



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 18TH JULY 2006 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr. R. Taylor Chairman
Mr. K Speirs Vice Chairman
Mrs B Watson
Mrs.S. Akers
Mrs. S. Angel
Mrs C Thompson
Mr. K. Beard
Mr.P. Ramsay
Mr. T. Hawthorne
6 Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES:

None.

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting on 20th June, 2006 were signed as a true record.
The Minutes of a Planning Meeting on 8th July, 2006 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Hairdresser - Clerk read out letter from Mr. Rothwell saying he had appreciated being able to view the old doctor's surgery room as a possible use as a hairdressing room; he said the facilities are what he would require, and that he felt he could continue the service he currently gives to residents, particularly elderly ones if he continues to work in Plumpton.

Mr. Taylor said that the Village Hall Committee had been opposed to this request as it was felt it was not right to use the room for such purposes.

If it were to take place, the legal procedure would take several months and could be costly; the Charity Commissioners, planning, Inland Revenue for business rates, and insurance company would have to be contacted with specific proposals. There were also issues of the premises licence, water and electricity separate billing, and the security of the building. It was thought that Mr. Rothwell would install a door bell system and that clients would wait in the doctor's room. A valuer would have to attend to decide on a market rent, as this is required by the Charity Commissioners.

Members of the public said they thought this local business should be supported, particularly as it gave a service to elderly people who could not get elsewhere to get their hair done because of the lack of public transport; Mr. Rothwell currently visits some people in their own home if they are ill and unable to get to the salon.

It was mentioned that the Health Club at the Racecourse could be a possible venue, but this would be closed on race days as the entire course and buildings are needed on those days.

Mr. Taylor asked the Council to vote; four Councillors were against the use of the room as a hairdressers, and five were for this happening. It was agreed in principle that this may go ahead, but there were many issues that had to be clarified and looked into.

Clerk to write to Mr. Rothwell to tell him this, and urge him to continue his business in the meantime as if this was to take place, the time scale could be several months. Clerk to contact LDC Legal to enquire what sort of lease would need to be obtained and approximate cost, which would have to be funded by Mr. Rothwell. Mr. Speirs would get in touch with a local valuer to obtain a figure for a market rent.

Noise at events at the hall – A resident of West Gate had complained about noise coming from recent events at the hall. Environmental Health had been called at 22.30 one evening to monitor sounds, while a wedding was in place. Clerk had sent a letter of apology and the booking conditions of the hall. Mrs. Akers had visited the resident and discussed the issue. Hirers were asked by the Village Hall Manager to have music equipment on the stage and not at the other end of the hall.

Footpath East Chiltington 6B – The landowner was being contacted to request that the stile is repaired.

Clerk to contact ESCC to say that Footpath 27 finger post had not been repaired. It was reported that the Footpath from Beresford Lane to the Hospice was very overgrown and needed attention. Clerk to report this to ESCC.

Hedge at Greencross – Nothing had been done about this and it was causing a great deal of problems with traffic coming out of the lane next to the property. Clerk to write again to Highways.

Riddens Lane Garages – business rates – Nothing had been heard about this – Clerk to chase it up.

Southern Water – repair track/road Tennis Club – Letter from Southern Water to say that they were grateful for seeking advice on how to repair the rut on the road without damaging the drains. It is safe to put a steel plate over the area as protection to repairs the rut.

Primary School use of hall in emergency - Letters had been received from the School and Insurance Company. Insurance company were in agreement providing the PC consider the village hall a suitable location for this, would not pose a problem to hirers and does not exceed the limit as required by the fire officer. There would be no cover under the policy for compensation to hirers and the school would require their own liability insurance.

Letter from the school enquired what purposes the hall was let during school hours, and the hall would only be used in a major crisis such as fire which would result in a large insurance claim and any small expenses would be covered.

Clerk to write to school stating insurance company comments.

RVRC – Clerk had received a letter from East Chiltington Parish Council regarding the role of parish representatives. They are concerned about the timing for Parish Councillors to make decisions as some Councils only meet every two months.

Highways – Mrs. Akers had spoken to Highways and South East Water and visited the Bevernside site. The water in the ditch was from a BT manhole cover, and not SE Water's cover. Mr. Bailey, Highways, had attended the area and said that he would arrange for a small digger to excavate the ditch so that the water could run more freely. He also said he would arrange to have the verges strimmed at the top of the bank at Bevernside.

Water outside Old School Cottages – Highways said they would see where the water lies and suggested levelling off the area or changing the gradient of the pavement to take the spill off into the road. There were two ways to try to solve this problem. 1. Dig up pavement outside No 1 and relay a tilted camber. 2. A footpath grid to drain away rainwater into the existing drain in gutter. Clerk to contact Mr. Bailey who had said that this could take place straight away and say the Council favoured the tilted camber method.

