



MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8TH SEPTMEBER, 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 T Thompsett (TT)
Mr S Green (SG)
Mr R Young Neighbourhood Watch
6 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES: None

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting on 21st July, 2009 were signed as a true record, with the following amendments: Page 1 – 6 members of the public – Sandpit – Mr Nicholson had received 'a' letter.

Standing Orders had been amended in accordance with NALC Standing Orders and Chairmanship 2003, to change the dates of meetings to the second Tuesday each month (except August, no meeting and January – date to be decided).

Mr Young asked if there had been a decision on the No Cold Calling scheme; PC said that residents should be asked if they want it. SA said there was no funding from the police. The costs would be approximately £150-£200 for the signs.

RS said that bogus callers would ignore the signs and they would be likely to put off bona fide callers. Mr Young said he would organise a meeting, to ask people to put forward their views.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Newick Clerk how the system is working in their village.

MATTERS ARISING: Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting:

Highways – SLR meeting – road gully at southern entrance to racecourse – site visit took place, two gullies found both full of detritus and not working at all – will be cleaned and rodded.

Pay Bank Scheme – Hamsey Clerk reported work this group can do is limited – cannot operate machinery or work near busy roads – can do some clearance work.

Cold Calling – Response from Elizabeth Bowring that only political and religious groups allowed to cold call – charities not allowed to call, but Poppy Day is an exception.

BT Box Plough – This still not connected or cleaned up – reported over a year ago.

Pit Stop: Site visit taken place. LDC reported that they would struggle to commence remedial work and notices to the owner's estate, would potentially never be complied with. Direct action would be at considerable cost. Environmental Health not taking any further action, this site of potential contamination from former fuel tanks is not a priority. Clerk wrote to Mr Holden telling him above. A resident has contacted LDC and has sent a report to the press about the state of the site.

Hedge at Bevernside – The work has now been done.

Old Garage Site: S106 Agreement - Mr Young informed funds (£15,268) now available. Mr Frost LDC said criteria is for recreational provision, play equipment, skate

parks, sports facilities, and could be used to upgrade existing facilities or provide new ones. Improvements and maintenance to pavilion and area would be 'borderline' but worth asking LDC planning about this. The public did not have to be consulted on what facilities to have.

Sandpit – Mr Dudman responded that drivers fully instructed on procedure – residents should report lorry movements, with times dates and registration numbers. In June output went from virtually nil to 800 tonnes, the best to date. Company is mindful of school times and road safety is a top priority.

Plumpton College – Letter from Mr Lambert saying that he had investigated the noise from recent ball and felt that only one person had asked for an apology, and that residents were in support of college and its activities. Clerk had been requested to write back saying the matter was closed, but PC had to be mindful of resident's complaints and felt that this event should not be held on a week day.

Footpaths – Several residents had complained about the footpath from East View Fields to the Station. Reported to ROW.

Meeting with Mr Leggo - 29th September, 2009 at 7pm at the Pavilion.

Bye Laws regarding skateboarding – LDC have said that Byelaw 5 states that it is an offence to ride skateboard on footpath/pavement in a way to cause nuisance or danger to public. Byelaw 4 2 no skateboarding in village hall car park. Cycling on pavements an offence under Highways Act, and police can enforce with £30 fixed penalty. LDC Legal recommended PCSO's contact him for further advice on policing situation. Notices can be erected in Westgate, providing Highways approve.

Dog fouling - A persistent offender had been reported to Parish Council . Clerk had contacted LDC – copy of standard letter sent. PC subsequently agreed at meeting that letter should be sent.

B2116 – Clerk had contacted Police – more accidents take place at Half Moon than are reported to the police, and those reported data is used by police and highways for various purposes, one of which is to prioritise road safety engineering. Police do record some non injury collisions but not always. A collision record search was done for Plumpton in December 2008 and there had only been one slight injury RTC at the junction in a five period to this time. Asked for residents to report any accidents occurring – police would make a point of specifically recording any incidents over the next few months so Highways could be updated.

Letter from Mr Hawthorne - All Councillors had been sent a letter regarding the VAP and Highway matters in answer to the letter sent by the Parish Council.

