



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER, 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
Mrs. S. Angel
2 Members of the Public
PCSO Whittaker Jones

1. APOLOGIES: Mr. P Ramsay.

2. MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting on 17th October, 2006 were signed as a true record.
The Planning Minutes of 27th October and 11th November were signed as true records.

3. MATTERS ARISING: **Hedge at 1 Green Cross** – Mr. Speirs had attended the meeting held with Mr. Hills, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Akers, Mrs. Gane and Mr. Chapman at 1 Green Cross Cottages; they sat in a coach while Mr. Hills demonstrated the difficulties experienced by drivers. Mr. Chapman agreed to cut back the hedge a few inches, so complying with what had been suggested by ESCC Highways, and it was agreed this would help. The owners wished to retain the height of the hedge; it appeared exaggerated because the garden is raised and the hedge looks higher from the road. Mr. Speirs said he recommended if Mr. Hills still has a problem with visibility he should contact Highways and Health and Safety as PC had tried to arbitrate, and it was felt the matter should now be in his hands; Mrs Gane and Mr. Chapman would like him to contact them if this should be the case. Clerk would write to him to suggest this.
Mrs. Gane and Mr. Chapman felt Mr. Hills should have dealt with the matter direct with them in the first place. They asked if it could be minuted that if they should wish to sell their property they would have to declare the dispute that had occurred, but they felt that this was a strictly private matter and this was agreed by the PC. Clerk was asked to send a copy of the minutes to Mrs. Gane.

PCSO Whittaker Jones attended the meeting as A/Sgt McDonald was not able to attend. She said that there had been only one recorded incident in the village recently, a suspicious vehicle at the school.
She had checked on cars from the Beetle Garage parked on the road, and this was not against the law; wheels had been stolen from the garage.
Other incidents had included lost dogs, and a vehicle vandalised in the Half Moon car park. PCSO Whittaker Jones had also attended incidents of cars being driven erratically at Plumpton College; she had put warning notices on cars.
There had been a distraction burglary at the Riddens Flats.
She had received a report that passengers on trains who had not paid their fares were often turned out of the trains in Plumpton. Clerk to write to Southern to suggest that this should happen at Lewes or Haywards Heath as there are security cameras there, as this could be a crime prevention issue.

The car parked outside Railway Cottage is still there, but as it is taxed, no action can be taken.

Mrs. Watson asked if people could be stopped parking in East View Fields, but there was no provision to police this.

Parking by commuters was discussed and it was mentioned that the Racecourse Manager had said that parking could be available there by the footbridge. Clerk to write to Manager to ask if this could be possible.

Clerk to write to LDC Planning to ask where the S106 payment of £15,000 for community use from the Plumpton Green Garage developer was being held by them. It was thought this could be used to make parking spaces on the playing field for residents using the Pavilion and sports facilities.

There had been further reports of residents parking the wrong way round at night so their reflectors could not be seen. The PCSO had knocked on doors to ask residents to move their cars. Clerk to include this in Parish Magazine article.

Mr. Speirs reported that some residents were riding bikes without lights at night; Clerk to include this in Parish Magazine article.

Highways - Clerk to find out whether there is a weight limit on the white bridge, and to report to Highways that there had been two accidents in three years, where the bridge was seriously damaged.

Mr. Brooke had arranged a meeting with Mr. Speirs on 22nd November, 2006 to walk round the village to discuss various highway matters.

Old School Cottages – Clerk had received a phone call to say work would be taking place; this had not happened yet. Mr. Speirs would mention this on his walkround.

Ditch – this was to be cleared but had not happened; Mr. Speirs would also mention this.

Mr. Brooke had sent a e mail explaining who dealt with what within Highways Department.

Clerk read out letter from Mr. Johnson. Speed Limit on South Road. This road is unlikely to meet criteria for a speed limit as it is a class U road.

Signs concerning weight limit Plumpton Lane and Plough. Both signs are correct.

Concerns over white bridge – already yellow backed signs but SLOW sign needs repair; this will be carried out.

East View Fields – kerb stones already dealt with.

Parking in Barnfield. Not possible to erect a sign. Suggests residents ask for a white advisory line at a cost of £30 per line

Letter from resident in Beresford Lane which had been sent to Highways complaining about cars speeding down the lane. ESCC say this is a class U road and will not be reviewed for speed limit.

Speed Limit in Plumpton Lane – Class C road and will not be reviewed as Plumpton is already covered by 30 mph speed limit.

Plumpton College B2116 – letter from ESCC and copy of one sent to Norman Baker MP. Signage would have to be privately funded. Clerk to write to Mr. Lambert asking him if College would be willing to fund signs, and authority would have to be obtained as to where to put them.

Stream at East View Fields – Clerk read out letter from Environment Agency saying that the weeds and BT barriers would receive attention.

Extra rubbish at Playing Field – Clerk had not had a reply from Mr. Pook LDC about this even having sent several reminders. He had visited the site but there had not been any excess rubbish there at the time.

