



MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16TH JUNE, 2009 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT:

Mrs B Watson Vice Chairman
Mrs. C Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mr T Thompsett
Mrs K Wride
Mrs S Akers
Mr S Green
Mr R Stone
3 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES:

Mr R Taylor
Mrs B Watson chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr Taylor.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Meeting on 19th May, 2009 were signed as a true record.

Mr Green and Mr Stone were welcomed as new councillors. They signed the Declaration of Office and the observance of Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 (SI No 1159). They were given new Councillor's packs and also Declaration of Interest forms to complete.

Mr Green agreed to serve on the Village Hall Committee, and Mr Stone said he would serve on the Public Transport and Neighbourhood Watch committees. Mr Green agreed not be on the Planning Committee, as if all Councillor were on this committee (as they are at present), it would not legally be classed as a 'committee'.

There was to be further discussion about items raised at the meeting with Mr Leggo. Mrs Akers thought this should happen at a separate meeting for Parish Councillors; it was decided to have it on 4th July, 2009 at 10am in the committee room. Clerk to contact Mr Taylor to ask him his availability.

MATTERS ARISING:

Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting:

Insurance: Malicious damage cover for skatepark and extra public liability for allotments negotiated at £43.00 per annum.

Highways meeting (Strengthening Local Partnerships) for Councillors arranged 16th July 2pm village hall; f Mr Taylor, Mrs Wride and Clerk would attend.

Litter Bin survey - Completed – all bins in village owned by LDC.

Network Rail: No NR land available for parking, any land near the sub station is needed for access to maintain it. If there is further land in the village that could be purchased for this purpose, Network Rail would look at this.

Tree at Rylands: ESCC have issued a notice to owners to attend to the trees under Section 154 of Highways Act 1980.

Membership of AIRS Apologies from AIRS to say they did not know that the Hall was owned and managed by the PC, so they do not need a separate membership.

Buses: ESCC transport are checking on weekend timetables. In consultation with West Sussex C about bus stops in Haywards Heath.

Footpaths: Mrs Nicholson reported a dangerous footpath in East View Fields, that a

resident had reported to ROW and it had been repaired. The stiles at Jenners Farm have now been repaired.

Highways: Mr St John reported poor decorative state of post box at Half Mon layby – Clerk reported this to Royal Mail. Problems with speeding on B2116, asking if police can be aware on Burgess Hill Bike Ride. Clerk contacted Sgt Vitler and PCSO's.

Further Matters Arising discussed at meeting:

Tree in Memory of Mr Keith Moorhouse: Mr K Beard had advised that a good choice would be a Malus profusion, which is a flowering crab, with red flowers and ox blood berries; it would be planted in the autumn, date to be decided. Clerk had contacted Mrs Moorhouse who was pleased with the choice, and asked to be informed when the planting would take place.

Mrs Akers said that as Mrs Ridley had been a founder member of SOCS , they would like to plant a black poplar somewhere near water, such as the stream or pond area. She asked the PC to think about this.

Road Closure: South Road, closed except for access from its junction with C6 Green Road to the junction with the C71 St Helena Lane between 17th July, 2009 and 19th August, 2009.

Mrs Wride asked if rural kerbing could be installed here, not urban style kerbing.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways.

The Paddocks/Riddens Garages: These are now up for auction. Clerk had been contacted by Mr Spencer who is concerned about the future of the garages – copies of enquiries before sale had been sighted and these had discrepancies in them. Clerk had contacted LDC Planning Enforcement and they were unable to do anything unless conditions on the garages were not complied with in the future. The situation would be monitored after the sale.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Services: Letter from QAVS to say that unfortunately SOCS had reached the second stage of judging, though was not successful, but forms were available if the group wished to be considered in the future.

Pit Stop: Clerk had spoken to Mr Le May at Mayo Wynne Baxter about this. They had undertaken litigation in the 1990's when there had been a signed agreement by the owner with PACE. The litigation stopped 15 years ago and the owner had been sued for debt. There was a new contract with PACE, but the owner was undercut by other local garages, and he was unable to sell petrol viably. There are no assets, and no family members that are known and the building is charged to the Bank.