Resident had reported overgrown hedge at South Down House; KW would look at this.

Councillors were asked if they wish to comment any further on matters arising. No further comments were made.

Agenda Items:

S106 Smithys Close – It was decided that there was plenty of time to think about what leisure facilities would fall into this category; the funds could be claimed up to 2014.

Budgets - Clerk asked if budgets could be looked at and drafts brought to the October meeting. She had ascertained that there would be a 2.5% increase in dog bin emptying, subscriptions to professional bodies were reporting back when they had decided their scales, and the insurance company had reported that there would be a 5% discount on the premium as the council had been with them for three years.

SAA had recommended £500 for tree work, and a sum should be included for the cutting of the hedges at Bevernside annually.

LDALC – KW and TT said this was a good organisation like a type of ombudsman, and had various committees involved with it from LDC. The annual subscription would be £30.

National Park.- BW said the meeting was well attended; the park would be set up in October 2011. The authority membership would consist of:15-19 local authority members, 8010 national members, 6-8 parish members. It had not been decided how these members would be elected; it was stated that members would have the wellbeing of the park to the fore and not their local areas. National Members would be appointed by the Secretary of State, local authority members and parish must be serving councillors chosen by parish councils collectively.

The main concern of those present was the change in planning authority from District Council to National Park. It was not clear who would have overall planning authority in the case of the dispute between the District Council and National Park.

Memorial Trees – Mr Beard would be purchasing the two trees and stakes (approximately £60) and it was decided to have the planting on Sunday 18th October at 2pm on the village green. It was hoped that as many people as possible could attend. ACTION: Clerk to contact Mrs Moorhouse and the Ridley family.

Clerk had been asked to contact EA about weeds in the Bevern Stream that could block the flow of the stream now that the autumn has arrived. SAA said this could stop the flow of water.

SG said that if the stream overflowed the allotments could be flooded.

Skateboard Area – TT had spoken to Mr Teale LDC Environmental Health who were happy that PC had asked LDC planning whether permission was needed when the park was built, and had replied that it was not needed. Mr Teale would now be looking at the noise issue from an environmental angle to see if there is a problem.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

BW reported that two cars had been broken into and windows broken. There was a lot of litter in the skateboard area. TT had cleared this up.

SG asked if Councillors wanted to keep their Plumpton e mail addresses. Some reported that they had an increase in junk mail, but it was decided to keep them.

TT reported that he had noticed the entrance to the land adjacent to the Brickworks had work in progress and the curbs had been dropped.

SANDPIT: Mr Nicholson gave a brief overview of the sandpit. Mr Dudman had contacted him regarding additional unavoidable work in recent evenings and Mr Nicholson had informed all local residents.

A MOP reported the problem of cars parked in Chapel Road, which meant that vehicles entering and leaving Chapel Road are obstructed by a row of cars that stretches almost as far as the junction with Station Road. There is question whether a business is taking place in the area where the cars are parked, and also potential building works which would increase the amount of vehicles with builders lorries etc.

KW PCSO Knowles had informed her that he had ascertained that a business was not being run from there; the PCSO is only able to put notices on cars that impinge the corner of the road.

ACTION: Clerk to contact PCSO to ask if taxis are allowed to be left outside the property.

VOLUNTARY SPEED REDUCTION: New posters have been issued. A committee meeting had taken place and a huge re-launch would take place; Mr Baker MP, County Councillor Mrs Stroude and others would be present.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of July, 2009 were: Village Hall £5357.29, Playing Field £18,350.20 and Admin £5003.09. August balances: Village Hall £3371.43, Playing Field £18,144.31, Admin £4224.19. The Audit had been signed off and papers were now on the website and availability of papers on notice boards. Half yearly precept had been sent by LDC. Interim Audit was taking place with Internal Auditor.

Computer had crashed in August, and Mr Satchell had purchased a new one on behalf of the PC. Clerk asked if he could be thanked for the many hours he spent setting up the new one, at no cost to the PC.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Satchell

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Mr Ramsay had passed a copy of the draft Sussex Rail Utilisation Strategy to the PC in August, with a very tight deadline to respond. KW was asked to make comments to Network Rail, which were discussed with the transport committee members, and copies sent to Mr Baker MP and Mrs Stroude.

