



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2008 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 K Wride
Mrs. C Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mr T Thompsett
Mrs S Akers
Mrs C Nicholson
Mr N. Satchell

APOLOGIES: None

MINUTES: The minutes of a meeting held on 16th October, 2008 were signed as a true record.
The Planning Meeting held on 8th November, 2008 were signed as a true record – add
Lentridge Barn, Station Road.

The Budget for 2009/2010 was discussed at the finance meeting and with the full Council. Mr Speirs said he would reduce his budget by £500 if this was taken off the overall precept figure; Mr Satchell said he would reduce his by £750 to be used as the Council wished.

Clerk was concerned about reserves as she had been advised by Mazars and financial consultants at a Clerk's Networking day that reserves should be 25% or 4-6 months of Council's outgoings. Council had suggested that £2000 for the next financial year was sufficient, but Clerk was concerned that this was not sufficient, as there could be unexpected costs for possible tree work etc in the next financial year. Most of the Council thought £2000 was adequate, but Clerk asked if it could be minuted that she had advised as RFO, that a larger amount should be put into reserves, but Council had decided not to increase the sum of £2000. It was not thought that cuts could be made elsewhere in the budget, though reducing the S137 payments was discussed. The Clerk, as RFO, did not recommend that the budget for this was cut.

The cost of dog bins was discussed and it was thought the charge for this around £1500 per annum was very high, and were they necessary. There were divided views on this. Clerk had contacted LDC as she had been informed some Councils have dog bin emptying funded by LDC; this is when LDC or Dog Warden had deemed they were necessary adjacent to the highway and not on PC land. All Plumpton's dog bins had been requested by the PC.

ACTION: Clerk to contact LDC to see if emptying costs could be reduced.
The budget will be discussed further and finalised at the PC meeting on 9th December, 2008.

Millenium Fund – Mrs Eastwood asked if accounts were available for the Fund and if these could be put on the website/parish magazine, and also made available at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Mr Satchell agreed to do this. The fund had not been set up for a specific length of time, had been set up at the Millenium and was run by trustees.

MATTERS ARISING: **Land adjacent to Old Brickworks** - Nothing more had been heard from residents. Mr

Frost LDC Planning Director had advised Council to contact Norman Baker MP and ask him if this matter could be taken further.

Village Green - Mr Woolgar was using a petrol hand mower for the green, and mowing had taken place recently.

Proposed Pharmacy at South Chailey surgery - Meeting had taken place on 3rd November, 2008. Notes had not been received from Newick, but Chailey PC had taken the view that it is the service to patients which is paramount and believed that a dispensary in South Chailey would have little practical benefit for their residents and could deprive the villages of a valued delivery service, initiated and maintained by Newick Pharmacy, especially as many are repeat prescriptions.

Naming of new development at Plumpton Garage Site – LDC informed road to be called Smithys Close. Mr Upton, a long standing resident of Plumpton said the garage had been used in the past to rear chickens, and had been a sweet shop: the building next door which had been split in two had been a smithys and a cobblers.

Elections 2009 – LDC – confirming no need to hire Hall on 7th May, as elections are to be held on the same day, 4th June, 2009.

Insurance – Clerk awaiting quote for increased PL insurance from Zurich. Mr Hawthorne had asked Clerk to ask again about insurance for VAP members. They were still unable to offer cover, but suggested a Stand Alone Policy for £179 p.a. ACTION; Mr Hawthorne had been put in direct contact with insurers. Insurers had agreed to cover SID operators providing volunteers adhered to regulations stated by insurers.

Trees - Clerk had delivered plans to Mr Wynn and tree survey is taking place.

Riddens Garages and the Paddocks – Clerk had spoken to owner of property in the Paddocks and letting agent; tenant is due to move out in the near future. Council had been asked to report to nearby residents of any potential planning application that may arise regarding the garages. Letter of thanks from Mr Spencer thanking Clerk for her help with this matter.

Footpaths – Chloe Rowling ROW E Chiltington 6 – path has been inspected and sufficient strip has been left along the headland to accommodate it – the adjoining footpath 4 has been obscured by crops.

Mr White had contacted Clerk about Footpath 13b – reporting dangerous dogs on footpath. Clerk contacted ROW, but Mr White rang back to say that he was trying to clear his files and presumed this matter had been dealt with. Tenant had moved and problem had been solved.