Mr Le May suggested that maybe a Land Registry search could reveal some details. Clerk had heard from LDC Planning that they were looking into this, and would make an inspection.

ACTION: Clerk thought that further time should be given for this inspection before chasing up with LDC, and would she would chase this during July, if no reply was forthcoming.

Fields in Trust – Playing Field: Clerk had contacted Mr Erly (FIT) about land at the playing field, Any grass area that was taken for a new sports facility had to be replaced by a further grass area, if the area taken had been part of an existing sports facility. He suggested that residents were asked what sort of facility they would like; he said that

there would not be a problem with a basketball court as this would not affect the existing facilities and would be a hard area. If a commercial building were to take up grass area, it was recommended that PC talk to FIT. He said that any grass area would not be allowed to be used for allotments. He recommended that PC talked to FIT when proposals for new facility were known.

Water Charges: Mr Sharrock (FIT) said that waste water charges would rise steeply in

two years time. There would be no exemption for Charities. Waste water such as rainwater discharging into the main sewer would incur extra charges, not waste water from buildings etc. He suggested that if a new car park was built that French drains were considered and a permeable surface was put in, as this would alleviate excess rainwater going into the sewer. Charges would be based on square meterage and would depend on the individual water company's pricing.

Old Garage Site: S106 Agreement - Clerk had heard from Mr Young LDC. He had chased the Developer for the S106 money which would be put on deposit at LDC. He would then contact the relevant agencies who have the authority to spend the monies; these can only be spent in accordance with legal agreement. £15,268 (plus interest) would be available for open space provision, the spending of which is passed on the Council's Community Service Team. They consult with local residents how the money is spent, and they also have to agree the spending with the Planning Department who ensure the money is spent in accordance with the S106.

£128.96 (plus interest) has also been secured towards kerbside recycling. This will be spent by the Clean and Green team once they have agreed this with Planning.

Mrs Akers said that she understood that one of the semis had been sold on the open market.

Clerk said that Mr Young had said he had ascertained this from the Developer.

Tree work according to LDC Survey: Mrs Akers said that the trees that needed attention were: chestnut tree by the play park which is to be felled as it is diseased. two dead trees near to the end of the concrete path to the tennis court. hawthorne tree in the twitten between Station Road and the back of West Gate; this will probably be felled as it leans over the footpath.

Mr Symes had estimated that the work would cost £350. He was unsure when he could do it.

Mrs Akers also reported a chestnut tree on the left side of the concrete track to the tennis courts, which Mr Symes felt was the most urgent, as the condition is quite bad and a branch could potentially fall off at any time. The car park would have to be clear of cars when this work is being done. It was suggested that a notice was put up and Honeybees were warned.

ACTION: Mrs Wride said she would warn Honeybees when the date was known.

Highway Matters: Mr St John reported that a jar of marmalade was thrown at his partner's car causing damage; produce had been stolen from a stall opposite 2 Ashurst Lane, and it was thought that this was where the item was purchased from as it had a matching label. This had been reported to the Police

Mr Nicholson reported that there had been graffiti on the white bridge after he had cleared the vegetation around it. Clerk reported this to Highways, but they were unable to do anything until other work, involving traffic lights, was to take place there.

Mr Nicholson offered to do the painting himself; Clerk said that this was rather dangerous and he would not be covered under the PC's insurance as he would be doing it as a private individual, which Mr Nicholson understood.

Mr Nicholson reported the fingerpost on South Road towards Beresford Lane is broken. Clerk reported this to Highways for attention.

Clerk had contacted Sgt Vitler about problems of speeding on the B2116; his team were unable to conduct static speed checks in this location due to the national speed limit, therefore not suitable for such traffic management from a health and safety aspect. The RPU would be able to do this, Clerk was recommended to contact the PCSO's which she did. Sgt Vitler said he knew that the RPU did monitor this site due to the accident history.