Mr Baker MP had responded that he had asked for the problems created by the December timetable to be rectified and is continuing to ask for an hourly service throughout the day to Plumpton; he is meeting with Mr Adonis the Transport Secretary and this is high on the agenda; he has also written to Mr Burchell the Managing Director of Southern.

ACTION: Clerk to follow this up.

Voluntary Car Driver Scheme had been launched last week with a flyer put in the parish magazine. KW was told there was to be a photo call and report in the press, but was very disappointed that she had not invited to this. She had worked with the VAP on this, responded to ESCC request for potential pilot projects, and had arranged a meeting and filled in the grant application form with Mrs Medhurst. This scheme had been awarded the Parish Council funding by ESCC and it was disappointing that this had not been acknowledged by the VAP.

KW said that a resident had contacted BW about the possible withdrawal in December of bus passes for those over 60. KW contacted LDC and this was a rumour and asked the PC to reassure residents that this was not the case.

ACTION: Parish Magazine article.

HIGHWAYS

TT reported from Mr Speirs that most of the potholes on a list given to Highways had not been done, particularly those on Plumpton Lane.

ACTION: Clerk to refer to list and contact Highways.

KW met Mr Johnson Highways who had organised, as a result of the SLR meeting, additional yellow zig zags near the school to prevent people parking in the bay and also repainted SLOW signs on the road. The School Crossing patrol was very pleased this had been done.

A resident had approached KW to look at traffic calming measures which had just been implemented in Kingston; these had been paid for by their PC and consisted of chicanes and humps similar to those in Ditchling, but without street lighting. KW thought it would be a good idea to ask Kingston's advice about this, and maybe consider a feasibility study and ask ESCC and VAP to provide 50% of the funds.

Mr St John said that the VAP were looking at this.

A member of the public asked if the VAP and PC could look at this together.

CE What about strips? This had been investigated some years ago, and it was thought that these were not used any more.

At the SLR meeting Highways explained that they would not be able to make any changes to traffic calming/speeding unless there was more evidence of traffic accidents. PCSO Knowles had presented figures for the last five years but this wasn't very exact. PC had now a contact at Police Headquarters who has urged residents to report accidents.

KW said that the school are still keen to run a Road Safety Week in November and she thought it may be a chance to ask the children to design a sign for the entrance to the village.

Mr St John said the VAP were also organising a Road Safety Week in November and KW said that there had been no mention of this in the July VAP team leader's report, or in the letter that Mr Hawthorne had sent to the PC.

There had been communication regarding the PC not seeing the need for radar boxes in the village at the moment, and it had been agreed at the July PC meeting that this would be discussed at the next SLR meeting. KW had agreed to meet the VAP team to work together on these matters.

SAA Highways had said that Plumpton does not fall into a high category for accidents. SG said that all this issue about speeding has been hyped up and makes people think there is a problem.

It was thought KW should go to look at the scheme in Kingston.

SAA – Green Lane in Kingston is a different type of road, it is a rat run.

MOP – The traffic calming at Ditchling is a problem.

RT – It is all right to look at problems, but who is going to pay for it?

Mr St John – the whole area should be looked at, all the village and try to get something together for Road Safety Week.

KW County Council looking at U roads in 2011, more data on accidents would push Plumpton up the priority list.

CE - There have not been many accidents in Plumpton.

TT – I have not noticed a problem with speeding in problem. There are problems at the village shop and at school time when there are cars parked in Station Road but these slow the cars down.

KW – The whole issue of speeding will be raised at the SLRR meeting.

CE – Is there to be a fund raising event with the Road Safety week?

MOP – The cost would be about £1000 for the radar boxes.

SAA asked about the Byelaw for West Gate regarding skateboarding there.

Clerk had informed PCSO but she was off sick and had not been able to go to LDC to discuss wording for notices that could be put up – there would be a cost for the signs.

It was thought the problem of litter in the skate park area could be taken up by the Youth Forum on the VAP.

ENVIRONMENT:

SAA reported that an allotment holder had requested overhanging branches were cut down. She would ask Mr Symes to do this.

