



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 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  
Mr. T Thompsett  
Mrs. K. Wride  
Mrs. C Eastwood  
Mrs S Akers  
Mrs C Nicholson

Mrs F Ridley

### **1. APOLOGIES:**

Mrs S Angel

### **2. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 were signed as a true record. The Minutes of a Planning Meetings on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> August and 8th September were signed as true records.

Mrs Ridley, Tree Warden attended the meeting to discuss the proposed TPO (No6) 2007 Land at Oakwood, Beresford Lane. The trees form part of an established woodland, which is designated Ancient Semi-natural Woodland by Natural England. The Tree Officer at LDC has placed a temporary order which came in force on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007 for six months, during which time LDC will decide whether to give it permanent status.

Mrs Ridley felt that PC should not support just Oakwood having the TPO, but all the woodland including Polecat Wood. The Habitat Survey had picked out other woods that could have this status. Clerk to write to Mr Hutson to ask which areas in the parish could qualify. Clerk to write to Mr Wynn telling him of PC's decision and saying that the information from the Habitat Survey would be available soon.

Mrs Akers read out a letter from Mrs Manwaring saying she feels that Plumpton Wood is in need of human protection; she felt that if local people are prepared to recognise, acknowledge and protect the habitat, landowners would have a duty to do this. Clerk to send a copy of this to Mr Wynn.

Clerk presented the PC profile which Mr Satchell had prepared. The layout was thought to be a good one; there were a few minor amendments to be made.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING:**

**BT boxes on Station Road** – Clerk had received a quotation for £83,817.32 to do this work. Clerk had contacted Open Reach to say that PC could not afford to pay this as they did not have any reserves anywhere near this amount. Representative from Open Reach was unable to come to PC meeting. Mr. Brooke ESCC Highways was now looking at alternative options to this and would report back to PC.

**Guideposts** – Half the cost of these had now been paid by ESCC. One of the fingers on the St Helena Lane post had an error; the post for Streat was pointing towards Wivelsfield. The Clerk was alerted and the mistake was rectified the same day.

**Bevern Stream** – The weeds had been cleared.

**Hedge at Tenterden** – This had been cut.

**Highways – General** - Clerk had received letter from ESCC to say that the junction markings had been added to the list of road markings, as well as the School Keep Clear marking. The only way to have hatching in the lay-by to prevent parking would be double yellow lines, and these could not be policed. ESCC had responded to weight restriction enquiry, stating the incorrect bridge. Clerk to

ask again for weight restriction limit on the white bridge, Plumpton Lane.

**Riddens Lane** – Clerk had been informed by Mr Stevenson LDC that a certain area of this road would be reconstructed in October and November and work would last two to three weeks. This would not be a temporary job. Residents concerned had been alerted.

**South Downs Joint Committee** - Clerk had received e mail listing items under Plumpton that had received attention. These were:

38a X1 Field Gate – moved closing pin

38b X2 Hunt Gate – serviced to self-close

37a W1 Signpost – replaced.

**LDC Policy on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management** - Clerk had received letter from LDC Planning to say Plumpton's comments had been taken into consideration and Mr Frost would be prepared to meet Councillors to discuss specific problems in Plumpton. Clerk to reply to say Mrs Watson, Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Angel would be interested in this meeting.

**Plumpton Name** - Clerk had received e mail from Mrs Hall (who had been researching the name of Plumpton) asking if it would be a good idea to plant some plum trees on the green, even though she could not find any evidence of a plum farm in the village. PC did not feel this would be appropriate as the trees could be vandalised.

**Response to Planning White Paper** - Clerk had received confirmation that PC's response had been received and comments would be taken into consideration.

**Action Plan** - Mr Hawthorne had reported that there had been an 80% response to the questionnaire. Another meeting was planned for September.

**Insurance** – Clerk had received e mail from SALC saying that Norwich Union could offer cheaper insurance quotes for PC's. Clerk will check this before the next insurance premium is due next June.

**Village Post Offices** - Clerk had received e mail from SALC saying that there will be an announcement from Postwatch in November concerning the plan of post office closures across Sussex. Objections can only be on the basis of the following:

Distance to remaining post offices in the area.

Local factors such as the age of the population or other demographic issues.

Inadequacy of transport links.

Any effect on the local economy.

Clerk to pass this on to Mr Patel and offer any assistance he may need.

**Monday Group** - The group hoped to clear the footpath they had agreed to clear, but did not have a grid reference.

**Footpath 13a** – Over the summer Clerk had been asked to comment by the Press on the issue concerning alleged dangerous dogs in this area; she said the PC were aware but did not comment further. Clerk had also contacted ROW Officer and Animal Warden. Clerk read out letter from Animal Warden LDC to say that she had complaints but most of the incidents had taken place on the private track adjacent to the stables. The local authority can not take any action if the incident has happened on private property, however dog owners can take their own civil action under the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957-1987. She asked if there are any identifying witnesses to these problems. Clerk to write back to say that they have not received any formal complaints, and write to a possible witness to ask if they wish to contact LDC direct about the issue that they should do so. Clerk also to write to ROW Officer to ask if this footpath could be clearly marked.

