



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2007 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,  
VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

**PRESENT:** Mr R Taylor  
Mr. K. Speirs Vice Chairman  
Mrs B Watson  
Mrs. S. Angel  
Mr. T Thompsett  
Mrs. K. Wride  
Mrs. C Eastwood  
Mrs S Akers  
Mrs C Nicholson

Mr N Satchell

**1. APOLOGIES:**

None

**2. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 were signed as a true record. The Minutes of a Planning Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 were signed as a true record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

**Youth Bus** -The Youth Bus would be visiting the village on a Tuesday evening at the Playing Field car park between 7pm and 9pm between 24<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> August. This provides a meeting place for young people to discuss with workers, issues concerning relationships, sexual matters, drugs and alcohol issues. Leaflets would be sent and these details would go on the website.

**PCSO's** -Clerk had been contacted by Sergeant McDonald regarding the new PCSO's. They would not be patrolling the villages on a rota basis. There would be two new ones assigned to Plumpton Chris Buggins (male) and Wendy Baulcombe. PCSO Julie Whittaker Jones was now assigned to Chailey. It was hoped the new PCSO's would attend a PC meeting in the future. It was reported that an incident had taken place where a car had mounted a pavement dangerously near the old Plumpton Green garage site, and the PCSO had been present but had not challenged the driver. Mr Speirs would speak to the PCSO.

**BT boxes on Station Road** – A site visit had taken place by Open Reach (BT) and Clerk was awaiting communication regarding this; Highways would do the necessary work once this was done.

**Guideposts** – These had been done on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July. Highways would cover half the cost. Clerk had received complaints regarding the missing guidepost at St Helena Lane on the telephone and by letter and had responded to these.

**Litter on the Racecourse** – No reply had been received to this letter.

**Plumpton College** – Clerk had received a letter from Mr Lambert saying that the ball was an annual event and they had received no complaints from Plumpton Place regarding damaged shrubs; there were often groups camping on college grounds and a second ball was put on by the village to support the church and the College donates the marquee at half price for this event.

**Network Rail** – No reply had been received from them regarding the signal box and the footpath and footbridge. Clerk to chase this up.

**Hedges** – Clerk had received a telephone call from a resident who was annoyed at

being sent a letter about their hedge. Another resident was unable to cut his hedge because it had been damaged in the multiple accident in the village recently and was awaiting an insurance inspector; he had been visited by the PCSO and also Mr Hawthorne had contacted the gentleman.

**The Coach House** – Clerk had received an e mail from Mr Brown LDC planning asking for more evidence on this issue. A ‘To Let’ sign had been placed outside the property and there was evidence that someone was living there long term as there were birthday cards in the window. It was thought that the property was to be let from September for three months, which it is believed to be in breach of the term of holiday let.

**Memorial Seat for Mr Percy Law** – The plaque had now arrived and Mr Speirs would be arranging for the seat to be concreted in; Mrs Law would then come down to see the seat along with some Councillors.

**Planning Application at Southdowns** – Clerk had written to Mrs Stroude and she had telephoned and said that that ESCC cannot do anything about this now as it was too late and the application had been passed. She would speak to the Headmaster.

**Lewes Climate Concern** – Clerk had heard from Mrs Haycocks who was contacting Mr Stone and Mrs Burgon to hire the village hall for this documentary to be shown.

**Rubbish Collection** – Clerk had heard from Mr Bryce to say there was no intention to supply wheelie bins or to chip bins. There is also no current intention to do alternate weekly collections.

**Dog Bin** – Mr Avery would put this up in Strawlands.

**South Downs National Park** – Letter had been received from Defra; they are providing an opportunity for people to raise any new matters that they consider result from the changes in the Natural Environment and the Rural Communities (NERC) act 2006 and Meyrick Judgements. Clerk had tried to contact Mr Moorhouse but it was presumed he was away. Clerk would try to contact him again.

#### **4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

**Sandpit** - Mrs Nicholson reported that there had been no activity; the ground is waterlogged; ringed plovers which are a preserved species are in evidence as there are two nests, and the sandpit cannot be operated while they are nesting. The birds have now flown and in theory the operations can start again. The owner has not applied for a discharge licence. The EA have been informed, and the turbidity meter is being checked by SOCS who are doing further testing on the drainage equipment. Mrs Nicholson asked if the Council should have a representative for Waste and Minerals as her husband would be willing to do this. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and that her husband should pass on information which she could report at the PC meetings.