Resident had reported flooded footpath from EVF to the station. Clerk reported to ROW – confusion over which footpath this was presumed it could be either FP45 or FP17. ROW would inspect both.

Plumpton Wood – Jennifer Baxter LDC planning – investigation carried out in respect of cabin in wood, and following a site inspection owner had been advised to submit planning application.

Transport Issues - No reply had been received from operator's direct; ESCC Transport had spoken to Countryliner about bus problems, and asked for specific dates and times that issues had occurred; Clerk had reported these

C & S Coaches: Manager stated only two incidents had been reported by PC (no reply had been received by PC) – female driver had been dismissed and issue of coaches driving too fast through village had been dealt with. Coach driver who parks in the village has family in village which suits his domestic arrangements and the school run; the driver has been advised he is to no longer park in the village.

Trustees – Clerk had sent document to Hedleys Solicitors to clarify position regarding trustees of hall and pavilion. It was thought this could potentially incur expensive fees.

ACTION Clerk to contact Hedleys to ask for approximate costs before proceeding.

Telephone Box at Plough - Glass had been cleared away but phone not working.
ACTION: Clerk to report to BT.

Parish Magazine article - This had not been published in November magazine. Clerk had enquired, and magazine now comes out at the beginning of each month so article may miss deadline.

October article – December copy – Nov and Dec – January copy – Jan – February copy.

Mr Green said it was not a simple job producing the magazine, the production is managed by one person and distribution is undertaken by volunteers.

PC asked why costs for editorial space was so high, does this include the website fee?

Mr Thompsett: there used to be a request for £5 donation from each house for magazine - does anyone pay this?

Clerk to ask Mr Green if cost for editorial space is in line with other contributors?

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mrs Watson: One hanging basket has disappeared from the station; she will ask Station Manager if he knows where it has gone and ask him if he is able to look after them.

Mrs Akers: January meeting will clash with the pantomime. Mr Taylor said he hoped to re-arrange a technical rehearsal for another night (end of meeting - Pantomime representative came to say this had been done).

SOCS newsletter was presented – a sea trout survey of the Bevern Stream and Plumpton Mill Stream would take place shortly.

Mr Thompsett: New e mail address.

ACTION: Clerk to alter records.

Mrs Nicholson: All Councillors had been sent Rights of Way Implementation Plan 2007-2017 notes, current VAP notes and Summary of key findings from SALC Training course; Clerk had also circulated notes from an LDC Conference and SALC Clerk's Networking Day.

Issues arising from SALC Training course:

Procedures: Separate committee meetings with agendas and minutes: this had been discussed some years ago, and it was decided not to have separate committee meetings as most of the monthly business could be dealt with at a PC meeting. PPC members do not have delegated powers to make decisions at committee meetings and items have to be brought to a full Parish Council meeting for decisions.

No decisions are taken at the Finance Committee Meeting before the PC meeting each month; these are always brought to a full Council meeting.

Finance: Rotating finance committee members: Only three Councillors are permitted to sign cheques but Mr Taylor thought that Councillors could rotate on the finance committee. (perhaps a different one each year)

Finance Committee abide by Financial Regulations of the Council, check and sign invoices, sign cheque stubs, see bank statements and internal audit is carried out twice annually; external Auditor happy with internal auditors reports – internal auditors reports are circulated to Councillors twice annually.

Planning: A representative from the Planning Inspectorate had said that all applications, including Agricultural Development Rights should be notified to relevant Parish Councils. In the light that this is an emotive subject in Plumpton at the moment, this will be investigated further.

Emergency Arrangements: Clerk would obtain the template.

Mrs Eastwood: A grant for £10,000 had been obtained by Mrs Eastwood on behalf of the Parish Council playing field for a hardstanding basketball/netball court from Awards for All. She was congratulated for all her hard work in getting this award.

This money would be put in an NSB account until ready for use – a report had to be sent to AFA by 2nd December, 2009 or on completion of the project.

Plumpton Speed reduction Campaign: SLOW DOWN – SHARE THE ROAD

Mrs Wride had observed that a West Sussex village had taken part in a pioneering campaign to reduce the speed of traffic going through the village centre.

She asked for approval from the PC to go ahead with this project:
Her aims were to set up a meeting with Mrs Stroude, run a petition to go to County with proposals, and petition for 20 mph signs in the village. She would link this with the VAP, and Police. The project had been used in Mayfield, Storrington, Ashdown Forest and Warnham; Mayfield had a 20mph limit.
Mrs Akers: is there data to back up whether speeding takes place?
Mrs Wride – perceived speeding.
PC agreed to take this project forward with the VAP.