Mrs Eastwood and Mr Speirs had visited the area, and said the signs were misleading; it was also felt that the fencing was not adequate to stop the dogs; suggestions were

made to improve the direction of the footpath. The owner of the land may not know about the incidents that have taken place. Mr Speirs said that he did not feel the dogs were a problem when he had walked the area.

**Network Rail** – No reply had been received but Clerk had contacted Managers in Network Rail who said they would reply immediately. The vegetation along the path by the tennis club would be cleared.

**The Coach House** - Clerk had received e mail from Mr Brown saying that there does appear to be a breach of planning conditions here and he would update PC in due course.

**South Downs National Park** – Clerk had heard from Mr Moorhouse; he felt there were no further points to be added but asked Clerk to write to say presumably the word 'Plimpton' meant Plumpton. Also Section 7.340 – PC were not sure whose view they were accepting and would like clarification of this. There was also a reference under the section for East Chiltington, but the PC believed this is in Plumpton.

**Beetle Garage** - A copy of a letter that had been sent to the Enforcement Officer LDC had been sent to the Clerk regarding breaches of conditions by the garage owners.

**Skateboard Area** – Mr Speirs had received a phone call from a resident living near the Playing Field to say that there had been a lot of noise coming from the skateboard area and he was going to sue the Council. Mr Speirs was present at the playing field during this time and said he was not aware of any excessive noise. The resident had not contacted the PC. Mrs Akers said that the wooden ramp at the skateboard area was homemade, was broken and should be removed.

**Princess Royal Hospital** - A meeting had been held in Plumpton and 80 people had attended. Dr Ashby had chaired the meeting and was pleased with the response and organisation. Mr Thompsett said that a similar public meeting last week at Lewes was poorly attended. Mrs Wride said that at the RVRC meeting it had been decided to send in a joint submission on behalf of all local PC's.

Clerk was asked to send in submission on behalf of PC. Clerk read out letter from Mr Baker MP that parish and town councils are able to make donations to the Princess Royal Hospital fighting fund under permissive powers of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

PC decided to donate £100 towards this fund.

Willow Farm – There had been reports that a sign had been put up in St Helena Lane (opposite the business units) leading to 'Willow Farm' and a lot of hardcore was being transported into there. They were challenged and said they were building a hardstanding. No-one was aware of Willow Farm, and it is not on the electoral role. Clerk to ask Enforcement Officer LDC to check this.

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

Mrs Watson said that some of the rocks in the Bevern Stream have toppled into the stream; these were positioned wrongly. Clerk to ask Highways to re-instate them properly.

The road surface at Plummers Transport Yard in South Road north into Wivelsfield is very poor; Clerk to report this to Highways.

Mrs Nicholson reported that there was now no reason why work should not commence at the Sandpit; activity was now taking place; there were plans to expand the new pit further towards Novington; there is no discharge licence and evidence of discharge was visible in the Ferring Stream which is cloudy. The turbidity meter test results had been sent to the Environment Agency. A representative from Natural England is coming to the next meeting.

Mrs Eastwood had asked Mr Green if the website could be overhauled and include events etc that happen in the village. It was decided it was better to keep the PC website for PC matters as it was more factual, but for Mr Green and Mr Satchell (who

runs the other Plumpton website) to liaise and try to form a link to include events and promote groups, societies and businesses.

Clerk to let Mr Green know the comments, and ask if Mrs Eastwood could be updated if any changes were made. Mr Green said he was waiting to hear from Mr Speirs about sports and social events, and Mrs Watson about new residents details of facilities in the village; they both said they would prepare something. Clerk has asked Mrs Angel to liaise with Mr Young about NW information to be put on website.

Mrs Wride asked about the radio mast at the Racecourse; this has been there for years. She said that the car park in Southdowns had apple trees overhanging the pavements and this could be dangerous. Clerk to write to LDC as it was thought this was their car park.

She reported that there had been some car incidents in the village; a stereo had been stolen and wing mirrors. The PCSO and Police had been informed. Clerk to put in Parish Magazine for residents to report all such incidents to the Police. Clerk to get number from Police and put this in the parish magazine under the section for clubs and society numbers.

Mrs Wride said that the Action Plan committee were looking for inputers to code all the responses to the plan before the rest of the analysis could be done. Mrs Watson offered to help. There had been a good response to the questionnaire.

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

Mr Taylor had ordered some paper towels and these came with two free holders. The stage curtains are to be repaired. The Pantomime Society is to donate £1000 towards the theatre project.

EDF have done a test and report.

Mr Taylor is obtaining a quote for a scaffolding tower.

