



**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 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 C Thompson  
Mr. K. Beard  
Mr. T. Hawthorne  
4 Members of the Public

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mr. P Ramsay, Mrs. S. Angel
- 2. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 were signed as a true record.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:** **Tennis Club** - Mr. Mitchell attended the meeting and said that the situation with the tennis club road had got worse. He had received verbal quotes to repair it of £120 and £260. The Council thought the one using concrete for £260 would be the most suitable. It was decided that the amount would be shared three ways, with the PC, Archery Club (Mr. Holdsworth) and Tennis Club.  
PC would pay the bill and then ask for the apportioned amount from the other parties. Mrs. Akers asked who cut the hedges in that area, as they needed cutting. Mr. Speirs said he would speak to the Cricket Club who cut them.
- Weeds in stream** – No reply had been received; Clerk to chase this up.
- Drains outside Old School Cottages** – Clerk had written to Highways saying that these were 200mm in diameter.
- Footpaths** – No reply had been received to this letter – there had been problems with the fax in this department. Clerk to chase this up.
- Business rates at Riddens Garages** – Clerk had heard from LDC that the garages had been added to the business rates for the Beetle Garage which would now be £5600 pa having been £3750 pa; this was affective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2006.
- Pavement outside Fyndings** – This has been discussed with the owner of the property and a works order has been raised to repair the existing footway and to extend it for a short length.
- Plumpton Green Garage** – Clerk had received e mail from Mr. Battle saying that work would commence once the comments on the 106 agreement had been received. Mr. Speirs had spoken to Mr. Battle, and he would let neighbours have a programme of works and notes would be put on cars which were parked adjacent to the site.

**Hedge at 1 Green Cross** – Two letters had been received from the owners of the property, asking who had reported the hedge and why the owners had been told by the County Council that the hedge was flush with the boundary but possibly projecting by a matter of inches into the highway; the highways department had agreed with the owners that the hedge should be trimmed back by the end of August. A further letter from the owners to the PC asked who had cut the hedges as it was not the Head Groundsman of the Racecourse who had said that he would send his hedge cutter to discuss the exact level of hedge trimming which would take place, but he had not visited the owners to discuss this. The PC did not know who had cut the hedge. The owners of the property attended the meeting and asked who had reported the problems to the Parish Council. Mr. Taylor explained that the main complainant had been Mr. Hills whose large vehicles from his vehicle training company had great problems with visibility. Large vehicles, horse boxes and coaches used this exit. Mrs. Akers said the hedge was very dense and should be cut back at the top as it leans towards the road. It was decided that the best way forward was to meet the owners on site with members of the Council and Mr. Hills, and this was provisionally organised for 4<sup>th</sup> November at 10.15 am. Clerk would confirm this in writing to the owners.

**Rubbish at the Playing Field** – Clerk had reported this to LDC twice and no reply had been forthcoming. She would chase it up again.

**Sandpit** – Clerk read out e mail from Mr. Nicholson to thank the PC for their support of the SOCS monitoring equipment; East Chilington PC had matched the donation of £150.

**Plumpton College** – Clerk read out letter from Mr. Lambert who said that the County Council had not responded favourably to additional safety measures around the entrance to the College. Clerk to write to Highways.

**Congested Parking** – Clerk read out a letter from Highways.

Mr. Speirs said that the playing field car park was being used in excess by commuters; he had called a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November at 10 am at the playing field car park with Southern, the PCSO and himself to discuss this. Clerk to invite Mr. Brooke and Mr. Bailey Highways. Mr. Speirs felt that ten parking spaces were reasonable on the railway side. Southern would be asked to mark out an area for the use of railway users. Mr. Speirs said he would put gates on the playing field if those using the station and parked at the playing field took up most of the spaces in the car park.

Mr. Taylor said that the operator of the signal box had reported parking on the verge near the station which could cause an accident.

It was suggested that maybe the playing field car park should be made bigger and the hedge taken out on the play ground boundary area.

There are also parking problems on the south side of the racecourse, west just before the entrance to the racecourse, which is dangerous. Clerk to find out from Highways who this belongs to, and to discuss this at the meeting regarding parking.

**Hairdressers Lease** – Mr. Rothwell had been using the Scout Hut to practise his business and this had been going well. Mr. Hills was to approach the Scout Committee at a meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2006 to see if it would be possible for Mr. Rothwell to use this on a more permanent basis. Two Councillors had sent in their comments regarding the draft lease prepared for the hall. Clerk to contact Wynne Baxter Solicitors to inform them of the current situation and ask if lease could be altered to usage of the Scout Hut. Mr. Taylor said that he would let the Clerk know when a decision had been reached by the Scouts.

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

Mrs. Watson asked if the recycling boxes in the Playing Field were used. Mr. Speirs said they were.

Mrs. Akers asked the Clerk to chase the letter regarding the boulders in the ditch. She reported that the dog bin in the playing field had been filled up with litter and bags of dog faeces were left by the bin. Clerk to contact LDC to see how often the bins are emptied.