SANDPIT - Mrs Nicholson on behalf of Mr Nicholson: Mr Nicholson and Mr Bowden had met County Councillor Mrs Stroude and discussed traffic, road/verge wear, water/drainage etc, and letter sent to Mr Patterson (ESCC) regarding Conservation Management Plan.

Mr Nicholson met Mr Dudman. Novington is progressing slowly; demand is low but increasing. A long reach digger is now on site which speeds up extraction process and eliminates need for pumping water. Mr Dudman aware of working hours. He instructs drivers to go south from the sandpit but not always practical when delivery may be to builders yard in Wivelsfield Green.

Mrs Wride asked if lorries could be encouraged not to come through during school start and finishing times.

Reported traffic movements north through the village are very few with no reported items since 1st October, 2008.

East Chiltington PC represented by Mrs Harris, Mr Inglis and Mr Dampney – meeting on 27th November, issue of funding for future 'defence' matters will be discussed and East Chiltington PC will be brought into that discussion

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of October were Admin £4077.17, Village Hall 314,491.20, Playing Field £8257.16.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mr Speirs: Commuters were disgruntled about the new timetable for trains, which he thought appeared virtually unchanged; it reflected a better service for some and not for others.

It was thought difficult for the PC to represent some and not others as there were differing views about certain routes. No direct service from London Bridge in the evening and some services have been badly reduced.

There is a new train going to Haywards Hath at 7.31 am.

There are extra trains stopping at Plumpton, two on Sunday and one on Saturday.

There has been a massive increase in the use of trains, which must generate more income, so those affected should make their feelings aware to train companies, possibly in the form of a petition.

ACTION: Mr Speirs would speak to Mr Newman who may be interested in organising a petition.

HIGHWAYS

Sign at Plumpton Lane is down; a sign for the Half Moon is near it, which may not be a legal sign.

ACTION; Clerk to get PL sign reinstated and ask for HM to be taken away if not legal
North Common Lane has been closed for two weeks causing a lot of extra traffic to come down Beresford Lane.

Mrs. Nicholson: More SID training had taken place, and two sessions of use had taken place. More speeding taking place going south.

222 over 2 days. 57% 30 or below. 29% 31-35. 8% 36 –40. 6% over 40.

60 people – speeding, 4 made no attempt to slow down. Build of evidence against particular vehicles speeding regularly needed for Police to act, registration numbers etc. Police only concerned over 35, not below.

ENVIRONMENT **Footpaths/Trees**

Mrs Akers: Fly tipping at the Ferrings – items removed 18-10-08 (kitchen units etc) – metal bars and logs left. Anyone observing fly tipping should report to Clean and Green Team flytip@lewes.gov.uk or call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111. – offenders could be prosecuted.

Salt bin at bottom of EVF: Damaged, salt could leak out and during flooding could enter the stream.

ACTION: Clerk to request new bin to be placed on other side of EVF.

Advertising Fascia at Beetle Garage: Blowing around in wind, could be dangerous – had been secured once by resident.

ACTION: Clerk to report to Estate Agent Henry Smith to ask to make secure.

Footpaths – Mrs Wride: Will footpaths to the north of the village were be looked at in survey? Mrs Nicholson said she was encouraged by the survey and all footpaths and bridleways would be looked at.

Footpath West Dene to The Rest – Overgrown.

ACTION: Clerk to report to ROW. Clerk asked to chase footpath outstanding issues from previous months, as it was reported they had not received attention.

Still problems with footpath between twitten and Station Road with the step down and step up: also waterlogged – not an adopted footpath. Whose responsibility is it? Housing Association or PC? Mr Taylor would look at hall/green plan.

Quote for £600 to sort out problem.

ACTION: Would be looked at in next financial year.

Mrs Nicholson: Requested permission to contact Hamsey PC regarding carbon footprint initiative (Hamsey Village Hall powered by wind and ground source heat pump).

PC gave permission

POLICING AND NWATCH

Mrs Angel: PCSO Julie Whittaker Jones returning to duty shortly.

Crimes: Car in Westgate - rear lights stolen, ripped off vehicle, causing lots of damage, vehicle has been previously targeted.

Mountain bike stolen from Westgate on 3/11/08.