Clerk to also ask if the boulders that were removed from the stream could be reinstated as this is an important part of the water flow.

Mrs. Akers felt that when reporting to Highways on such issues, the areas affected should be more specifically defined, as Highways often found it difficult to locate the exact area. When Clerk is unsure of exact location, she gives Highways the telephone number of a Councillor who can explain this..

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mrs. Watson reported that the seat from the end of East View Fields had been removed but had been located at the Playing Field. Mr. Smith had been asked to bolt it to the stanchions.

Mrs. Watson had received complaints about speeding along South Road near the Plough. Clerk to ask Highways if a 40 mph limit could be put on this area.

Mr. Nicholson had reported that he had seen a letter in the local press written by a Mr. Handley regarding the Sandpit saying that traffic noise would be increased with lorries visiting the site, and that there was no permission to start using the sandpit again.

Mrs. Angel reported that there are curbstones loose, and some missing at the end of East View Fields where it joins Station Road. Clerk to report this to Highways.

Mrs. Akers reported that the beech hedge at the back of the hall needs tidying up. Mr. Beard would speak to Mr. Woolgar about this.

Mrs. Akers asked Clerk to contact Downland Housing about the state of the flower beds near the social housing, asking if there could be a regular contract to clear these rather than reporting them each time they are overgrown.

Mrs. Akers asked if the Council had received a letter from the Play Scheme, but this had not arrived. Under the Ofsted inspection it had been noted that there was a problem with the lock on the toilet at the playing field, and children may not be able to get out if locked in. It was decided the Play Scheme could install a child friendly lock at their expense.

Mr. Ramsay said that the signs for the weight limit on Plumpton Lane to the Plough were not consistent where it starts and stops, and this should be correct. He asked if hatching could be put near the white bridge to reduce it to one width to alleviate problems with potential accidents in this area.

Mrs. Thompson reported that there had been a meeting of the liaison committee regarding the Sandpit on 6th July. At the meeting it was decided that representatives should have an alternative person to attend the meeting if they could not attend. Mrs. Thompson could not attend the meeting on 8th August, and Mrs. Watson agreed to attend in her place.

Mr. Hawthorne reported on the Bevern Spring line initiative; their aims are to reduce rat runs, change speed limits and highlight areas for tourism benefit. Cars, roads, lanes are issues that are considered important and it is hoping to obtain funding for these to try to solve problems. There would be a Tourism Workshop in September to bring together local businesses to discuss these issues.

ESCC Transport Strategy had been made aware that footpaths and pathways needed to be sorted out and potential accident spots including the one at the Half Moon turning. RVRC – Mr. Hawthorne reported that there was some concern about the decision making process regarding PC reps, and this had been seen as a threat to democracy of PC's. It was thought that this group was just a forum for discussion and did not have a budget to spend. The issue of PC reps had to be resolved.

It was asked if RVRC was worth it? Mr. Hawthorne said that the SID had been obtained from it at no cost to the PC. Mr. Ramsay asked if the minutes of the meetings could be put on the website so residents could see what they did,

Mr. Beard said that the wire on the fence at the car park had been broken; he would repair it. He also reported that there were brambles overhanging in the layby between Old School Cottages and Southdowns. Mr. Speirs would ask the resident whose hedge this is to clear the brambles.

Mr. Speirs reported that the problems are still existing at the turning area in Barnfield. Clerk to write to Highways to ask if a no parking sign/ turning area sign could be put there; there was concern that there would be no one to police it. Mr. Speirs reported that the car outside his house was still there and had been there for ten weeks; he had reported it to the PCSO.

A resident had approached Mr. Speirs to say they had heard on the radio that Pulborough PC had a scheme where hoodies did jobs for elderly people in their village and other PC's may want to have a similar scheme. Clerk to contact Pulborough PC, though it was not thought that there was a particular problem with hoodies in Plumpton.

It was reported to the Council that there were several hedges in West Gate that were rather thick, and though they did not encroach onto the highway, that they should be trimmed.

It had been reported to the Council that reinstatement had taken place in parts of Rlddens Lane, and it was not known who had done the work; this is a private road.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr. Taylor reported that discussions were taking place regarding storage areas; the alcoves would be filled in at the rear of the stage and the floor at the back end of the stage; both these may be done in the long term.

Costs were being obtained for various ways to replace broken tiles on the south facing side of the hall, including retiling, Dutch wood, plastic cladding, and wood cladding. The stage lighting bars would be replaced at a cost of £350 per bar, four were needed, plus the cost of installation.

There would be no village fair this year, but there may be one in 2007.

No resident has come forward to run Mr. Greening's book stall.

The Youth Club equipment has not yet been moved.

Hiring rates would be increased and these prices would remain until 2008.

Mr. Beard would be replacing different trees where ones had died.

It had come to the notice of the committee that some residents were booking the hall for outside users and obtaining local rate.