Verges: Clerk had received several complaints about the verges not being cut in the village. Contact had been made with Highways who said they would be cut towards the end of the week (19th June). Mrs Akers said that she thought two cuts a year were not enough, and asked if quotations could be obtained from Highways for more cuts during

the year so this could be factored into budgeting for next year.

ACTION: Clerk would contact Highways.

Clerk had heard from Kelly Burr Highways that she had met Mr Blencowe and the School Crossing Patrol Supervisor. It had been decided initially to trial a white line along the back of the small turning area opposite the farm track. The line is not legally enforceable but proves effective in preventing parking when laid across the access. The School Secretary and Crossing Patrol Supervisor were happy and will put this in the newsletter advising parents not to park on the white line.

If this does not work, further consideration will be given to the implementation of a School Keep Clear marking. This also advisory and not legally enforceable. A request for a No Parking marking in the area had been refused as there is no such road marking and the small indent in the kerb line to aid turning does form part of the public highway.

The junction markings at Southdowns and Station Road will be added to the list for the lining contractors. The entrance at the playing field was not considered for junction markings, though it was appreciated that this was a busy junction but had not proved a problem in the past and that no injury crashes had taken place there in the previous 6 years. Mr Blencowe was not happy with the white line.

There had been two accidents near the Half Moon area recently, and the verge to the south of the Half Moon going towards Lewes had been badly damaged, also the bank in that location. Mrs Wride would take a photograph of the affected area.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Highways to reinstate verge and bank.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs Akers asked for a S137 grant for SOCS who had done a lot of maintenance work on the ditch at the front of the green. The PC had given a grant towards the turbidity meter in the past and this piece of equipment had been very useful. See Clerk's report regarding S137.

Mrs Wride reported that she and Mr Thompsett had attended a LDALP meeting on 15th June, and it was thought they would ask for a subscription in future to help with the cost of hiring halls etc. Mr Thompsett had agreed to represent PC's on a recreational facility sub committee team. Mr McGillvray was on the panel for the Sustainable Communities Act.

Mrs Watson said the hedge at Station House needed trimming back.

ACTION: Clerk to write a polite letter.

Mrs Watson asked the two Councillors who are responsible for the Parish Pump in the press to please ensure that as they are Councillors they should report only facts about the PC, not opinions.

It was mentioned that the Board of the National Park has 37 members on it, with only 50% were from elected groups and there was concern that issues such as planning could cause problems if decisions were made by those who did not know the area. Clerk recommended to write to the South Downs Society to put themselves forward as a representative, particularly as Plumpton has a station which people would use to visit the NP.

ACTION: Clerk to write to National Park Society to show interest.

SANDPIT: Mr Nicholson said there had been an outflow from the sandpit but he was not sure where from; SOCS had found this out. He had received a tirade from Mr Dudman about this, but Mr Nicholson did not think it was controversial, and he would sort it out. Everything was very quiet and there was little to report; there is still stockpiling. Mrs Akers said a high turbidity reading had been reported to the Environment Agency.

VOLUNTARY SPEED REDUCTION: Mrs Wride reported that the new car stickers had been distributed at the South of England Show. The scheme had been launched in Alfriston as part of their SAFE campaign.

Mrs Akers asked about the signs that had fallen down in the village.

Mrs Wride said that new ones had been designed. She will contact the PCSO when the new ones come and Highways will put them up.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of May, 2009 were: Village Hall £10,455.89, Playing Field £18,521.80 and Admin £8337.09.

Audit Documents (which have not been audited by external Auditor Mazars) had been given to the Webmaster by the Clerk. Notices were placed on PC boards as to when audit papers and accounts could be viewed during July.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Mrs Wride reported that ESCC were doing a survey at bus stops with a view to putting in LED signs so tourists would know when buses ran; it was thought this would only be useful at the station in Plumpton.

A meeting would take place with VAP members, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Medhurst, and Roger Williams from ESCC to discuss community transport.