Local Councils can now fined if public do not pass on waste to authorised person; should check whether their builders, gardeners etc are registered to dispose of waste.

ACTION: Parish Magazine article.

PLANNING: HOUSING

The following application had been granted::

LW/08/111 The Firs, Beresford Lane, Plumpton Green. Variation of condition 2 relating to planning permission LW/05/2159 to remove occupational time limits on holiday lets.

VILLAGE HALL:

Mr Taylor: Quotes for hall floor, £1250 and deeper clean £3750. Spring clean of whole hall to specification: £810. These quotes will be discussed at a Village Hall meeting.

Mr Speirs: Too many jumble sales, 9 this year, should be monitored.

Very popular, jumble is usually different items, not recycled from previous one.

PLAYING FIELD:

Mr Speirs: Car Park; 6-8 car parking spaces have been cordoned off for commuters and this has been respected.

£575 made at recent jumble sale in aid of playing field. Thanks to Mrs Eastwood for organising it. Mrs Eastwood asked if ladies who helped could be thanked.

ACTION: Clerk to put this in magazine article.

S106 Agreement on Plumpton Garage Site. This funding will not be available until the first house on the development is sold.

Electricity bills appear high. Does the Pavilion have a contract with EDF?

ACTION: Clerk to check with EDF and set one up if not.

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere

Mrs Nicholson: Business Team: Flyer in parish magazine in December issue with objective of improving awareness of Post Office services. Post Offices still under review; urge people to use it.

REPORT OF CLERK

Clerk presented to the Council: Consultation Draft for East Sussex Fire Authority 3 year integrated risk management, Annual Action Plan 2009/10 2011/12. Clerk had read document and filled in questionnaire on behalf of the Council.

Your County Magazine Autumn, LCR NALC Journal November, Clerks and Councils Direct, South Downs Committee Annual review 2007-2008, Notes on LDC Conference

held at Plumpton College 23/10/08, further information on potential sites identified for gypsies and travellers.

Clerk had requested a letter of confirmation from Mr Taylor as Chairman to say that Clerk's references taken out in 1989 had been on files of Councillors who are no longer in post and have been destroyed. This was a requirement for Council's Insurance company with regard to Fidelity Guarantee regulations.

Letter from CAB Lewes asking for further donation. All Council's Allocated funds for S137 had been used for this financial year.

Clerk's pay – increase is 2.45% backdated to 1st April, 2008.
SALC subs 23p per elector, NALC subs 5.14 per elector
Section S137 expenditure limit 2009/10 £6.15 per elector.

Conservation Area Advisory Committee Consultation: Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Akers had compiled answers to questionnaire.

ACTION: Clerk to fill this in and send off.

Code of Conduct: Consultation: Clerk did not think this needed response. Changes include: Clarifying Councillor's action in non-official capacity, including any criminal offence, home or abroad, harassment, or breach of code; PC's may make comments on matters of prejudicial interest if public are present.

Register of Interests: Bodies such as CPRE, RSPB, National Trust should be included on registers.

Reminder of Code of Conduct adopted in May 2007 by PPC. Any Councillor who declares a prejudicial interest should leave the room, as even body language could be misread, and be of a prejudicial nature.

PC had been registered for Data Protection. Clerk had signed to say that:

1. Personal data kept in file at her home which is burglar alarmed.
2. Computer equipment in room with window locks and alarmed.
3. Computer system has updated McAfee security system
4. Personnel data not kept on computer, in file in secure place in house.
5. Back up file kept of PC information on computer.
6. Secure website.
7. Clerk will regularly review security.

Lewes Town Forum East Sussex Learning Disability Partnership Meeting on 2nd December, 2008 Community Choice and Control, health and Safety and Independence. No Councillor was able to attend.

Freedom of Information Act: New model out which has to be adopted by PC's by 1st January. Clerk had completed template and this was ratified by the Council, proposed by Mr Speirs and seconded by Mrs Eastwood. All Councillors were in favour.

The template would be put on website for access to where to obtain documents under the Act. Acceptable fee for photocopying was advised at 10p per copy. If ongoing requests were made for the same issue, and involved over 18 hours of Clerk's time, a fee of £450 (£25 per hour) could be charged. This rarely happens, more so in Town Councils.

ACTION: Clerk to put on website and mention where access could be gained to this document in parish magazine.

Newsletters from the school had not been forthcoming so there was nothing to report.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 9th DECEMBER 2008.

CHAIRMAN