



MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21ST JULY, 2009 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor Chairman (RT)
Mrs B Watson Vice Chairman (BW)
Mrs. C Eastwood (CE)
Mrs S Angel (SA)
Mrs K Wride (KW)
Mrs S Akers (SAA)
Mr R Stone (RS)
Mr R Young Neighbourhood Watch
Mrs E Bowring FTSO Eastbourne Dept ESCC
4 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES: Mr T Thompsett (TT) Mr S Green (SG)

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting on 16th June, 2009 were signed as a true record, with the following amendments: Page 2 Footpaths: footpath EVF had not been repaired. Page 6 Highways Line 5: Omit 'The VAP Road Safety team would look at this before': substitute: Mrs Wride had set up a meeting with the Chairman of the VAP RST Mr Oliver St John.

Mrs Elizabeth Bowring ESCC FTSO spoke on the No Cold Calling Scheme.

Why have them? People fed up with those selling things knocking on doors, quite often vulnerable people. It is a good idea as it empowers people – Trading Standards gets involved in conjunction with Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Need financial help from PC for printing of leaflets. Residents should take note on who calls, and report details to Trading Standards who, if a particular cold caller persists, will persue to ask them to stop – cannot be enforced.

Plumpton ideal village – one notice at each end. Consultation should take place asking those in village if they want to have a No Cold Calling zone – consultation 6 weeks, invite all residents to meeting to discuss and if agreed, launch takes place.

Funding: may be some from Crime Reduction Partnership or Trading Standards.

Signs – 350 – 360, standard size – require licence from Highways – must maintain and check public liability cover regarding sign.

On day of launch information pack would be available. Press release to take place.

Q What sort of people would not have been invited?

A Those from gas and electricity companies trying to sell you their service.

Q Does this include charities.

A Includes faith organisations, will have to check about charities.

Q Is there any literature, a specific list of who can call.

A Will clarify.

Q Is there a cost for the licence?

A No.

RT - the Parish Council would discuss this further.

Mr Young said Crime Prevention and PCSO were already talking about scheme.

Q The telephone preference system does not seem to work. Will this work?

A If this persists can be reported to Police as harassment.

Mrs Bowring said that many areas are wanting the scheme. Clerk to talk to EC Clerk as they are in scheme.

At a meeting to discuss the future of the PC, it was decided to alter the monthly meetings to the second Tuesday each month, to be in line with the Parish Magazine issue, so that matters at the meetings can be reported for the current month. Formal ratification of this change took place. All Councillors present were in agreement.

MATTERS ARISING:

Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting:

Hedge at Station House had been cut.

Garages at Riddens Lane/The Paddocks had been sold for £28,500 to a London company.

Layby near the Racecourse entrance is not owned by them. Highways unable to do anything about the state of the area.

Highways looking into having more verge cuts. Will be discussed further.

Countryside kerbing will not be allowed on South Road, due to cost.

Further accidents reported to Clerk at Half Moon junction.

Hedges have been cut adjoining the playing field car park.

Pit Stop: LDC Planning Enforcement are still looking at this.

Quotes for hedge at Bevernside - SAA had received quote from Mr Westgate and was chasing up Mr Symes for his.

Old Garage Site: S106 Agreement - Funding is now with LDC, and a process has to be gone through before it can be released. Clerk reminded Mr Young LDC.

National Park: Mrs Watson will attend a meeting at Lewes on 11th August; this will include the parish council representation for the area.

Plumpton College – Complaints had been received about the noise level from the summer ball and Clerk had been requested to write to the College. No reply had been received and this had been chased.

Questionnaire South Downs Joint Committee: SAA is filling this in.

Litter Picking – Hamsey PC had carried out this, obtaining some equipment from LDC, bags, gloves, yellow vests etc.

PC thought this would be a good project for the Youth Forum.

PCSO Comment Box - Sgt Vitler had arranged for this to be put in the shop.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

NTR

SANDPIT: Mr Nicholson reported that things were very quiet. He had received some letters from Mr Dudman and had responded. There had been more complaints of lorries going through the village.

RT recommended that PC write to Mr Dudman, cc Highways asking why the weight signs are not being adhered to. KW asked if lorries could be kept away from the village during school start and finish times.

Mrs Hall said that there was a truck going through that had material from a demolished bungalow.

RT – vehicles allowed to deliver and collect such items.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Dudman

VOLUNTARY SPEED REDUCTION: The AGM had taken place on the 15th July, 2009; minutes are attached.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of June, 2009 were: Village Hall £6851.17, Playing Field £18,103.21 and Admin £5649.73.