CE had talked to Mrs Morris about meadow at playing field and outside the village and requested that the areas are not cut in the summer and a sign with a yellow daisy be put up to indicate where these areas are.

CE asked for any ideas where to plant more bulbs; she felt that they should be put by the village signs to welcome people, also possibly in clumps on the verges.

It was thought it may be difficult for Highways to avoid them when cutting verges.

FOOTPATHS:

SAA reported F26 bottom stile missing and needs replacing.

F36 stile repair needs doing (Plumpton Wood).

Bridge on Green – cross rails are rotten on stile. SAA will investigate further and report to Clerk.

F13 stile by Fountain – too high.

MOP - stiles are within the guidance heights.

ACTION: Clerk to report the above and ask ROW the standard height of stiles.

CE – Back of Strawlands – Mr Avery has asked ROW for a finger post to keep walkers to the footpath.

PLANNING AND HOUSING

The following applications have been granted:

LW/09/0595 Plumpton Agricultural College, Ditchling Road, Plumpton. Section 73 A retrospective application for the retention of parking area at western end of college campus.

LW/09/0608 Plumpton College. Creation of an outdoor riding arena.

LW/09/0607 Plumpton College. Erection of an extension to existing indoor riding arena.

LW/09/0547 The Old Plumpton Post Office, Plumpton Lane. Erection of a first floor extension at side with balcony at rear and chimney.

The following applications were considered:

LW/09/0831 All Saints Church, Station Road. Demolition of redundant chimney stack for the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC of Plumpton Green Church. APPROVED

LW/09/0778 Devon House, Plumpton Green. Convert disused shop to residential and erection of a single storey rear extension for Ms N Crawford. APPROVED

LW/09/0733 Downs House, St Helena Lane, Plumpton Green. Erection of single storey hay store for Mrs Ingram. APPROVED

LW/09/0889 Construction of a hard play area to create a basketball/netball court including installation of basket ball backboards, rings and erection of fencing at King George V Playing Field for Plumpton Parish Council. One letter of concern on the application had been received by the PC. NO COMMENTS as PC application .

LW/09/0891 Lentridge Barn, Station Road, Plumpton Green. Create link porch between existing barn conversion and approved garages. APPROVED

LW/09/0839 Lentridge House, Plumpton Green. Erection of a four bedroom detached dwelling for Mr J Turner. One letter of support had been received for this. PC unanimously voted to recommend refusal of this application for the following reasons:

1. The proposed building is outside the planning boundary.
2. The building exits onto a busy farm lane and is on a dangerous bend
3. There are existing farm buildings which could be the subject of future planning applications and this would set a precedent for these being developed.
4. It is understood that this building may not meet the correct energy performance criteria.

SAA suggested a website to look at planning applications for councillors to use prior to the meetings.

POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SA reported that PCSO Whitaker Jones was off sick, and that PCSO Knowles was doing a lot of work around the village.

TT asked why another PCSO had not been sent to help out.

ACTION: Clerk asked to contact Sgt Theckle to ask this. (he has taken over from Sgt Vitler for the Plumpton area).

SA asked if the telephone number for Crime Stoppers could be amended in the magazine to 0800 555 111.

ACTION: Parish Magazine

SA reported that the Chief Constable had sent a report about a suitcase with wires attached had been found on the A259, which had been examined and found to be full of clothes. Two new initiatives had taken place in July: if the Police are called and do not have time to respond, an appointment can be set up for them to visit, or residents can go to them.

Police are being trained to use body worn cameras which could be useful in domestic violence cases.

There has been evidence of bogus water officials calling on house in the area.

BW reported that there had been fish sellers enticing people to buy large quantities of fish.

VILLAGE HALL:

RT reported that the EDF test and report had been done and fire alarm checks. The main hall floor had been resealed and the part of the main hall had been redecorated.

PLAYING FIELD:

TT reported that a planning application had been submitted to LDC for the basketball court. Environmental team looking into possible noise problems before they are happy to recommend approval.

Cardboard recycling has so far not caused any problems but the bins do fill up very quickly; the VAP are looking into additional collections.

Skateboard area – see item under matters arising.

