seconded by Mrs Angel. Pg 4 Mrs Angel asked if dog bin could be moved.

Pg 1 – delete Mrs Wride from v Care and Environment Committee. Add Highways Chairman Mr Speirs

The Minutes of a Planning Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 were signed as a true record.

Mrs Eastwood, Mrs Wride and Clerk had prepared 'One Year On' giving details of progress that had been made by the PC and what the future holds, for the parish magazine. Councillors approved this with minor amendments.

Mrs Wride asked to be on the Highways Committee. This was agreed.

### MATTERS ARISING:

**Wheelie Bins** - Mrs Akers had purchased a bin and this had been delivered.

**Plumpton Green Garage site**- Mr Bristow had suggested Old Motor Works Drive for New development with flats fronting Station Road to be named Railway Villa or something similar. PC did not agree with these names. Suggested Hillside again, but no ideas for flat names. An old sign had been found, maybe this could be used as a feature.

**Tree Inspection** - Mrs Hyde had contacted Clerk and was not happy about felling of the poplar on what she understood was her land. Clerk to get copy of plan from deeds of the house, to ascertain whether tree is on Mrs Hyde's land or PC's. If the latter, Mr Wynn would be asked to contact Mrs Hyde direct about felling.

**Best Village Competition** - Plumpton is on the short list, with Alfriston, Mayfield, Fairlight and Ticehurst; results will be announced shortly.

SOCS did not get the Queens Award but judges were significantly impressed and are happy for the application to be re-submitted in the next two years.

**Lumberpits Lane** – LDC Planning are satisfied that conditions have been adhered to at the Firs and this is not an issue that they would get involved with. ROW Officer has added this path to list of those requiring major surface works; she felt she was not qualified to judge whether the water was coming from the Firs; any associated ditching and drainage works will be done at the time of resurfacing.

Clerk to contact Mrs Ridley with this information and ask LDC Planning to see the Building CoNothing to Reportol report on planning application for the Firs LW/04/0375BR.

**Rights of Way** ROW Officer has agreed to install dog friendly latch at the stile on footpath 13a Winklepatch; a Dogs must be kept under close coNothing to Reportol' sign will also be put on two stiles there.

ROW Officer will inspect stiles on Footpath12b (Mrs Akers had requested this) and arrange necessary repairs; she enquired who the landowner is.

Clerk to reply that it appears that this may be Mr Kenyon (the footpath is just south of Shergolds Farm, but Mr Kenyon does not live there).

Southdowns AONB – footpaths 27d and 30 – work has finished here and no further work will be required. The south of the steps is due to be replaced this year with a kissing gate if the landowner is happy; the delay in replacing this stile is due to the change in structure and fact that liaison is required with landowner.

Bridleway from Ashurst Organics to Plumpton College – Mrs Nicholson reported that this area was in a very bad state as earth is being moved for building. She had spoken to the site foreman who said the work would be done within a few days and the bridleway will be re-leveled. Mrs Nicholson said she would keep an eye on this area.

E mail from Mr McMenmin Monday Group. They had no knowledge of the work on the footpath behind the Fountain; the closest he could get to a location is a replacement stile at Deans Farm that is in Streat Parish, this is where Streat footpaths 4B and 6B join Plumpton 11a.

**Highways** - Letter from Mr Brooke Highways; Mr Johnson had been asked to look at markings on road surface in Station Road. Mr Johnson had asked for exact location. A representative of Highways had been asked to take photographs of the curb marking, and the initial thoughts were that this could be something to do with disabled access. Mr Brooke would organise the cutting of verges. Clerk to request how often verges are cut during the year.

The VMT would clear the footway and it was hoped they would deal with loose and dislodged setts. Location of setts requiring attention had been sent to Mr Brooke.

**Website Flyers** - These were now ready for distribution. Two new websites had been created, and there are now five devoted to the community. [www.pecn.co.uk](http://www.pecn.co.uk) new electronic version of the parish magazine, with links to village events and churches services. Only editorial spaces are loaded, so advertisers can receive a free listing on plumpton247.

[www.plumpton247.co.uk](http://www.plumpton247.co.uk) has been developed to give information about the community including a wide range of services, emergency and utility contacts, local businesses etc.

Clerk to ask Mr Green to update Councillors profiles on the website; Mrs Wride offered to laminate them for noticeboards.

**Bus Services** – Clerk asked Mr Hawthorne to chase this up. Tenders for bus services were going in next week and there may not be so many cuts, depending on which operator is chosen; concession travel costs LDC £38,000 a year, and there is no extra money to fund outside the hours allowed. A Cabinet meeting would take place at LDC in July, and it was hoped for feedback after this.

