



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER, 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
Mrs S Akers
2 Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES:

None.

2. MINUTES:

The Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November, 2007 were signed as a true record with the following amendments:
Under village care: should read 'opposite' North Barnes Lane.
Remove 'verges' from line 2 and insert posts to erected on the approach to the crossing. Under Water at Old School Cottages; this is a water problem not a sewage problem.
The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 1st December, 2007 were signed as a true record with the omission in 2. 'near the T junction'.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Highways – No reply had been received to the letters sent regarding Highway matters.

Riddens Lane – Mr Stevenson had sent a copy letter sent to Mrs Land explaining the issues that she had raised regarding the resurfacing of the lane.

Half Moon Junction – Clerk had received an e mail from Paul Smart. He had visited the junction and a mini roundabout was not suitable for this site. Mini roundabouts are only recommended as a junction treatment where 85th %ile are less than 35 mph. They are usually only implemented in areas which are subject to 30 mph speed limit and the B2116 is currently subject to national speed limit.
Street lighting would be needed. The approach to a mini roundabout requires a level of forward visibility to ensure drivers had adequate distance to safely react and stop to give priority; this site does not meet this requirement.
Clerk to write to Highways to ask what they can do, and consider a change of priority at the junction. The owner of The Old Post Office, who lives near the junction, was at the meeting and he had experienced driving on the wrong side of the road, it was a difficult junction to negotiate in the dark and there were often screeching tyres and horns blowing. Clerk to say that this junction was singled out in the Action Plan as being the most dangerous junction in the village.

Queens Award – Clerk had received a letter saying that SOCS is eligible for this award. Details of the next step in the nomination process had been sent to Mrs Nicholson to pass on to SOCS.

C and S Coaches - No reply had been received to letters. Clerk had contacted ESCC. They had replied to say that the coaches try to drive in a safe manner and are aware of the difficulties in small villages of driving a large vehicle past parked cars and down narrow roads. They were aware of the disruption that had been caused by the incident where the coach turned round in the road. Anyone observing problems with the coaches should get the number of the vehicles, dates and times of any incidents.

Signpost at South Road - Mr Fairbrass had contacted the Council to ask if the

signpost could be repaired. He had people enquiring at his house where Plumpton Green was. Clerk reported this to Highways.

Election Costs – Clerk had received a letter from LDC saying that these were being looked into and the account was not to be paid until this had happened.

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places: A letter had been sent from LDC regarding this, with proposed changes. There were no changes for Plumpton.

Transport: Clerk had received an e mail to say that the bus time tables had been replaced with the correct and updated time tables.

Millennium Fund - Mr Satchell had written a letter to say that the Council had misunderstood the purpose of the fund. It was set up to be an ongoing fund to support local people and organisations into the future; many village organisations had been given support; the fund does not support organisations who have regular fundraising activities of its own or have regular income from other sources. The Trustees feel that the original reasons for setting up the fund are still valid and therefore there are no plans for the fund to be wound up. Mr Speirs suggested that the Millennium Fund should be advertised in the Parish Magazine every three months, to inform people that money was available for organisations that come under the criteria.

Footpaths - Clerk read out e mails from ROW officer regarding a missing signpost on public footpath Plumpton 15 at Jenners Farm; a new signpost will be installed. Damaged stile on the path behind Drews Farm No 30; this path falls within the AONB and information had been passed to the South Downs Joint Committee who are responsible for the maintenance issues on paths within the AONB.

Tree Issues: Clerk had received an e mail from Mr Wynn, saying that he thought the issue of the oak tree at the Creamery had been solved. In fact the tree was on land at the Warren and Warren House; a planning application had been refused; there had been no mention of the tree being an obstacle to development.

Proposed new rear access to Seymour Cottage - Mrs Stewart Brown attended the meeting. Mrs Akers declared an interest, signed the book and took no part in the discussion. Mr Stewart Brown had sent in a letter to ask if he could create an access to the bottom of his garden which has a boundary onto the pedestrian footpath to West Gate. This would be to make an opening behind the garage, by way of one or two steps up from the footpath; this would enable him to provide alternative access to the neighbouring property which is currently accessed directly from his garden. The PC said they would support this in principle and would await comments from LDC Planning; Mrs Stewart Brown had contacted them to see if planning permission would be required. The Council would also have to consult their Solicitors and documents would have to be drawn up. Costs would have to be paid by the owner of the property. Clerk to write to Mr Stewart Brown giving him this information.

It was reported that there were two rails hanging down on the fence at the twitten; Clerk to contact Mr Westgate to repair this.

TPO's and Habitat Survey – Clerk to send document to Mr Wynn. Hopefully this would try to get TPO's put on trees, and that woodlands would be lodged with LDC. Mrs Nicholson said that it would be a good idea to have a link to the Habitat Survey group on the website. Clerk would ask Mr Green, and Mrs Nicholson would liaise with him.

Drainage – Mr Nicholson and Ms Anscombe from ESCC met to discuss the drainage problems near the Old Mill House, in response to issues being raised by the PC. The

action agreed by Highways would be: 1. jet the drains to the south. 2. aggregate would be laid along the western edge of the road near the drain to try and protect the road edge and prevent further traffic ingress onto the bank. 3. the drain on the western side of the road would be looked at with the possibility of building a concrete kerb to keep it clear; alternatively the existing setts would be re-laid at a higher level. 4. 'grips' along the easterly edge of the road would be cleared by Highways. The gullies along the east are the land owner's responsibility. 5. at entrance to drive approximately half the existing concrete sets would be lifted and re-laid. 6. setts to the north of driveway would be extended by approximately two setts to end of the small gully into the stream (landowner's responsibility). Also existing grilled gully too small to deal with overflow and should be changed (landowner's responsibility).
Clerk to write to Mr Frost to thank him for arranging this meeting.