Fire report has been received and several items have already been carried out; other items are less urgent and will be dealt with accordingly. Electrical test is taking place this week.

A break in occurred in early August, a small amount of damage had occurred but nothing was taken; no insurance claim was made as the cost of repair was not significant.

Accounts for clubs using the facilities would be sent out shortly.

Next committee meeting 20th October, 2009.

It was reported that the skateboard area had been posted on You Tube, showing the timber fences being damaged.

COMMUNICATIONS

CE and RS had a meeting and recognised that communications had been defective and that all communications should now be channelled through the communications team and should include features in the parish magazine. It was stated that the recent addition to the magazine article was rather confusing. RS said more time was needed to discuss these items

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere

There were no further comments to make. The team leaders report from meeting on 7th July, 2009 had been sent to all Councillors.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council: Artwave Brochure, Social Enterprise Help at Home Plus Bus timetable Newhaven and Seaford area, Compost Doctors newsletter, EIBE letter, The Clerk magazine September 2009, Furniture Now leaflet, Social Enterprise for Domestic Cleaning brochure, East Chiltington PC minutes July meeting, Lewes and Seaford CAB Annual Report, Glasdon leaflet, Clerk and Councils Direct September, 2009, Applause leaflet, invitation to FWAG 40th Anniversary Party, ESCC How we help to keep East Sussex Safe, letter about street lighting from SALC, letter about meeting with Chief Constable SALC, train timetable 1st September to 6th December, 2009. take on a marathon Challenge, St Peters and St James, AIRS Lewes Recreational Facilities letter. More Powers for Parish and Town Councils, letter LDC Standards Committee, advice to Town and Parish Councils, Environment Agency Sussex Flood Safety Week Exhibitions 17th – 26th September, Trading Standards consumer support network information.

Information on National Pandemic Flu Service: Clerk recommended this was put in the parish magazine.

Conference for Town and Parish Councils 21st October, 2009 at Plumpton College – BW and KW will go.

Thank you card from Mr and Mrs Westbury for the use of the hall for their recent gold wedding celebrations.

Regional Conference for SLCC 11th November, 2009. Clerk unable to go to this.

Mr Nicholson asked if the PC wished him to take up the Adopt A Station initiative. Southern had started their risk assessments in the region and once the new franchise comes into force, later this month, things can move forward. He had been asked to put together a contact sheet and determine a plan to of what was to be done.

ACTION: PC asked Mr Nicholson to take this forward

AIRS Conference: Ardingly Showground 6th November, 2009. PC had been invited to share a table with the VAP for this event. TT said he would attend.

Letter from BT inviting Councils to adopt a red telephone box for £1; a red box on Station Road had been earmarked for this project.

PC did not think this would be a particularly good idea, as maintenance would be difficult.

The Council went into Committee and members of the public were asked to leave.

The outcome of discussions were: Clerk informed councillors of a recent meeting with Mrs Swan about the Cilca qualification which would be required to attain POW status. This would be 24 assignments which would take approximately 45 hours of study, and would have to be completed within two years; the qualification would be personal to the Clerk. The cost of hours of study and registration would be in the region of £600. Clerk said she would be willing to do this qualification if the PC wished.

Clerk had previously asked the Chairman if she could leave the meeting early, as due to a recent family bereavement, she had to go to Yorkshire early the next day for the funeral. She excused herself from the meeting and KW took over the minute taking.

RT expressed his concern that the recent articles in the Sussex Express written by RS regarding his opinions on the basketball court, which were rather controversial. He explained that while it was important to communicate parish council matters in the press, individual opinions should not be included. KW explained that she had been told by Mr Leggo in the past that it was not a good idea for her to write about parish council matters in her village column. It was agreed that the matter would be clarified for both councillors at the next meeting with Mr Leggo in September.

The remit of the communications team was discussed again. It was agreed that the committee would write an article in the October magazine to replace the Clerk's monthly report. This would also replace the newsletter that had been previously discussed. The article would be passed to RT and BW for their approval. It was also agreed that each month, a focus be made on one area of the PC's work, and this would be passed to the relevant chair for approval.

Chairman

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 13TH OCTOBER, 2009.