The Conditions of hiring the hall would have additions to state that any music that is used for functions should be on the stage only and the exterior of the hall is not licensed for drinking alcohol and insurance could be invalid to those going outside the hall during events. Hirers were encouraged to use the fans during hot weather rather than go outside.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of June were Admin £6,838.46, Playing Field £10,533.65 and Village Hall £12,813.32. The Audit had been passed; the Auditors had asked for an asset register and this had been prepared and sent to them.

Southern Water had sent a cheque for £35 as they had failed to meet their standards in replying to PC correspondence between 2005 and 2006.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Mr. Speirs said that the storage shed had been erected and painted green. There had been problems with the cistern and locks on the outside toilet and these were being fixed.

8. PLANNING:

The following permissions have been granted:

LW/06/0598 Lentridge Barn, Station Road, Plumpton. Rebuilding of rear section of barn for Mr. Bicknell.

LW/06/0606 Unit 1a Plumpton Green Studios, St. Helena Lane, Plumpton. Change of use from B1 (light industry) to B2 (food preparation) for Ouse Valley Foods.

LW/06/0543 Copse Cottage, Green Lane, Plumpton. Single storey flank extension comprising of a self contained granny annexe and sun room for Mr. and Mrs. Phillpott.

The following application has been refused.

LW/06/0353 Plumpton Garage, Station Road. Residential development comprising two x one bed flats, two x two bed flats, six x three bed houses and one x two bed houses for Battle of Lewes Developments.

Appeal APP/P1425/A/06/1197553 Rose Cottage, Station Road. Appeal has been dismissed.

The following applications were considered:

LW/06/0685 Lentrige Barn, Station Road. Section 73A retrospective application for retention of caravan for living accommodation, storage shed, storage contained during conversion of barn to residential. The PC approved this application but would like to see a time limit put on the retention of the caravan.

LW/06/0838 Castle House, South Road, Plumpton Green. Demolition of Nissan hut and erection of garage with recreation room above (resubmission of LW/05/1846) for Mr. Lewry. The PC approved this application with previous comments to stand.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

Nothing to report.

10. FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report.

**11. PUBLIC
TRANSPORT:**

Mr. Hawthorne reported that the Village Rider Saturday service would finish on 31st July, 2006. There have been more enquiries for bus passes.

It had been noted that some of the buses were driving rather fast through the village. Mr. Hawthorne asked if registration numbers could be noted and reported.

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH:**

Mrs. Angel reported that the PCSO had not been around the village for some time; it was understood that she had been ill and was now on annual leave.

The Police had reported that the investigation into the incident with the Plumpton Players did not reveal anything.

Forty residents had come forward to take part in Neighbourhood Watch. There have been no recent police bulletins.

Mr. Ramsay asked if Mr. and Mrs. Young, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators could publish their bulletins on the website. Clerk would contact them to ask them to do this. Acting Sergeant Kieran Macdonald is to take over from Sergeant Mark Cranley; no communication had been received to say that the PCSO was off duty ill. Clerk to contact Police about this.

13. TREE WARDEN:

Clerk read out letter from ESCC regarding the Tree Warden Scheme; the response to the questionnaire had been good, and most PC's have planted trees and most of these had been facilitated by the tree warden. Only ten parishes had obtained grants from funding sources. It had been suggested that PC's contribute towards the cost of Tree Warden Scheme, £50.

PC did not think they were a large enough parish to contribute.

**14. VILLAGE ACTION
PLAN**

Clerk circulated Minutes of a meeting on 10th July, 2006 to Councillors.

Mr. Hawthorne said that this meeting had gone well, with ten members present and an Action in Rural Sussex representative had also attended. The Committee are having a drop in event on 16th September during the Horticultural Show where information will be displayed. It is hoped to ask residents what sort of questions should be put on the questionnaire.

There is a training day on 26th July, 2006 for Parish Action Plans where Action in Rural Sussex will discuss techniques.

15. REPORT OF CLERK:

Clerk presented to the Council:

Town and Parish Standard 07, District Link summer edition, Glasdon local council News sheet summer 2006, LDC Gambling Act 2005 Draft Policy Statement, Action in Rural Sussex June 2006, Local Council Review, East Chiltington Parish Council Minutes, Clerks and Councils Direct July 2006, Safety Shop July 2006, South Downs Management Plan Consultation Draft June 2006, South Downs Planning Guidelines draft June 2006, BAGO hand tools for litter, South Downs Focus, Action in Rural Sussex Celebrating 75 years of service in Sussex.

Clerk read out letter regarding a Clean and Green Enforcement Seminar on 27th July, 2006 regarding anti social behaviour, graffiti, litter etc. No Councillor was available to attend the meeting.

Clerk read out letter from Victim Support Sussex asking for a donation towards their services which the Lewes Branch covers. Council donated £55.

CHAIRMAN