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Mr Thompsett said that he heard that tyres had been dumped behind garages in Riddens Lane by someone operating breakdown services. He would let the Clerk know more details of this.

Bags to recycle textiles were available but Mrs Karen Beard was concerned that this may make people may use these instead of giving items to jumble sales. A paid advert would go into the parish magazine and Clerk to put in magazine article asking people to send their unwanted clothes to the village jumble sales.

Mrs Nicholson said that it appeared that there were lots of people interested in green issues, which had emerged as a result of the Village Action plan, and it was therefore likely that there would be sufficient support for a 'green bag' initiative with people paying around £2 a bag which would be 'for life'. Mr Patel said he would be willing to pay for these bags, but this would be a large outlay for him, and as this was an initiative for the village as a whole, Mrs Nicholson asked if the PC would contribute towards this. The Clerk said there was £90 remaining in the grants budget which would be given to this project. Mrs Nicholson expressed thanks for this and said she would also seek funding from the Millennium Fund.

Mrs Eastwood reported that there had been break ins in Wells Close and Chapel Road, and tools had been taken. Clerk to ask residents to be vigilant in parish magazine article. There were also reports of an alleged dog knapper as a dog had gone missing.

Mr Speirs reported that a tree near No 7 East View Fields had damaged the owner's greenhouse. Mr Speirs had arranged for Mr Symes to cut the tree to make it safe. Mrs Akers had checked that this was in the Bevernside area and Clerk had checked that this was covered by insurance.

Sandpit – Mrs Nicholson reported that, at long last, the hedge along Plumpton Lane had been cut. LDC and ESCC had been asked to monitor activities on site, but they said there was no budget for this. The committee were chasing the environment management plan. Mr Nicholson may have another meeting with Mr Baker MP. The PC felt that Mrs Stroude should be approached to request her support.

Action Plan – The results are out and teams are analysing data. The committee will look at issues with the highest priorities. A launch will take place at a later date.

Parking – This is getting worse and in the last few days has been very bad. A scheme in Horley has a yellow line down one side of the road with no parking between midnight and 10 am, and this seems to work there. It was thought it would be very difficult to police any scheme brought forward, and it was not sure what action could be taken in Plumpton. Council thought it would be better to wait until the results of the Action Plan were available and this would be discussed further.

5. VILLAGE HALL:

Mr Taylor reported that the ivy had been removed from the wall outside the hall. The lighting bars were up. The hall had been inspected by Mr Clarke LDC and everything was in order; an inspection would take place every two years.

- 6. FINANCE:** The balances at the end of November were Admin £7373.95, Village Hall "12,700.09, and Playing Field £8054.33. The rest of the funds had been taken from the Northern Rock account and this had now been closed. Christmas gratuities would be given to all the PC staff. Clerk had sent off for insurance quotes.
- 7. PLAYING FIELD:** The Percy Law seat inauguration had to be cancelled due to bad weather. It would be reorganised for another time.
- 8. PLANNING:** The following application was considered: LW/07/1442 Half Moon Inn, Ditchling Road, Plumpton. Installation of folding/sliding door to rear for Pancoun Moors Ltd. Pc approved this application – materials to match.
- 9. VILLAGE CARE:** The hedge near Shambles, beyond Rylands on the left hand side going south down Plumpton Lane needs cutting; this is preventing walkers getting past. Clerk to write to owners.
- HIGHWAYS:**
- 10. FOOTPATHS:** Mrs Nicholson had made a list of those areas needing attention and had provided photographs. Mrs Eastwood had spoken to the ROW officer about these. Clerk to send this list and photos referring to the conversation. Clerk had asked for information from a meeting on Rights of Way improvement on 4th December, and this had not been sent. Clerk to chase this up and ask if there will be any further meetings. Mrs Nicholson will look at a document that she believes came from this event. She would like this put on the agenda for the February meeting. Mrs Akers also asked if the 20 year rule could be put on the February agenda.
- 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** The senior rail card is going up by £4 in January 2008.
- 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Mrs Angel reported that there had been car crimes between 07/11 and 28/11 in Chapel Road, East View Fields and Wells Close; tools were stolen.
- 13. TREE WARDEN:** Mrs Akers had noticed blue tags saying Trees Matter, on trees at the Ridge. She had taken a sample and asked the Clerk to get some of these to put on trees in the village which should be avoided when areas are cut where there are young growing trees.
- 14. REPORT OF CLERK:** Clerk presented to the Council: NALC Parish and Town Council scheme, Feedback on proposed changes to the scheme, ESCC in touch, Homecall leaflet, FWAG magazine, Gopak leaflet, SOCS Autumn 2007 booklet, forms for Councillors courses, SALC Autumn Bulletin, train timetable, District Link, Glasdon Winter Edition, LDC Seedy Saturday.
- Appeal from St Peters and St James'; no further money available in the grant budget.
- News from the School: New people are needed on the Activity Scheme committee. A Morris Dancing workshop took place at the school; the school is trying to ensure teachers are available at the end of the day at the school gate to allow parents to discuss small issues and maintain positive communication between home and school.
- The Walking Bus is a success with 22 children participating. The school did well in Primary School League tables. 100% of children attained at least Level 4 in English, Maths and Science in the summer. The grounds have been improved; four new log benches have been created and installed.

CHAIRMAN