**Skateboard Area** - District Solicitor had been contacted as to PC's rights; it was felt that this facility was provided to give young people somewhere to go and enjoy themselves, and there had rarely been any problems. Mr Speirs had visited other people living near the area who had no complaints about the noise.

**Proposed Pharmacy at South Chailey surgery** - Mr Moss had written putting forward important points why this should not be allowed. Some of these points included that prescription drugs may not be dispensed by a qualified pharmacist at the South Chailey Surgery, and that the services provided by Lloyds Pharmacy in Newick included non prescription medicines, advice, blood pressure monitoring, and other items. The Pharmacy also offers a delivery service to the elderly and housebound. Clerk to write to NHS Family Health Services Litigation Authority Appeal in Harrogate in support of the appeal made by Lloyds Pharmacy making the above points.

**Station** - Clerk to contact Network Rail to thank them for refurbishments inside and outside the station; no reply had been received from Southern regarding lighting problem at the station.

**Allotments** – Application form had been filled in for water supply.

**Speeding on B2116** – PC Vitler is unable to use speed gun along B2116 at this location; this is a static stop with this type of equipment and can only be used in a 30 and 40 mph zone; B2116 is a national limit and not suitable for this type of enforcement though the Road Policing Unit are aware of the speeding problem and conduct patrols accordingly.

**Road Closures:** B2116 Ditchling Road closed from junction with Plumpton Lane in easterly direction on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.  
B2116 Ditchling road, Plumpton from junction with Plumpton Lane to just west of eNothing to Reportance to College on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**Garages in Riddens Lane** – Inspection had taken place after reports of gutters and down pipes being in a poor state of repair; no repairs were apparent but arrangements had been made to clear leaf debris from overhanging trees.

**Insurance** – Confirmation had been received for receipt of cheques. The village fair would be covered under the village hall insurance, providing conditions were adhered to.

**Village Green** – Mr Woolgar had confirmed that the grass would be cut for the village fete.

**Dog bin** – Mr Beard would move the dog bin when he was able, and the change in location would be reported to LDC.

**Accident near Half Moon Junction** – Mr St John had reported this to the Clerk. Clerk asked for details from Sgt McDonald: 'Vehicle 1 intending to turn right into Plumpton Lane, waiting in ceNothing to Reporte of road, Vehicle 2 approached and Vehicle 1 pulled across path of Vehicle 2 causing collision'. Clerk had e mailed this to Mr Johnson ESCC, and Mr St John.

Letter from Mr Green regarding Playing Field. There had been no minutes of playing field meetings for some time and no information was available for activities of the P Field committee or a list of clubs and organisations that use the playing field. It was suggested that there should be a more formal approach with minutes of meetings being produced for the website, as funding from residents takes place via the precept, and they are entitled to information. A review should be taken with regards to increasing charges to users of the field, together with a review of market costs of services provided by clubs and societies. The building is old and needs maintenance and repairs and the Committee should make every effort to raise funds to hold in reserve to coNothing to Reportibute towards future major expenses. The work of those that run the Playing Field is appreciated by the community but it is time to looking at investing in major structural repairs or rebuilding.

A discussion took place. A new Committee had been appointed at the ASM and would organise a meeting and had agreed to look at all these issues.

Mr Speirs pointed out that: a. anything that clubs do free will disappear if rents are increased. b. maintenance such as grass cutting costs half an outside tender, and the

groundsman works free of charge. c. all work on the pitches is done by the Football and Cricket clubs free of charge. d. a new extension could cost up to £30,000. e. goodwill would be lost if rents were increased. If rent for the playgroup was to be increased it would make it difficult for them to continue operating. Clerk to acknowledge letter and to say a meeting has already been arranged.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Mrs Eastwood asked if residents who had cut their hedges down Station Road could be thanked in the parish magazine; there are still some hedges to be done. Clerk to write to ask a property owner on Station Road to please cut overgrown hedge. Mrs Wride said she had notice work taking place on cars in Station Road This had been reported in the past and the Enforcement Officer LDC Planning and Police had been informed. Clerk to inform PCSO Buggins and LDC Planning. There is a deadline of the end of August for anyone to come forward who may be able to take over the land where the swimming pool is and manage it without the involvement of the school. They have to have ESCC agreement before any proposals can be made. Vale of Sussex meeting: looked at funding for promoting tourism; meeting with Mr Hawthorne with AIRS to put proposal together to maintain Plumpton as a rural village, cycle lanes, horse lanes, B and B's etc. Mr Speirs said there had been no sign of a PCSO in the village for two months. Clerk to contact Sgt McDonald. Recent local lottery win: - Mid Sussex Times had contacted Mr Speirs; he commented "everyone seems happy for them". Mrs Nicholson would respond to the strategic review paper of the Youth Development Service.