Tennis Club road – Clerk read out e mail from Mr. Mitchell to confirm that he would be asking Mr. Lewry to confirm verbal quote of £260 in writing to concrete over the dip in the access road. This would be passed to Mr. Speirs and the PC had authorised the tennis club to approve Mr. Lewry to go ahead with the work; the tennis club would pay one third £86.67; the PC would settle the account on completion of the work.

Action in Rural Sussex – affordable housing – Clerk read out e mail from Mr. Warder asking if PC would like to meet to discuss this; PC agreed in principle it was a good idea to have more affordable housing but they believed there were no sites available at present, but would like to be kept informed of any action on this issue. Barcombe had land for affordable housing. Mr. Hawthorne said that this would one of the issues addressed in the Action Plan; it was not thought there was enough affordable housing for the elderly.

MP Mr. Baker – Mr. Baker had written to ask the PC if he could attend a meeting to discuss issues concerning the Princess Royal. It was hoped he could attend a meeting.

Footpaths – Clerk read out letter from Rights of Way Officer. She had inspected the stile at the junction of bridleway Streat 7 and Streat 13 and this had fallen into disrepair; there is a field gate adjacent to the stile which is in good condition and easy to use, so she would not be asking the landowner to repair the stile. The landowner on Footpath East Chiltington 6a would be requested to repair the stile. The ROW officer said that she had inspected the stile on footpath Plumpton 7 and could not find any problem with it. Clerk to reply that it was all right. The Footpath at the end of Riddens Lane (behind Downsview) towards Streat from Plumpton, three stiles down the path, there is a metal chain holding the gate shut. It was thought an easier form of fastening the gate could be used, possibly a proper latch gate. Clerk to write to ROW about this.

Trains – Southern – Clerk read out letter saying that they had added some stops at Plumpton, but this was a juggling act as some people complained that this was slowing the service down, and they were not minded to introduce any further stops at Plumpton at present. Clerk to write to County Council to see if they could help in getting more stops.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mrs. Angel reported that there were still missing kerbstones in East View Fields. Mr. Speirs would mention this on his walkround with Highways.

Mrs. Akers reported that the gate on the twitten at East View Fields across the footbridge was hanging off its hinges, also debris from trees were on the steps, and there was a hole on the top first flight of steps. Clerk to ask which railway authority is responsible for the bridge. It was thought that one solution would be to remove the gate if Health and Safety would allow this.

Mrs. Thompson had attended a meeting of the sandpit, and Mr. Dudman had not met all the pre conditions; the County Council were aware of this. The operation starts in December. Mr. Dudman said his lorries only go through part of the village. Clerk to write to LDC planning and Highways regarding lorries going through the village, as this is not complying with planning regulations. The lorries will also go over the white bridge which is very narrow. It was reported that the sand was of high quality.

Mr. Hawthorne said that four more volunteers had come forward to man the SID machine; there would be training in February.

There had been a Bevern Stream Initiative meeting on 9th November where tourism had been discussed and the area would be promoted as an equestrian tourist area.

Mr. Hawthorne said that a good data base of businesses was being built up.

The Quiet Lanes project is to go to ESCC and it was hoped there would be funding.

Plumpton Lane does not fit the criteria of a quiet lane, but this may change.

There was an RVRC meeting on 13th November where NHS issues were discussed.

The January Parish Council meeting would be on the 9th January, 2007.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

The lightning conductor test had taken place and certificate issued.

Mr. Taylor said that the tiling had been completed. There would be four storage cupboards built on the stage.

Fire risk assessments had taken place; there had been problems with Chubbs, they had charged for unnecessary signs and Mr. Taylor was in discussions with them

There would work carried out on the lighting bars on the stage.

The jumble sale had raised £1088.50 which was the best result yet.
Mr. Taylor had received a letter of thanks from Mrs. Ashdown for vouchers sent to her in recognition of her storing jumble in her garage.
Mr. Rothwell would be staying at the Scout Hut to pursue his hairdressing business. This had been decided by the Scout Executive Committee. The lease would be altered and the PC would still deal with the Solicitors on this. Clerk had written to Mr. Hills asking for the amended lease when it had been prepared, and also to Mr. Rothwell confirming that he would reimburse the PC for the cost of the lease.
Mrs Watson asked if the Village Green had been designated as a Village Green? Clerk to find this out from LDC Planning or Legal.
The Village Fair may or may not happen, advertising was being done.
There was a broken fence post on the boundary of the car park; Mr. Beard said he would contact Mr. Westgate to fit it. The stake on the new oak tree had been broken.
The rubbish from outside the hall had been collected.
£107 had been raised by Plumpton Fest; Clerk to write to Mr. Hayman to say thank you.
Letter from Mr. Holmes requesting a key card for the village hall, as he hires the hall on occasions to practice ballroom dancing. Clerk to ask him to contact Mrs. Burgon for a key.