Mr Malcolm Beard is painting the edges of the flower beds and the steps to the main hall with fluorescent paint. The ivy on the building needs clearing.

Mr Taylor found glass outside the hall and it took him two hours to clear this up; it is not known where it came from.

Clerk had received an e mail from NALC saying that they were proposing to remove certain items under the new Licensing Act 2003 for village halls, and similar community buildings: These were: A designated premises supervisor to be specified on every premises licence authorising sales of alcohol.

Every sale of alcohol at such premises to be authorised by a personal licence holder, for categories of premises including village halls, church halls, chapel halls and similar community buildings.

Mr Taylor said that this was unacceptable. Clerk to write back to say that PPC will always insist that the sale of alcohol in the hall and pavilion will always be approved by the licensee or the designated premises supervisor.

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

The balances at the end of July were V Hall £12,668.78, Admin £4994.58 and Playing Field £5980.43; end of August V Hall £12,970.51, Admin £4631.82 and Playing Field 39440.82. The Audit had been signed off. Estimates were due in October. PC has deposits in Northern Rock.

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

Mr Speirs apologised for not getting certain jobs done that he had hoped to as the person who was to do them was not available at the moment; it was hoped they would be done in due course.

One of the trees at the tennis court end of the field had been cut; others needed trimming.

Mr Speirs had heard from the Tennis Club about the ditch which needs attention. He is reluctant to do work there as they pay a peppercorn rent to the PC and it was felt they should maintain the area. Some maintenance is done, but it was thought that a contribution to the PC budget for maintenance would be helpful.

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

The following application has been refused:  
LW/07/0527 The Warren, Plumpton Lane. Erection of a two storey dwelling with a detached double car port.

The following permissions have been granted:

LW/07/0836 27 West Gate, Plumpton Green. Two storey rear extension.

LW/07/0856 Oak Cottage, Plumpton Lane. Detached double garage (existing garage to be demolished).

LW/07/0821 53 East View Fields, Plumpton Green. Erection of two storey rear extension.

LW/07/0621 2 Osborne Villas, Station Road, Plumpton Green. Erection of three bedroom detached house (resubmission of LW/07/0157).

LW/07/0718 Letchmore Lodge Farm, Station Road, Plumpton Green. Amendment to planning approval LW/06/1466 to raise ridge height by 400 mm.

Mrs Watson had experienced problems locating minutes and previous correspondence about planning applications. Most of the past applications were held in the filing cabinet at the hall, though the Clerk had the most recent ones at home. Mr Taylor said he would organise a key for Mrs Watson to access the cabinet.

**9. VILLAGE CARE:**

Mr Ken Beard had agreed to act as consultant for the village green, and would report if he felt anything needed doing.

Mrs Akers reported that the slow signs on the B2116 were barely visible near the College. Clerk to write to Highways.

Nothing further to report.

**HIGHWAYS**

**10. FOOTPATHS:**

It was reported that there were problems with the footpath that runs parallel with the railway line from the east of the playing field then north to North Banes Lane, which appears to be non-existent as a footpath; it had been made up by people walking on it, and when crops are planted on it, it would be difficult for anyone to know that it was a footpath and where it was leading. Clerk to report this to the ROW officer.

**11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

Nothing to report.

**12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:**

Nothing to report.

**13. TREE WARDEN:**

Nothing to report.

**14. REPORT OF CLERK:**

Clerk presented to the Council: SOCS summer report, Southdown CVS Developing Communities project, ESCC reviews of ESCC directly provided service for older people, ESCC Short delivery report on East Sussex Local Transport Plan 2006 to 2011, smcmedia Ltd parish guides, Exploring East Sussex guided walks, Glasdon latest products for local councils, information about CPRE, RVRC Meeting Notes 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2007, Action in Rural Sussex Action newsletter July, LCR journal September, NALC financial update August, Sussex Review summer 2007, Lewes and Seaford Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Report 2006-2007, Clerks and Councils Direct, Local Choices, Local Voices Foundation for Good Health, Sussex Police Authority Public Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September, letter regarding SALC budget.

Letter from Victim Support thanking PC for donation,

Letter about Lewes Housing Market Assessment Presentation. Mrs Watson and Mrs Wride will attend.

Conference for Town and Parish Councils at Plumpton College. Mrs Watson and Mrs Wride will attend.

Clerk asked if all e-mails from her could be acknowledged, so she was sure they were received, and also if responses could be made to Mrs Watson when she enquires which Councillors are available to attend planning meetings, as if a quorum cannot be raised, the meeting cannot take place. Clerk thanked Mrs Watson for preparing the planning minutes for meetings which Clerk was unable to attend during the summer.

Clerk read out letter from Clerk to the Lieutenancy for East Sussex regarding nominations for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Organisations.  
PC thought that SOCS could be nominated for this award.  
Clerk to send details of eligibility and details to Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Akers to see if SOCS fitted all the criteria.  
Clerk to apply for application form.

**CHAIRMAN**