Southern had retained its franchise for trains. They had promised 1000 extra car parking spaces in the area.

Hanging baskets would be put up at the station.

Mr Nicholson mentioned he had pursued the Adopt a Station project, and had a meeting at the school to get them involved. Mrs Eastwood said it was a good idea for another group to look at this. Mr Green said that Network Rail and Southern encourages schools to visit and be made aware of the dangers of stations and take children on the train.

Mr Stone said that the PC did not have enough time to pursue such schemes and thought the Action Plan could follow this through but the PC should be kept informed.

Mrs Eastwood said her and Mr Baker continued to work together looking at car parking, collating more data and looking at the best way forward with this. There has been positive feed back from the racecourse, and this has gone to the Racecourse Board; they could get revenue from this and there would be a trial for three months, the car parking would be for local people.

ENVIRONMENT:

Mrs Akers said that skateboarders were using the road in West Gate on a regular basis; they had been asked to move to the skateboard area, but often went to the village hall car park where there are notices banning such activities. Mrs Akers asked if the PCSO's could come to the village between 4.30 and 5pm to tell young people this was very dangerous and to ask them to go to the skateboard area.

ACTION: Clerk to contact PCSO.

Mrs Akers said that the hedge at the allotments needed tidying up; she suggested obtaining quotes from Mr C Symes and Mr D Westgate for this.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Symes and Mr Westgate.

The area at the entrance to the playing field where the noticeboard is needs tidying up.

ACTION: Mr Thompsett would get a quote for this and ask the clubs if they would be willing to help with this.

Mr Green said the black plastic bin bags that are left at the entrance look unsightly. It was thought, if they are not left out, they are not collected. There is a gap between the hedge and the recycling area where they could be left.

ACTION: Mrs Wride would ask Honeybees to put the sacks there.

Clerk to contact Sgt Vitler to ask for a PCSO comment box to be put in the shop, like the one in the South Chailey stores.

FOOTPATHS:

Mrs Akers reported that 13a East View Fields had not been repaired. F36 Ashurst towards the College; the sign had been put up.

Mrs Nicholson had attended a meeting with Mr Tweed ESCC ROW regarding the ROW Improvement Plan; she had been asked to continue as a liaison between ESCC ROW, VAP, and the Parish Council regarding the survey. Mrs Akers and Mrs Eastwood were unable to attend this meeting. 2000 miles had been surveyed so far with 100 left.

It was hoped to keep the survey going as a rolling programme. He said that only two

parishes had demonstrated interest in the parish reporting system project, one was Plumpton. Mr Tweed said that it was anticipated that the South Downs Joint Committee would assume responsibility for maintenance work within the future National Park. He said that the inter-reg bid made by ESCC to Europe had been successful.

HIGHWAYS

Ditchling Local Area Transport survey looking at traffic issues has been prepared, and has invited Plumpton to give input. Mrs Wride thought that it was probably better for the VOS to put forward a report; committee members had looked at the impact on Streat and Westmeston.

The VAP Road Safety team would look at this before the SLR Highways meeting on 16th July. There were several items for the agenda for this meeting, It was suggested that the 20 mph max speed limit round schools should be mentioned.

Mr Green reported that the verge near the racecourse entrance was in a poor state as residents park there. Highways had been asked to put posts there but they had not come back to PC. PC was not sure who owned this land. Mrs Akers said it was dangerous and affected the sight lines when people parked there. Mrs Angel said the racecourse was approached and agreed to put posts in, but it did not happen.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Clare Shepherd about this.

PLANNING AND HOUSING

As there was not a quorum for a planning meeting planned for 20th June, 2009, the following applications were considered:

LW/2808/CC Plumpton Primary School Installation of new cycle shelter and recycling area. PC had no comments to make on this application.

LW/09/0476 Plumpton Green Village Store and Post Office. Single storey room extension at rear for Mr Patel. PC approved this application; there were concerns about the timber cladding of the building which could be a potential fire risk. They would also like to ensure that there is no impingement of light to the property at the rear 'Owlets'.