Mrs Eastwood asked about the money that would be granted as a result of the building at the old Plumpton Green Garage, for the use of leisure facilities. She felt the village should have a say in how leisure money is used. This could become more clear as a result of the action plan questionnaire. At present it was thought the money may be used to extend the playing field car park and a five a side or basketball area would be incorporated into this. Mrs Eastwood asked if money could be used for an enclosure for the swimming pool as it would be open as a village facility and could benefit residents in the village. This would be discussed further.

Mrs Akers asked when the No Ball Games sign would be put up; Mr Speirs said he would do it. She said the signs at the skateboard park needed updating. She asked for a litter bin at the skateboard area, Mr Speirs said that someone would have to take it to the entrance of the playing field for emptying. She asked if enquiries could be made to have the hedge cut or laid at the Beverside. She asked if Clerk could write to Highways again to request that the boulders were reinstated and the ditch by the allotments cleared of all vegetation; the water was flowing

fast from the pipe.

Mrs Akers said that the post office is under threat of closure; the PC had not been consulted; Clerk to write a letter to the owner to ask if he would like some help. Some villages are lobbying for mobile offices.

Mrs Eastwood said there had been a few complaints about letters sent regarding hedges and she suggested that Councillors should visit those with hedges causing a problem. She asked the Clerk for a list of those who had been sent letters.

Mrs Wride had been to a District Association Meeting and had been asked to respond to a recent planning document. Issues including Affordable Housing were discussed. She reported that the school was losing pupils and a teacher each year as families could not get affordable housing in the village so their children could go to the local school. It was thought there is a need for affordable housing in the village; a document had been produced about S106 Exception Sites; one item was that planning consent with the agreement of PC's can be obtained on the basis that the affordable housing provided, whether it be for rent or shared ownership, is available for local people in perpetuity. As far as shared ownership is concerned, there is a maximum share which can be purchased, normally 80% in order that the housing can be retained for local people and is affordable. Mrs Wride said that housing associations can also approach a farmer directly and PC's can be passed completely. Mrs Eastwood also attended the affordable housing meeting.

#### **5. VILLAGE HALL:**

Mr Satchell said that there had been original intentions to do things to the hall when it was built but there was no money left in the budget in spite of fund raising and a loan from the PWLB. The hall had run successfully for ten years. A sound system had been installed and it had been decided to purchase a lighting system as groups such as the pantomime society had to hire in equipment at a large cost. Advice had been taken on this system and it was not thought a good idea to purchase it piecemeal, and a new one would last 20 years. The cost would be approximately £17,500. This would be raised by reserve funds, fundraising events (there would be a village fair in 2008) and hopefully grants. It was hoped that the Pantomime Society and Plumpton Players would also contribute to this. The equipment would be purchased in stages, but part of a plan. The Village Hall committee were in agreement with this. The kitchen also needs updating and costings for this would be looked at. It was also hoped to purchase a scaffolding tower. Mrs Akers asked if the heating system was efficient, and Mr Taylor said it was; electric heating was the best system for the hall as it would be difficult to find a place to put a boiler if it were to be changed to oil.

Hand towel holders would be installed in the toilets as the electric dryers were not thought to be adequate. Some of the curtains would be repaired over the summer. Luminous paint would be put on the steps on the exit to the hall, and the edge of the flower beds.

It was discussed whether a TV licence should be purchased if the Hall were to have a wide screen TV – this would be done if a TV was obtained.

Mr Beard would be asked to put some guttering over the doors at the back of the hall, possibly using a larger piece of guttering.

#### **6. FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of June were Admin £6863.70, Village Hall £12,126.72 and Playing Field £8436.73.

#### **7. PLAYING FIELD:**

The fence at the skateboard park had been damaged. A quote would be obtained to replace it.

#### **8. PLANNING:**

A planning meeting would take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30. Clerk had received a list of Listed Buildings in the village. Clerk had received a document for consultation Planning for a Sustainable Future. This and a previous planning document would be discussed by Mrs Watson and Mrs Wride and any comments would be sent to the Clerk to report to the Planning Reform Team. It was thought Q39 would need responding to

**9. VILLAGE CARE:**

The hedge at the Playing Field along the driveway towards the tennis club needs attention as it is full of brambles. Clerk to write to Network Rail.

