



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER, 2007 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
Mr. T Thompsett
Mrs. K. Wride
Mrs. C Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mrs C Nicholson

1. APOLOGIES:

Mrs S Akers

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 20th September, 2007 were signed as a true record.

The Minutes of a Planning meeting held on 13th October, 2007 were signed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

BT boxes on Station Road – Mr Brooke ESCC has agreed to do this work at no cost to the Parish Council. The work will include lowering the kerbs either side of the boxes and lowering the back of the footway to the same level. The footway will still go up and down, but will be easier and safer to negotiate either on foot or in a buggy. The work will be done within the next two months.

Highways – General - White Bridge – Letter from ESCC that the entire length of the C100 Plumpton Lane and Station Road is covered by a 7.5 tonne weights restriction; there is no weight restriction to the White Bridge. Mr Taylor said that the road should be able to carry 44 tonne. There is no reason why there is a 7.5 tonne weight restriction; there is no one to police if lorries are over the tonnage limit.

Boulders have been repositioned, but if they fall into the stream again, Highways will not be able to put them back.

Traffic department will assist with road markings.

Works have been carried out on South Road and the situation is greatly improved.

Village Maintenance teams sent out questionnaire which PC filled in.

A copy of the Transport Strategy had been requested by a Councillor. Clerk had enquired, a hard copy would cost £75 but she had managed to arrange to have a copy of this on CD at no cost to the PC.

Riddens Lane – The work on this road was to be started on the 16th October.

LDC Policy on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management - A meeting had been arranged with Mr Frost, Mrs Watson, Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Angel.

Monday Group - This footpath had been cleared.

Footpath 13a – Clerk had received further complaints about the footpath from the Ramblers Association and members of the public. A police dog van had been seen in East View Fields, and it was presumed the situation was being monitored. The ROW officer and the Dog Warden had been informed. The ROW officer had said that there was no problem with the stiles on this footpath. Under the 146 Highways Act the stile over the footpath should be accessible. Highways will contribute 25% of the costs, and if this if this work is not done, Highways can carry out the work at the owner's cost. The PC felt that they were not able to go any further with this issue, as they had passed

the information to the ROW officer and the Dog Warden. Clerk to ask residents experiencing problems to get in touch with the ROW officer and Dog Warden direct. There was no sign going towards Jenners Farm; Mrs Eastwood would report this to the ROW officer.

Network Rail – Clerk had received reply that the vegetation had been cut, and the bridge had been swept and would be painted at a later date. The bridge had been inspected by a member of the public and thought to be in fairly good order.

Princess Royal Hospital - Clerk had responded to Fit for the Future public consultation and an acknowledgement had been received. A letter from the Support the Princess Royal Hospital had been received thanking PC for their donation.

Queens Award - A nomination had been put forward by the PC for SOCS, a voluntary organisation. Mrs Nicholson had prepared the nomination form in a very short time so that it met the deadline and the Clerk thanked her on behalf of the PC.

Water at Old School Cottages - Mrs Angel had reported that the pavement surface outside No 2 was flooded; the garden wall had been cracked in several places and the owner believes this was done when Highways resurfaced this area in February. Clerk to contact Mr Brooke.

Enforcement Matters – LDC Enforcement officer had visited the Plumpton Green garage and Mr Barnett is in discussion with developers discharging the conditions attached to planning permission, in particular condition 18 regarding the wheel washing of vehicles.

Willow Farm – Enforcement officer had visited and the owners of the site were putting down a hardstanding to try and reduce the mud during the winter months. No caravan is on site and no one is living on site.

Beetle Garage – It had been reported to the Council that a camper van which was being lived in was parked on the hardstanding next to the garage. LDC enforcement had visited the site.

Tree Preservation Order (No 6) 2007, Land at Oakwood, Beresford Lane – Clerk read out letter that the order was raised in response to the proposal to install a tennis court; a decision will be made whether this order is permanent at the end of the 28 consultation period.

Regarding a TPO on the rest of the woodland is that it can introduce a layer of bureaucracy which can seriously inhibit management of the woodland as a whole; the Tree Officer did not feel that there is an overwhelming need to impose a TPO on the rest of the woodland as a whole at this stage. It already enjoys a high level and protection, and if there is any unauthorised felling, LDC will consider the situation at the time.

PC felt this should be pursued. Mrs Nicholson will look at the Habitat Survey with Mr Hutson and see which areas should receive further thought; she wondered if there was a more specific list of trees. Further research would be done, and Clerk to inform Tree Officer that should be available by the end of December.