LW/09/0547 The Old Post Office, Plumpton. Erection of a first floor extension at side with balcony at rear plus new chimney for Mr St John. PC approved this application with materials to match.

LW/09/0375 application had been submitted by EDF for poles at The Old Brickworks, which had been approved.

The following application was granted:

LW/09/0295 Copse Cottage, Green Lane, Plumpton. Erection of a single storey rear extension.

The following application was refused:

LW/09/0099 Certificate of Lawful Use or Development (Existing) at Half Moon Inn, Ditchling Road. Hiring out of two static caravans for holiday lets and as a camping field for tents only (maximum 10 pitches with a maximum of four persons per pitch).

Applications for Plumpton College were due to come in on the 17th June, these were discussed and Clerk was asked to respond when applications had been received:

LW/09/0607 Plumpton College. Erection of an extension to existing indoor riding area for Plumpton College. PC approved this application.

LW/09/0608 Plumpton College. Creation of an outdoor riding arena for Plumpton College PC approved this application.

It was thought that there could be issues with flood lighting of these areas if installed, but would not be likely to affect any adjoining areas.

LW/09/0595 Plumpton College Section 73A Retrospective application for the retention of parking area at western end of college campus for Plumpton College. PC approved this application.

Clerk read out letter from LDC regarding Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) call for site. This requires that local authorities identify: Specific **deliverable** sites for the first five years of the plan that are ready to develop Specific **developable** sites for years 6-10 and ideally years 11-15 to enable the five year supply to be topped up.

Any council with suitable sites was to contact LDC by the 13th July, 2009.

Letter from Mr Gardiner to say that LDC planning and the planning committee had agreed to inform PC's and residents of agricultural determinations in the future – there had only been on average 8 a year of such applications. The maximum period for representations would be 14 days.

POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mrs Angel reported that travellers have now moved on, but it may be useful for local farmers and local communities to check that open land is blocked wherever possible. Four new PCSO's have joined the Lewes District. Burglaries are down in number. Stuart Bruce was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment after he failed to appear at Lewes Crown Court on 8th June for sexual assault on a girl under 16; he is now back in custody.

Crime update in Plumpton and area: 23/5/09 Shed break in East Chiltington, nothing stolen.

26/5/09 Trailer stolen from farm in Wivelsfield.

27/5/09 South Road, Plumpton. Garage broken into Honda mower stolen

30/5/09 Riddens Lane: Flower pot thrown at vehicle causing criminal damage

7/6/09 Lane End Common – burglary dwelling – rear window smashed and carriage clock stolen.

10/06/09 Plumpton Lane: jar or marmalade thrown at parked vehicle causing criminal damage.

Representative of Trading Standards would come to July meeting to discuss Cold Calling. Mr Young was arranging this.

VILLAGE HALL:

Nothing to Report.

PLAYING FIELD:

Mr Thompsett reported that a meeting of the playing field committee had taken place on 4th June, 2009.

5mph signs have been fitted to the road leading to the tennis courts.

Basketball court, play park and car parking: This is in the melting pot along with the general revamping and replacing of playing field facility. Mrs Eastwood had contacted Lottery Funding to see if an extension is possible. Mrs Barrell, VAP has agreed to join the PFC and her and Mrs Eastwood would pool their resources.

It had been agreed that a six month trial would take place for cardboard recycling at the PF recycling area.

A meeting had taken place regarding fire precautions.

Grass cutting: A contract with the Cricket Club is in hand.

Allotments: Not possible due to covenants.

Outside Toilet: The opening of this was a success so is to continue.

Bookings: Mrs Eastwood is now responsible for this.

Terms and Conditions of bookings: This is being revamped.

Skateboard Park: Quote of £3000 plus has been received from original supplier Eibe and Mr Thompsett enquired if it was possible to buy material separately for volunteers to do the work. This is possible, but could involve a lot of difficult work.

Mrs Akers said this was a lot of money to spend, and the funding would be difficult to find. It was thought rather un-necessary because only one person had complained.