**HIGHWAYS**

Clerk read out letter from Mr Brooke regarding Highway issues. It had been agreed to fund 50% of the cost of the guideposts.  
The edging at East View Fields would be carried out by the VMT this year, as a new piece of equipment was awaited.  
ESCC do not supply new grit bins (Old School Room) but replacement ones are paid for. Clerk to write to say that the one at the Old School Room is missing, and also the one at East View Fields is damaged.  
The verges in the village would be cut, but weather and resource problems involving grass cutting had been experienced.  
The white lines in the village are done by the Traffic Team and the request for these to be reinstated had been passed to them.  
Footpath 18 from East View Fields – arrangements had been made to tidy this area. This had not been done. Clerk to write to Highways.  
The Monday Group had agreed to clear the footpath parallel to the next level crossing going towards Haywards Heath. Clerk to contact the Monday Group.  
Clerk to write to Highways regarding a pothole at the end of Strawlands. This had been marked, but was getting bigger.

**10. FOOTPATHS:**

Clerk to find out who was the representative for East Chiltington for footpaths.  
Clerk read out a letter from South Downs joint committee 'Annual Parish Update'. This said that work had been carried out on public rights of way in Plumpton; details of the areas were given but no details as to where they were. This year there was only funding for half of the work carried out by contractors to repair rights of way furniture, the remaining work has been carried out by the appropriate ranger in their individual parish. A backlog had been created; it is hoped the work will be completed as soon as possible.

**11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

Mrs Watson asked if the Clerk could find out what the term 'nationwide' meant for the use of bus passes. Clerk would ask Mr. Hawthorne if he knew.  
The level crossing would be closed from 2300 on 31<sup>st</sup> July to 0600 on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:**

Mrs Angel reported that there had been a disturbance on 21<sup>st</sup> June in the Riddens area; a male had been bailed. A fork lift truck had been stolen from Plumpton College on 24<sup>th</sup> June. There had been a burglary on Station Road on 6<sup>th</sup> July. There had been warnings about cold calling from the Trading Standards Board. Stickers could be purchased for vulnerable people to display in their windows. Clerk would see if she could locate a supply of these.

**13. TREE WARDEN:**

Mrs Ridley had enquired whether the oak tree at The Creamery was to be retained.

**14. REPORT OF CLERK:**

Clerk presented to the Council: Freeplay magazine, South Downs Voluntary Service project news, LCR July 2007, District Link, Climate Change Special summer issue, British Legion leaflet regarding a seminar on 19<sup>th</sup> September, Action in Rural Sussex East Sussex support services, LDC Lewes DC Quarterly Minutes, LDC Index of Council Minutes from 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006 to 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2007. South Downs View Newsletter, Summer Exhibition Thebes gallery, England becomes smokefree guide, Furniture Now leaflets, Clerks and Councils Direct July 2007, Rural Voices Rural Choices Partnership meeting notes 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, Achieve More learning from others spring 07, BAGO hand tools for litter, Brighton Play seminar.

Clerk read out a letter from Victim Support Sussex asking for a donation towards their work; the organisation telephones or visit people who have been victims of crime in their home. The Council agreed to give £60 as a donation.

Clerk reported that Saturday swimming at the school was taking place at a cost of £1 a session. There would be two vacancies for school governors at the beginning of the school year, and it was hoped people would come forward during September to take on these roles.

The Annual Exhibition and Celebration of Learning had taken place. A non uniform day had taken place on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Annual Reports had been sent out.

E mail from Valerie Biggs regarding anyone interested in joining RVRC in their business capacity. This could be a conflict of interest and contravening the Code of Conduct.

Document from LDC on Flood and Coastal Defence. Clerk to respond to this document saying that the heavy rain this summer meant that vulnerable areas were the bridge at the end of East View Fields and the gardens at the north side of East View Fields where the course of the stream runs. Also that the drainage system under the White Bridge on Plumpton Lane is kept clear so that this area does not flood.

E mail from Sophie Shaw (Commission on the Future of Volunteering) regarding any councillors that are involved in voluntary work that would like to attend a seminar and provide evidence about being a volunteer. None of the Councillors wished to partake in this.

Letter from Norman Baker MP about the future of the Princess Royal Hospital, with petition forms enclosed. Clerk asked all Councillors to sign the petition which was sent off and other copies would be placed in the village shop for signing. There are public meetings arranged to discuss this issue, the nearest is at the Assembly Hall, Lewes Town Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> September between 1900 and 2100. Clerk to write to Mr Baker to ask if Princess Anne could be of any influence as she opened the hospital.

Lewes Parking Scheme – Clerk had received a letter from ESCC entitled Lewes parking scheme ‘among the fairest in UK’!!

**CHAIRMAN**