Mr. Hawthorne said that there had been no further volunteers coming forward to operate the SID machine. Clerk to mention this in parish magazine, and to ask Mr. Stone to put it in the Middy and Sussex Express.

Mr. Hawthorne said that the Bevern Stream Initiative meeting had been well attended and was a positive meeting; the group had encouraged better use of facilities in the area and might help getting speed limits in Plumpton Lane; there would be a work group on 1<sup>st</sup> November and there had been good representation by Parish Councils r RVRC – meeting had taken place on 25<sup>th</sup> September and some Councils were looking to see if action plans had made a difference, Ringmer had identified employment as an issue and was encouraging local employment, affordable housing and facilities for elderly people. Barcombe had also identified sites for affordable housing. The Lewes Market Town Health Check was progressing and there was a questionnaire on the website. There had been 25% reduction in burglaries and it had been noted that there was an increase in crime on the days the clocks changed to darker evenings.

Mr. Beard said that the new owners at the shop had been selling post cards. The book and notelets had been sold out, but Mrs. Watson said that the book did not warrant a reprint of 500 copies.

Mrs. Ridley had asked Mr. Beard to cut back the yew tree and he would have a look at it.

Mr. Speirs thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their concern after his recent bereavement.

He gave the Councillors a sheet of crimes that had taken place in the area since May from the PCSO.

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

The lightning conductor test had been organised.

Mr. Taylor said that a fire report had taken place and Chubbs had provided free signs. The tiling on the south side of the hall had been done, but one tile had already been broken.

A fire risk assessment had been done. It had been pointed out that a heat sensor may be needed as well as a smoke sensor if the hairdresser does use the hall for his business.

There is a jumble sale on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

There have been problems with the panic bars on the doors onto the car park; it was thought the doors were not strong enough and are dropping down. These were replaced five years ago, but it was thought they may have to be replaced.

Work on the lighting bars may have to be done next year.

A quotation for £890 for storage cupboards over the stage had been received.

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

The balances at the end of September were Village Hall, £11,030.59 Playing Field £13,718.97, and Admin £10,120.16. The Internal Audit had taken place and all was order. Estimates had been prepared and were in draft form. At the current stage, it would appear that there would be a small increase in the precept for 07/08. New PC Kieran McDonald would be coming to the November meeting.

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

Mr. Speirs reported that the police had been called to a party in August by himself and the signal box operator. Mr. Speirs had a booking for a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday but this turned out to be a teenage party. There was no damage in the pavilion but damage at the station which caused unscheduled stopping of trains. A letter had been received from the Police.

Two new junior football teams had started.

The steps have been reinstated on the play equipment at the playing field.

- 8. PLANNING:** Tree Order 3852 336/19/9/06. Dragons Green, Plumpton Lane. Crown lift by removing secondary growth on three north most ash trees. This has been approved. There would be a planning meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2006. Another application had been received for a radio mast, and it was thought this could be the same as the one received two months ago. Mrs. Watson reported that the seat on the Ridge in memory of Philip Ridley needed attention. Mr. Beard would ask Mr. Malcolm Beard to revarnish and do any repairs necessary.
- 9. VILLAGE CARE:** Nothing to report.
- 10. FOOTPATHS:** Nothing to report.
- 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Mr. Hawthorne said that the County Council were struggling for finances and were taking a review on rural services and there would be cut back in rural bus services. The bus station at Lewes had been bought by a property developer, but nothing will happen until next September and it was anticipated it would be retail units on the lower level and flats above. There is a lot of land for opportunities for LDC and ESCC but no one has made a move for a new bus station. Mr. Taylor asked about increased movements through the village going to Plumpton College. Mr. Hawthorne said that the coaches would be moving from Ditchling, so this situation may change. Mr. Speirs said it was difficult to get a train back from Lewes in the evening as there was one at 1850 arriving at Plumpton at 1858 and the next one left Lewes at 2240 arriving at Plumpton at 2248. Clerk to write to the train company to ask for more stopping trains at Plumpton.
- 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Nothing to report.
- 13. TREE WARDEN:** Nothing to report.
- 14. VILLAGE ACTION PLAN** Mr. Hawthorne said that a good meeting had been held recently, well attended and with positive feedback; what questions to put on the questionnaire had been discussed at a sub committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November. The next meeting will be on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Ashurst Wood PC would be giving information on their Action Plan.
- 15. REPORT OF CLERK:** Clerk presented to the Council: Local Councils update, letter for Doctors regarding fire services, LDC Statement of Proposed Matters, LDC Why Waste It? Waste Avoidance Campaign, South Downs View, DEFRA Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005, Action in Rural Sussex Newsletter September, Action Plan Minutes 7<sup>th</sup> September, St Peters and St James Autumn Newsletter, South Downs Focus September, NHS Creating an NHS fit for the future autumn stakeholder events,.

**CHAIRMAN**