Mr Hawthorne said that LDC Environmental Health could close the facility down if PC were not seen to actively look at the noise issue. This would be discussed further.

Mrs Eastwood asked if a Youth Champion from the VAP could encourage young people to take more pride and care of the skateboard area, such as clearing up litter etc.

Electrical Test and Report: Mr Taylor had organised this.

Water Charges: Covered elsewhere in the minutes

AGM : Not necessary to have one.

Fun Day 28th June 1pm until 5pm.

Joint meeting with VAP on 9th June; this went well and minutes will be available shortly. Highlighted areas where either 'overlap' of resources, or lack of communication that was happening. These will now be addressed and a comprehensive plan for the PF and Pavilion prepared and presented to all interested parties by late 2009. Mrs Barrell has been asked to join committee to aid communications.

Mr Hawthorne said he thought this had been a good meeting.

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere

Cardboard Recycling: Mrs Nicholson asked for formal approval to have a cardboard recycling facility at the recycling unit at the Playing Field. This had been discussed and approved by the PField Committee and PC and minuted. Approval was formally agreed.

Road Safety: Mrs Nicholson asked for approval for a survey for commuters to be produced by the Road Safety team. It is intended that results will be given to the PC for consideration about parking habits in the vicinity of the station.

The survey would take place on the train, handed out by an interviewer and then ask for it to be handed in at the ticket office the next morning, or ask travellers direct. PC approved this survey.

Councillors had seen minutes of the Team Leaders reports. Mrs Nicholson said that the format has been slightly revised with a summary of the main changes in the last month at the beginning of the report, but with page references to the relevant sections within the main body of the document, should PC committee members want further information relevant to their own areas of interest. PC were happy with the new layout.

Mrs Wride said that the minutes were out of date, as they were not released until after they had been ratified, and requested that more up to date minutes that had not been ratified were produced for the PC to see. Mr Hawthorne said that the PC did not produce minutes before they were ratified. Clerk said that the minutes were always put on the website, a few days after the PC meetings; these were not ratified until the next parish council meeting, and a disclaimer was on the end of the minutes stating this. Mrs Eastwood asked that the VAP minutes should state specific areas of the P Field such as 'play park', 'pavilion' etc.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council: Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, AIRS The 21st century rural community guide to a sustainable future for rural Sussex, East Chiltington Parish Council Minutes, Glasdon catalogue, Fields in Trust Annual Review, FWAG 2009 summer events, NALC Conference 4th and 5th September, Village SOS, E bulletin for County Associations and National Council, Buy With Confidence East Sussex Approved Trader Directory 2009/2010, e mail from RICS offering free support and guidance to Charities on all property matters within the UK., e mail from SALC about recent problems with CiLCA exams, which some clerks had failed, invitation from SALC and AIRS to attend a workshop session on 15th July, 2009 at Brede Village Hall.

Also presented were Sandpit Minutes 21st May, 2009. Minutes of Team Leader Reports dated 7th May, 2009. Both these were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

News from the School: Sunflower growing competition will take place at the summer barbecue on 22nd July. The school are currently reviewing the Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy, which can be viewed on the school website.

Golden Time: this is given as a reward for good behaviour – it runs every Friday from 2pm to 2.34 pm and replaces Golden Play; children can choose from a list of activities which they would like to do.

The Plumpton Activity Scheme will run from Tuesdays to Thursdays from 4th to 27th August, 2009.

Building works are taking place on the new recycling area and cycle shelter. There are vacancies for a community and a parent governor at the school.

S137 requests were received from the Happy Circle, and Windmill Rangers. All Council approved grants of £50 be sent to each organisation.

Mrs Akers and Mrs Eastwood requested application forms for S137 grants from the Clerk, as they had been approached by organisations for S137 grants.

Clerk would be taking leave from 6th July until the 14th July, and from 25th July to 1st August, 2009.

CHAIRMAN

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 21st JULY, 2009.

CHAIRMAN