**SANDPIT** - A meeting planned had been cancelled as there were hardly any movements. The next meeting is scheduled for early September.

## **FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of May, 2008 were Admin £6139,66 Playing Field £7371.48 and Village Hall £13,476.13. The Audit was approved and signed by Mr Speirs and the Clerk and would be sent off to Mazars.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Network Rail – Clerk to send thanks for refurbishment inside and out and automatic ticket machine.

## **HIGHWAYS -**

Parking, Speeding, Pavements.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Honeybees had enquired if anything could be done to help parking at the Playing Field; it was not thought cones could help – will be discussed at the P Field meeting, and Mrs Wride will then speak to Honeybees. Ask Highways not to tarmac verges in Plumpton Lane as it was thought that not putting tarmac to the edge of the road would stop encouraging people to speed on a wider road. the verges should be naturally grassed. P Magazine – Ask residents to report all minor accidents to Police and PC. Speed Awareness Campaign: place series of Think Slow signs through the village; Mrs Wride would obtain posters and laminate them, and ESCC Highways would be asked to put corrugated plastic signs through the village. Surface water – on hill going up to Heath Farm – tarmac put here has caused a problem with surface water. Southdowns – drain water still sits on tarmaced area, could freeze over in winter.

## **POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Only one incident in the last month: Attempted break in at garage and shed. Delay in receiving business cards.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**VILLAGE CARE - NOTHING TO REPORT**  
**LITTER - NOTHING TO REPORT**  
**RECYCLING – NOTHING TO REPORT**  
**FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS – Streat 20 Plumpton 24 – work done by the**

Monday Group, still says temporary repair; when it is going to be made permanent?  
Network Survey Group – a full asset and condition survey to be done of the entire 2,200 miles of Rights of Way network; ROW team will have additional 8 staff, 4 surveyors and two person maintenance team. When complete, results will be analysed to identify particular paths, routes or areas that need attention with the parish.

#### **REPORT OF TREE WARDEN - NOTHING TO REPORT**

#### **PLANNING:**

The following application was considered: LW/08/0621 Sunnyside Cottage, Plumpton Lane. Erection of single storey side extension and courtyard wall (amendment to planning permission LW/08/0042) for Mr Mitchell. PC supported this application. LDC Planning would not require plans and application documents to be returned following a decision in the future.

It was decided not to send out notices of planning applications from the PC as LDC now does this to all surrounding properties. The cost to the PC is quite significant in postage. If there was doubt whether a notification had not been sent, Planning Chairman would decide to send a notice.

Recent Plough Inn application: Clerk had contacted Mr Hawthorne to see if he could enquire about this application; he was not on the planning committee LDC and could not do anything unless he was informed before comments were sent in.

#### **HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### **NOTHING TO REPORT**

#### **VILLAGE HALL:**

A tree had fallen over the village hall car park.  
Concern over children removing Danger signs from pond. Sign Danger Deep Water now on concrete block which cannot be moved.

#### **PLAYING FIELD:**

A tent containing empty and full bottles of alcohol had been seen at the playing field. This had been reported to the Police and the PCSO had attended and removed the tent and contents.

Quotation for work to surface in play area has been reduced by £300; work can be done at the end of July/August. Clerk to accept new quote figure. Honeybees concerned – Clerk to send letter saying Council are aware of problems and action is being taken.

#### **LOCALBUSINESSES**

#### **NOTHING TO REPORT**

#### **YOUTH COUNCIL**

#### **NOTHING TO REPORT**

#### **REPORT OF CLERK**

Clerk presented to the Council: LDC Complaints about councillors within Lewes District, Invitation to FWAG AGM (no Councillor was able to attend), Glasdon leaflet, Community Play Areas leaflet, Steps to Action leaflet, Lewes District Commanders Message June 2008, Trading Standards alert about doorstep callers.

Clerk asked PC's approval to purchase New Governance and Accountability for Local Councils as a hard copy from SALC. This was approved. Clerk had responded to SALC in answer to request for where Section 106 money had been put to good use by Councils.

**News from the School:** Languages/International Week commences on 30<sup>th</sup> June. A panel has been informed to recruit a new Headteacher. Class photographs took place on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Mathematical calculations paper has been posted on the website. Clerk had been asked why there was no tennis available at the school. The tennis club had made their facilities available, but it was not easy to get children to the club.

Clerk had received thanks from Mr Stone for editorial space cost for the parish magazine, and Happy Circle for the donation. Accounts from the Activity Scheme had not been sent.

No reply had been received from the Tennis Club regarding trees. Clerk to telephone Mrs Allan.

Councillors were asked to fill in new Declaration of Interests Forms, mentioning any potential new interests.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 15<sup>th</sup> JULY,2008.

**CHAIRMAN**