



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 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  
Mr. K. Beard  
Mr. T. Hawthorne  
Mrs. S. Angel  
Mr. P Ramsay

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mrs. C. Thompson
- 2. MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2006 were signed as a true record.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:**
  - Hedge at 1 Green Cross** – Clerk read out e mails from Mrs. Gane saying that her and Mr. Chapman had not agreed that the October minutes were a true record regarding the issue of their hedge, and they wished to see changes. Clerk to write to Mrs. Gane and Mr. Chapman to say that the PC had discussed this and minutes were not a verbatim report of a meeting, but a précis, and the October and November minutes were considered a true and accurate record of what was said by all Councillors present at the meeting. It was felt that they were succinct and reported what had been discussed, and most of the content had been taken from Highways letters. Clerk to say that the Council now feel that the matter is closed as they had taken this issue as far as possible and that it was now in the hands of Mr. Hills and any regulatory authority ensuing.
  - Planning Southern Stables** - Clerk read out letter from LDC saying that the application had been refused because Highways had said that the entry and exit point of Ashurst Lane is substandard, and they could not recommend that any additional traffic should be permitted to use the lane. Clerk to write to Highways saying that there is more traffic on Boot Fair days, Race Days and vehicles and horse boxes constantly using the lane. Highways have said in the past that there was no problem with the access and exit of large vehicles coming out of the lane, and ensuing visibility problems, and the Council wonder why this application had been refused on the grounds stated above.
  - Highways** - Letter to Mr. Johnson regarding weight limit on white bridge (regarding lorries going to the Sandpit) had not been answered by Highways. Clerk to chase this up. Clerk to check that it is the design limit on the white bridge, and also to mention the possible limit on the Bevern Bridge.  
Clerk had written to all authorities (Network Rail, Southern, ESCC, ROW Footpaths) who could be responsible for the footbridge from East View Fields to the station, as there had been problems there including the gate which was hanging off its hinges. To date, no-one had accepted responsibility.  
Mr. Brooke, ESCC Highways had removed the gate as it was thought to be dangerous, but the gate was not an East Sussex County Council one.
  - Signs at Plumpton College** – No reply had been received.

**Plumpton Green Garage** – Clerk read out letter saying that the £15,268 to put towards recreation provision in Plumpton had not yet been received from the developer. The Council was asked to let LDC know if there was a particular project in mind, and how the project meets the objectives of the legal S106 agreement. Clerk to acknowledge this. Councillors discussed this and it was thought this money could be used to increase the size of the car park as it is overflowing, particularly at the weekends when the juniors have practise and matches at the playing field. Other ideas included a 5 aside pitch, netball pitch or updating the play area equipment. It is understood that under new EU regulations, there may be a requirement to update the equipment. Clerk to ask for a ROSPA report and find out if these rules apply.

**Sandpit** – Clerk had received a phone call from ESCC to say there was no planning condition to stop lorries coming from the south. If it was thought that the 7 ½ ton limit was breached, then the Police should be informed. Close observation should be kept on lorries going through the village and to report to ESCC, any incident that was thought to breach conditions.

**Village Green registration** – LDC Planning did not know if the Village Green had official status. Clerk had contacted ESCC and a form had been sent, filled in and returned to register the Green.

**Tennis Club road** – The work on the road has now been done.

**Action in Rural Sussex – affordable housing** – Clerk received e mail from Mr. Warder saying when PC wants further information, to contact him.

**Southern Water** - Clerk read out letter saying that the surface water sewer at Old School Cottages is listed as private. They do have a foul public sewer in Station Road which is their responsibility, and if this is causing a problem they would like to know about it. Mr. Ramsay said this sewer crosses the car park for Old School Cottages and this is the cause of the problem. Clerk to write to Southern Water to say this.

**Electrical Supply** – Clerk had telephoned EDF regarding the accounts which come the day after the meeting, so are not paid until the next meeting; red reminders are issued as the account is not settled within 28 days. EDF have arranged to alter the dates of issuing the account so that it can be paid at each meeting.