Clerk reported that the photocopier had been repaired and needed a further repair

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: KW – meeting with Mr Williams ESCC – joint application from PPC and VAP for Voluntary Driver Scheme submitted and awarded by ESCC. ESCC anted to use Plumpton as a pilot - publicity film being made – leaflets being produced – coffee morning to launch this. Mrs Nicholson organising CRB checks.
Station Survey – these have not been completed.

ENVIRONMENT: Reports of rubbish left at Playing Field by playgroup – all has been removed except for large carpet.
ACTION: KW and CE would ask for this to be removed.
SAA – Still problems with skateboards in road, Bye Laws a possibility, or maybe a sign Skateboarding Prohibited.
ACTION: Clerk to ask LDC to look at Bye Law and possibly put sign on Westgate.
ACTION: Press and Parish Magazine: Ask young people to use skateboard area.
BW – also problem with cyclists using pavements.
ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways.
Mrs Hall asked if the skateboard equipment was going to have measures to make it less noisy. CE – PF committee looking at this – unconvincing as only one person had complained – noise level would only be reduced by 1% with soundproofing measures – very costly (approximately £3000) and PC could not warrant this expense. PF committee keeping constant eye on this, and looking for a better solution.
PC request polite notice to be put in Parish magazine asking those between the Fountain and Southdowns to keep their hedges trimmed.
KW – recent trees cut down, could they be used for a bench?
SAA – trees were not cut at Playing Field – those to be felled not big enough for a seat.
KW – wood could be offered to residents.
SAA – would need to be removed straight after felling.
ACTION: Parish magazine article to ask those who would be interested in any wood, to contact Clerk.

FOOTPATHS: The following had been reported to the Council and passed to ROW Officer:
Footpath 30 – badly overgrown and difficult to walk through.
Junction 30 and 36, the finger post has rotted at the base and post is lying on the ground.
Where Footpath 36 hits Plumpton Wood the stile is beginning to rot on the foot tread and the whole stile is wobbly.
ROW: Reported to maintenance team for action. Stiles and gates are usually the responsibility of the landowner to replace and maintain but team would attend to signpost and clearance works, and replace stile.
SAA reported that East View Fields still closed.
Clerk to contact railway authority/highways to clear path from EVF to footbridge over railway. Footpath by the Fountain – residents unable to get through – hedges overgrown.
ACTION: Clerk to ask residents (via parish magazine article) to report footpath problems to PC, and to ask those who have properties on footpaths to keep their hedges trimmed.

HIGHWAYS The SLR meeting on the 16th July, 2009 had been productive and minutes would be available once ratified by ESCC Highways representatives. Areas of concern that had been discussed: Verges – overgrown and block drains (report to Highways when observing these): PC produced photographs of faded road markings etc.
Traffic calming discussed – PCSO had attended – nothing would be done about 40 mph until 2011. Wooden gateways – not suitable because of visibility splays.
Incorporating PG sign with 30 mph – sign would need designing – suggest competition to include school children. Head teacher has agreed to work with PC, ESCC, Brake etc on Road Safety Week in November – the sign could be included.
Highways are looking at more zig zag lines at the school crossing.
Pay back scheme – Clerk had consulted Hamsey PC – their village hall group had used scheme, need to provide toilet facilities. CE reported that Rev and Mrs Broster would be happy to utilise scheme. This could also be used by the PF committee for certain maintenance items at the PF.
SAA asked who would provide equipment for work?
ACTION: Clerk to check with Highways.
Traffic calming based on statistics from SID and VAP surveys and accident data –

Highways looking at area from Fountain to the shop, and shop to the station in terms of traffic calming.

Half Moon – looking at temporary signage. PCSO/Police contacts to be asked about accident data – only one recorded accident in five years, but PC know more have occurred. ESCC would make this more of a priority if more accidents were reported.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mark Dunn Traffic Management Unit, Sussex Police about reporting of accidents.

Clerk asked PC if she could write to Director Highways about good response from their department in repairing potholes etc, as suggested by Mr Brooke at SLR meeting.

Approved.

Highways requested at SLR meeting letter from PC about problems of parking at station – county wide problem – fact finding exercise at present.

ACTION: CE would send contents for this letter to Clerk.

PLANNING AND HOUSING

The following application had been granted: LW/09/0476 Plumpton Post Office and Store, Station Road. Erection of single storey storeroom extension at rear.

One letter of objection received to the above application.

BW reported that she had spoken to Enforcement – there had been tidying up at Lentridge Barn.

Clerk asked to find out current planning consent on Warren Cottage.

SA reported that reports indicated that burglaries were going down in the district. Things were quiet in Plumpton Green on the crime front. PCSO had issued warning about rural threats – report any suspicious vehicles.

Crime Stoppers had sent request for funding.

ACTION: Clerk to publish crime stoppers number in parish magazine.

POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

VILLAGE HALL:

Main hall floor is to be resealed.