PCSO's – It was reported that PCSO Wendy Baulcombe was no longer the PCSO for Plumpton. PC had not been informed that there was to be a change. Clerk to contact Sgt Macdonald about this.

Affordable Housing - Clerk had received an e mail from Mr Warder asking if the PC would like him to come along to a meeting to talk about this issue. The Council felt that this would be better addressed when the results of the Action Plan were known.

Sandpit - Mrs Nicholson said that there was stockpiling of sand on site, but little road activity. Mr Nicholas had visited the site. It was hoped that the promise to get all lorries to turn left could be re-enforced; a sign to please turn left could be installed.

Action Plan - There had been a meeting on 15th October. Over 80% replies had been

received and it was thought this was the best response in Sussex. The replies are still being processed and it will be the end of October before the results are known

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mrs Watson said that several people had asked about the station opening times as these were not publicised anywhere except on the door of the booking office. Mrs Watson would find these out and they would be put in the parish magazine. Times of opening are 0555-1030 weekdays and closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Mrs Nicholson said that she felt the new Councillors were not familiar with the local development framework and should be enlightened on this. Mrs Watson said that there were several planning meetings that could be attended which would explain this framework. There is one at Plumpton College on the 23rd October. Mrs Nicholson asked if a list of properties that had planning applications sought on them was available, so it would make it easier for new councillors to see what had taken place in the past. Clerk said that she had a list of all those applications that had taken place in the last five years in alphabetical order, so that Councillors could contact her to find out history on previous applications. The history of each application is on the paperwork received with the plans of new applications.

Mrs Eastwood said that she had followed a large Hills lorry in the morning at school time and was a bit concerned about large lorries being in the vicinity of the school when children are walking to school. Mr Taylor said that the start times of operation were different, sometimes 7 am or 8am. Mrs Eastwood felt that the lorries were close to the edge of the pavement; a walking bus had been started on a Wednesday where children walk, with supervision, to school. Mr Taylor would talk to Mr Hills about this matter. Mrs Eastwood asked if a letter could be sent to C & S Coaches to ask them to respect the walking bus and not go too fast through the village and observe the 30 mph limit; she also asked if they could not park on the pavement near the bus stop. It appeared that this problem also occurred on the 7.45 bus going north.

Mrs Wride said she had attended the Vale of Sussex meeting where there was a representative of each parish council. The Quite Lanes project was discussed. She expressed concern at the Half Moon turning where the traffic appears to have doubled in the last ten years. It was thought that visibility could be improved if part of the bank was removed. Clerk to write to Mr Wilby owner of the Laines to ask if he would consider taking away part of the bank which is his garden so that visibility could be improved. It was also thought that an alternative to this dangerous junction was to change the priority.

An accident had occurred near Drews Farm resulting with a car ending up on its roof. The 20 mph sign by the Half Moon on the Ditchling side, west side of the junction with the B2116 has disappeared and needs to be replaced; the one from Lewes needs to be cleaned (or the vegetation cut back on a regular basis) or repositioned as it is obscured by trees, and drivers can not see it in time to take action.

Clerk to write to Highways about this.

Clerk was asked to write to Mr Sinden to thank him for removing the wooden ramp at the skateboard area.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

A request had been made for a lightning conductor test.
The hand towel holders are now in the toilets. The stage curtains have been repaired.
A scaffolding tower had been purchased. The paint on the edges of the car park has still to be done. Mr Taylor had cut off the ivy up to a certain level and it would die above that level; Mr Westgate would be asked to get the remainder off the wall.
A Jumble Sale would take place on 10th November.
The lighting bars have arrived and it is hoped that these would be wired in before the pantomime.
The WI celebrate their 90 year anniversary next year, and they may have a circular seat around the oak tree on the green to commemorate this. The kitchen door is sticking.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of September were V Hall £13,262.83, Admin £16,235.71 and Playing Field £4,526.87. The internal audit had taken place and this was in order.
Clerk had received a letter from Northern Rock apologising for anxiety and inconvenience and that they are a sound company and a safe place for savings.
Clerk had received a letter from LDC Finance to say that there would be a discretionary rate relief review on the Village Hall and Pavilion and that accounts were needed and also a Child Protection Policy for each place. Clerk to obtain accounts and also enquire about a CPP.
Estimates had been discussed at the Finance Meeting and new Councillors were told that this was an annual process in October. They would be finalised at the November meeting. It was thought there would be approximately £1000 increase in the precept.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