**Footpaths** – Clerk read out e mail from ROW Officer saying that there was no padlock on footpath Streat 13 when she inspected it, and she had not received any reports to say one had been put on. She would contact the landowner if one was put on to say that it should be unlocked or that the stile is repaired. It was not known who had repaired the stile on East Chiltington 6a; the stile was on the maintenance list also the replacement of the sleeper bridge and signpost, and this work would be done in the future.

Clerk to write to say that there was concern about the electric fence across the gate on Streat 13, as it was difficult to negotiate the fence with it there. The stile needs to be repaired, and the sign is missing. I

Mr. Speirs suggested that a walk round of footpaths may be a good idea at some stage to highlight problems and Clerk would contact ROW officer. Mrs. Akers said that she understood a local village had been supplied with a stile kit to repair stiles, and would it be possible for Plumpton to have one, as there would be volunteers who could help repair stiles if they had the kit. Clerk to ask ROW Officer about this.

**Trains – Southern** – Clerk read out letter from Southern saying that they had added some stops at Plumpton but they had complaints that this slows the service down. They are not intending to introduce any more trains. The Gatwick Express may be absorbed into the Southern timetable but this is being fiercely opposed by the airline industry. Clerk had also written to the County Council, who said that they had not statutory responsibility and had little control over train services. They would be happy to press for improvements to service coverage on the Haywards Heath to Lewes line section as and when circumstances permit. ESCC is formally responding to the Brighton Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy, which would be considering four options.

**Emergency Radio Scheme Survey** – Mr. Taylor read the letter regarding this and asked Clerk to write to LDC to say they had not been issued with any equipment; some had been borrowed for an exercise and had been returned.

**Parking at the School** – No reply had been received to the letter sent to the Headmaster. Mr. Speirs said he had received further complaints about congestion near the school, and some parents expressed concerns about parking dangers. Mr. Hawthorne said that a school travel plan could be implemented in the future. Clerk to write to suggest to the Headmaster that he met Mr. Speirs to discuss the issue.

**Parking at the Racecourse** – Mr. Speirs had spoken to Mr. Davis who said he was happy to help, but he did not think parking at the racecourse would resolve the situation. The distance would be 100 yards from the station and residents would have to go round the racecourse. He would have to check insurance and access issues. The PC did not think it would resolve the parking problem.

**Half Moon noticeboard** – Mr. Green had inquired why this was missing. Mr. Taylor said it had been taken away for repairs.

**Dog Bins** – These were not being emptied. Complaints had been received about the bin at the playing field, which was full the day after it should have been emptied. Mrs. Akers reported that the one in North Barnes Lane, and Westgate had not been emptied. Clerk had contacted LDC on many occasions. Clerk to write to LDC saying they were very dissatisfied with the service and that would hope for a refund in charges as the bins had not been emptied. Mr. Speirs would ask Mr. Davis if he would consider having a dog bin on the racecourse.

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

Mrs. Watson reported that the signpost at St. Helena Lane had been knocked down. Clerk to report this to Highways.

Mrs. Angel reported that there was a large pothole near the post box at the end of Barnfield. She reported that the pavement outside Old School Cottages had not been dealt with. Mr. Speirs had mentioned this on his walk round with Highways; Clerk to ask when this work would be done.

Mr. Ramsay reported that the extra rubbish was not being collected at the playing field. Clerk to ask Mr. Pook LDC for another bin, or a large wheelie bin to store the extra rubbish.

Mr. Ramsay pointed out the new facility on the website; residents can be advised that the website has been updated by e mail, if they request it.

Mr. Beard reported that the Horticultural Society were having problems with one of the pianos being in front of the society's cupboard. Mr. Taylor said he would try to move it.

Mr. Speirs reported that cars are using Station Close to turn round in; it was felt that this should be monitored.

Mr. Taylor reported that there is a large hole at the entrance road to Westcroft; Clerk to report this to Highways.