6. FINANCE:

The balances at the end of October were Village Hall, £13,005.59, Playing Field £12,577.85, and Admin £8868.46.
The estimates were considered; Mr. Ramsay had e mailed saying he thought the precept should be used for those in the village, and more grant money available. He would like to cut the budgets to the village hall and playing field by 12%, the residual being at the discretion of the Council to other groups in the village.
Councillors pointed out that local people use the facilities at both the Hall and the Playing Field. It was thought it the future more money should go into providing grants, and this would be reviewed next year. The precept was set at £24,845 for the year 2007/2008. Mrs, Watson proposed this be put forward to LDC Finance, Mr.Beard seconded it, and all the Council were in favour.
There was still money in the Millenium Fund so Clerk to put in Parish Magazine that individuals who were eligible for a grant could apply to Mr. Satchell or Mrs. Watson for consideration.
Mr. Hawthorne asked if the PC could have a list of grants awarded during this financial year.

7. PLAYING FIELD:

The new sign had been erected.

8. PLANNING:

The following Planning Applications had been granted:
LW/06/0849 Little Hackmans, Plumpton Lane. Erection of detached double garage with garden room above and single storey rear extension to dining room for Mr. and Mrs. Thornton.
LW/06/1059 2 Woodgate Meadow, Plumpton Green. Erection of rear conservatory for Mr. and Mrs.Duffy.
LW/06/1098 Strollings, Station Road, Plumpton Green. Formation of two rear dormers for Mr. and Mrs. Wride.
Refusal:
LW/06/0978 Southern Stables, Ashurst Lane, Plumpton. Conversion and single storey extension to existing outbuilding to self-contained dwelling for Mr. Bredin.
Clerk to write to Planning to say that cars come out of this entrance on race days and that cars from two houses would not make any difference to traffic coming out onto Plumpton Lane.
Tree Order; Permission granted for TPO 7 Dragons Green, Plumpton Lane. Crown lift by removing secondary growth on three north most ash trees (Contained with Group 5 of the Order) for Mr. Nurse.
The following planning applications were considered:
LW/06/1340 Winklepatch, Riddens Lane. Single storey rear extension for Ms. Leaney. PC approved this application.
LW/06/1307 The Fountain Inn, Station Road. Provision of a covered walkway to external toilets and covered rear area with new access from existing building for Young and Co Brewery plc. PC approved this application, but to lessen the visual impact of the

plastic roofing. They suggest alternative materials to match existing covered porch to the front of the property.

- 9. VILLAGE CARE:** The post and rail fence at the end of the twitten near the green was broken. Mr. Beard would ask Mr. Westgate to repair it.
- 10. FOOTPATHS:** Nothing to report.
- 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Nothing to report.
- 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mrs. Angel reported that there had been damage to the seat near the bridge; Mr. Smtih had done a temporary repair. Clerk to write a letter of thanks when a permanent repair had taken place.
She reported that parents going to the school were parking on the pavements. Clerk to report this in parish magazine article and write to Headmaster asking him to put this in the newsletter, and also to inform the PCSO.
She had attended a Lewes District Crime and Reduction Partnership Meeting; it was not well attended, and there was not much about local policing, mostly about Peacehaven. A leaflet had been produced by Louisa Young Community Safety Team with issues such as Bishopstone's No Cold Calling Zone Pilot Project launch, saddle watch, Lewes Shop Watch etc.
- 13. TREE WARDEN:** Mrs. Ridley had expressed concerns about two chestnut trees near the tennis courts which require attention.
- 14. VILLAGE ACTION PLAN** Mr. Hawthorne said a good meeting had been held on the 20th November with Ashurst Wood representatives present to give information about their action plan. Mr. Hawthorne said that the questionnaire was being designed and there had been a good response from the school to this; there had been a display at the football club.
- 15. REPORT OF CLERK:** Clerk presented to the Council: Anchor Staying Put booklet, letter Consultation on Fire Authority's 5 year risk management plan 2007/08 – 2011/12., Sussex County Playing Fields Association Annual Report, Minutes of Sandpit meeting on 15th November, 2006, Minutes East Chiltington Parish Council November, Minutes of Plumpton Village Action Plan 20th November, 2006, District Link Magazine autumn, Homecall leaflet, Clerks and Councils Direct November, posters regarding Mobile Library, your County leaflet Winter 2006, Countryside Alliance, poster for keeping rural post offices, LCS NALC magazine, South Downs Annual Review 2005/2006.
Letter of thanks from FWAG for donation.
Clerk read out e mail from Craig Harrington asking for a bench to be put in the playing field in memory of his father Len Harrington, landlord of the Fountain Inn.
PC to reply to say that usually those who have made a significant contribution to sports clubs have memorial benches at the Playing Field and the PC thought it would be a more fitting place to have a memorial to Mr. Harrington in or around the Fountain. It was suggested that Craig contact Miss Kilby the landlady and the brewery.
Mr. Speirs said he would make some enquiries about the memorial to Mr. Percy Law.
Mrs. Wride had contacted the Clerk asking if she could have an allotment and have chickens on it. This was permitted under the rules of hiring allotments, but was at the PC's discretion. Clerk to write to Mrs. Wride to say that there was not an allotment available at the moment, and the PC were not in agreement with keeping chickens on the allotment; Mrs. Wride could be put on the waiting list, if she still required an allotment.
Mrs. Akers reported that there was an allotment vacant; Clerk to write to the person on the waiting list

CHAIRMAN