Mr Speirs reported that the fence on the east side of the skateboard area is not repairable. Chain link fencing would cost £450-£500; it was thought this was a good idea as it would stop the fence being broken and open it up the area so people can see what is going on there.
Mr Speirs said the Pavilion extension had not had proper redecoration for some time, so he had asked for an estimate to paint it on a room by room basis. The railway side had been painted externally last year, but the rest needs doing; the windows may need replacing but this would be very expensive.
The doors on the store shed have gone and Mr Speirs is pursuing having replacement doors.
The area behind the play area is overgrown; Mr Westgate would clear this.
Mr Speirs is arranging for someone else to concrete in the memorial seat for Mr Percy Law.
Mr Speirs will replace and put up more 5 mph signs, also ones saying No Golf, and No Horses.

Mrs Watson asked how the pavilion facilities could be maximised. Mr Speirs said that a lot of work had been done by clubs at no charge, so it would seem unfair to charge higher rents. It was thought donations could be requested from clubs for redecoration or a fund raising event to help fund this.

8. PLANNING:

Mrs Watson said that some Councillors are still not replying to her when she calls a planning meeting. The meetings cannot go ahead without a quorum of four people, and she needs to know so that if there are not enough Councillors, she can go ahead or cancel a meeting.
She said that she had attended a housing meeting which included planning and there are still problems with coastal towns understanding the rural interior.
There is a meeting of LDALP on 23rd October.

9. VILLAGE CARE:

The Southdowns sign has been knocked down; Clerk to ask Highways to reinstate this.
Mr Speirs is meeting Mr Brooke Highways on 30th October to walk through the village to highlight highway issues. It appeared that several road signs were falling to pieces and some were in need of cleaning; this would be mentioned at the meeting. The footway from Wells Close to Pippins needs construction, and the Half Moon junction issues would also be mentioned at this meeting.

HIGHWAYS

10. FOOTPATHS:

There were still problems with the footpath that runs parallel with the railway line from

the east of the playing field then north to North Barnes Lane, which appears to be non-existent as a footpath; Mrs Eastwood would contact the ROW Officer about this. The footpath that comes out at Streat Church is also ploughed up; Mrs Eastwood would report this to the ROW office. Footpath 27 the bottom rung of a stile is broken, Clerk to tell EC Clerk about this.

11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Nothing to report.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Mrs Angela had attended a Policing Lewes District meeting on 27th September; several issues emanated from this meeting. There was commitment to providing a quality of service with neighbourhood policing teams; keeping people safe by tackling serious and organised crime; making best use of resources, PCSO's had reached a capacity of 354 Home Office funded.

The improved crime detection rate had meant that crime was reduced by 5%.

Questions were asked by the public: No visible police policing of parts of Lewes – this was not true.

No police bulletins received by NW and council reps. These were on the website.

What can be done about speeding through Plumpton. Insp Johnson said that she would personally make her first priority speeding in Plumpton.

What can be done about abandoned vehicles, untaxed or not roadworthy? If reported to the police may be clamped or taken to a scrap yard and crushed.

Mrs Angel asked if Clerk could include in the parish magazine about inconsiderate parking in the village; she had encountered a problem with dangerous parking.

13. TREE WARDEN:

Nothing to report.

14. REPORT OF CLERK:

Clerk presented to the Council: St Peters and St James Caring magazine, Creating an NHS fit for the future, Community Rail Festival 2007, Queensbury Shelters, Developing Communities Project News, Environment Agency Flood Awareness Roadshows October 2007, SALC Annual Report and Accounts 2006/07, SALC Annual General Meeting 2007, Action in Rural Sussex Conference November 2007, South Downs view Newsletter of the Southdowns CVS, Town and Parish Standard September 2007.

Letter from CAB Lewes and Seaford asking for donation. PC donated £50.

Subscriptions for SALC will increase from 21p per elector to 22p.

News From the School – Wellie day takes place on Wednesdays when the children are asked to bring wellies to school so they can go round the school grounds. A Lost in Litter prize had been awarded; this was a bench made of recycled plastic.

106 children had taken part in the activity scheme over the summer. The junior football club had held a Race Night. The walking bus had 19 children participating in week 11th October. Harvest celebrations had been successful.

Bulb planting would take place on 20th October.

The December PC meeting will take place on 11th December 2007, and the January meeting would take place on 8th January, 2008.

CHAIRMAN