A discussion took place regarding what may need to be done at the Sports and Social Club in the next five years. Mr. Ramsay felt that not everyone uses the facilities of the club and the hall, and there should be provision for other facilities, such as a taxi service for those unable to get to the doctor.

Mr. Hawthorne said this would be looked at in the Action Plan.

Mr. Speirs said the maintenance for the Pavilion was ongoing and if a commercial rent was charged for hiring of the pavilion, voluntary labour would be withdrawn and most of the maintenance work that takes place there is done voluntarily. The Playgroup could not afford to run if a commercial rent was charged.

Mr. Speirs will talk to the clubs there to see what their views were about the ongoing situation and maintenance of the Pavilion.

- 5. VILLAGE HALL:** Mr. Taylor reported that new cupboards would be installed at the hall in February. The fire risk assessment had been done. The situation with Chubbs signs had been resolved.  
The lease for the use of the Scout Hut for Mr. Rothwell for his hairdressing business had now been altered, and this would be sent to the Solicitor.  
Mr. Taylor had spoken to Mrs. Donovan about the floor in the hall; she suggested that the extractor fan should be left on as the floor gets damp.  
The tennis table has been moved out of the hall.  
The hall is a no smoking venue.  
The fence near the twitten has not been repaired.  
Mr. Beard reported that the wind had blown a tree on the green and this needed a new stake.  
Mr. Taylor said that £180 had been charged by LDC for a new licence.  
The clock in the entrance hall was not working.
- 6. FINANCE:** The balances at the end of November were: Admin £7,597.10, Village Hall 9,096.47, Playing Field £11,351.64. The precept had been sent off.  
Northern Rock had sent notice of an increase in interest to 5%.  
The Parish Council deeds had been removed from Barclays Bank, Burgess Hill and are now lodged at Adams and Remers in Lewes along with deeds of the Hall. They do not charge to house the deeds, as the Bank had done.
- 7. PLAYING FIELD:** Mr. Speirs reiterated the problems with the dog bin at the Playing Field. The Football Club had paid £70 for the renewal of the licence for the Pavilion. The Play Group had planted a larger tree in the play area.  
Mrs. Akers asked why the new steps on a piece of equipment in the play area was painted white and that it looked out of place.  
There had been flooding on the tennis courts. Mr. Akers had taken pictures of this; the ditch gets blocked with twigs and leaves, and it was thought a solution may be a bigger pipe. Clerk to send pictures to the committee of the tennis club and ask them to contact Mr. Akers to discuss the situation.
- 8. PLANNING:** The following applications had been granted:  
LW/06/1229 Jenners Farm, Ashurst Lane. Erection of a 17.5 metre lattice telecommunications tower, with antennas, two equipment cabinets and ancillary development for T Mobile (UK) Ltd.  
LW/06/1257 Heath Farm, South Road. Conversion of outbuilding to one bedroom holiday let for Mr. Hawbury.  
LW/06/1226 9 Chapel Road. Single storey extension to kitchen for Mr. Canner.
- 9. VILLAGE CARE:** Nothing to report
- 10. FOOTPATHS:** Nothing to report.
- 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Train fares are to go up in January by 4 ½%. The station has been recently painted and looks very smart.
- 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Nothing to report
- 13. TREE WARDEN:** Nothing to report
- 14. VILLAGE ACTION PLAN** Mr. Hawthorne reported that there had been a recent meeting, and that the questionnaire was now being written.

**15. REPORT OF CLERK:** Clerk reported that Mr. Baker had not been able to attend the meeting, to discuss the problems at the Princess Royal Hospital, due to having to attend the House of Commons that evening. He sent an update on the future of the Princess Royal, which was passed round the Council and the most salient points read by the Clerk. Mr. Baker asked that the Council be made aware of a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm at Newick School regarding this issue, which he would attend, with Dr. Ashby and a member of the PCT.

Clerk presented to the Council: Achieve More magazine Autumn, Furniture Now leaflet, SVCSLC leaflet, FWAG magazine Autumn. Rural Voices Rural Choices meeting notes 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2006, South Downs View Nov/Dec 2006.

CHAIRMAN