PLAYING FIELD:

TT sent report to meeting.

Fun Day well supported and £666.45 raised – everyone who helped thanked.

Committee Meeting took place on 7th July and minutes will be put on website.

Main item basketball court – CE has managed to get a four month extension by which work has to be completed and money spent – deadline now March 2010; planning application has to be re-submitted. Open Evening on 7th August from 6pm to 10pm when application details will be available and committee will be there and answer any questions. Posters put up round the village and advertised on website with details of meeting.

CE and Mrs Barrell discussing play area improvements. This may be extended but nothing had been decided.

Cardboard recycling started for six month trial – will be monitored by PF committee and VAP Green Team.

Fire Report details received, cost £50.

CE – repairs need doing – new fire door, obtaining quotes. Glass entrance door cracked needs replacing.

CE met with Jackie Morris to identify flowers in patch beyond play area – they will work on what to do with the area.

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere

Councillors had been sent minutes of the Team Leaders reports dated 14th July, 2009, and items on Youth Champion, and Plumpton Goes Green. These latter two items were for noting only.

KW Problem with radar box proposal – PC talking to Highways about traffic calming and it was agreed that looking at other proposals would delay action.

RT – SID information had given some answers.

SAA enquired: VAP statistics - What are they?

KW – where there is the greatest problems with speeding in the village – hot areas from the Fountain to the Shop – Shop to the Station – VAP are looking at solutions.

KW – suggest writing to VAP to thank them for looking at these areas – Mr St John had been invited to meeting to discuss this and it was presumed he had taken proposals on traffic calming to the VAP. PC has a good relationship with Highways and suggests that VAP do not contact them direct. Mr St John had been invited to recent SLR meeting and will be invited to the next meeting.

KW – VAP Community Transport Scheme proposal – Letter of thanks to VAP, however as

it is a joint project between VAP and PC there is no need for PC to approve it as they are already working together.

ACTION: Clerk would send a letter of thanks to the VAP on the above two areas.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council: Ditchling Local Area Transport Strategy Draft Version, AIRS Guide to a sustainable future for rural Sussex, Applause Spring 2010 Menu, ESCC Focus on East Sussex 2009 annual monitor, Safe in East Sussex June 2009, AIRS Newsletter July 2009, South Downs View Summer 2009, General area Profile for Plumpton Parish, NALC – Local Council Awards, Clerks and Councils Direct, District Link Newsletter, LCR Summer 2009, NALC 2009 Leadership Academy, The Clerk July 2009, Your County Summer 2009, SOCS Report and Financial Statements for Year ended 31st December, 2009.

Clerk had obtained latest copy of Local Council Administration by Arnold-Baker. This is considered the PC's Bible!

News from the School: Activity Scheme will run from 4th to 27th August, 2009. Celebration assembly 19th June. Key Stage 2 Summer Production Buses, Brushes, Bobbies and Bleach took place at the village hall.

S137 requests were received from Care Club, for lunches in the Hall – PC waives hiring charges for the hall for this group

Plumpton Wildlife and Habitat Group - PC granted £50 for this.

Thanks for S137 grants were received from: Windmill Rangers, Happy Circle.

SOCS - £50 subscription paid.

£35 was paid to the Footpath Society for adding Mrs Ridley's name in her memory, to the seat already dedicated to Mr Ridley.

E mail from Mr Wilson Barcombe about road cycle races going through villages, causing disruption to residents. Plumpton does not appear to have this problem.

Letter from Chair RVRC to say that it was felt that RVRC should continue in some format, and if one councillor could be appointed to attend meetings.

KW said she was willing to continue to go to these meetings.

Clerk was aware that the Minutes over recent months had been far too long, but as there had been a complaint that some items had been left out, she felt she had to cover everything in more detail than was necessary. She proposes to use initials of Councillors in future instead of their full name, and to shorten the minutes where possible. Clerk is meeting with Mrs Swan to discuss the possibility of taking a CILca course (in accordance with the Power of Wellbeing) which would probably include a set format for minutes, which would be used if the training/exams are to take place.

PC went into committee. Outcome of the discussions were:

Business Plan – Councillors comments are being collated by SAA and further meeting will take place – there is no deadline for this – SAA asked for the help of one other councillor - KW agreed to help.

Hoped that first newsletter would be produced in the autumn. Suggestion that communication team be set up to look at this and other publicity. RS, CE would serve on this committee and SG would be asked if he would like to join.

RS – Business plan will need to be précised as it is rather long at the moment. Newsletter - Councillors would send in their contributions which would be collated by a member of communications team for publication.

Suggestion made to rewrite profiles. Councillors asked to write short details about what they do on the council.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Satchell to take photographs of new councillors at September meeting.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2009.

CHAIRMAN