



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2008 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE PAVILION, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor Chairman
Mr K Speirs Vice Chairman
Mrs B Watson
Mrs K Wride
Mrs. C Eastwood
Mrs S Angel
Mrs S Akers
Mrs C Nicholson

I Member of the Public

APOLOGIES: Mr Thompsett

MINUTES: The minutes of a meeting held on 20th November, 2008 were signed as a true record with the following amendments: Page 4 Finance: after Mr Taylor: 'a fourth Councillor on the finance committee' ...who would rotate
Page 5: Village Hall after jumble sales '9 consecutive' – omit this year.

Mr Simmonds reported to the meeting that he had been experiencing problems with the parking in Station Road and East View Fields; he believe commuters who could not find a space at the station or playing field car parks were parking in East View Fields and residents were having difficulty to get in and out of their drives; delivery vehicles could not get past and the verges and kerb stones were being ruined; commuters use Plumpton station as there are no parking charges rather than going to Haywards Heath or Lewes. He suggested a charge system at the playing field and to allocate more spaces for commuters to use. Other areas causing parking problems are outside the village shop on the brow of the hill.

Mr Speirs said that this problem had been there for a long time and there is no easy solution. Policing car parking or collecting a charge at the playing field would not be easy as there is no-one available to do this. It was thought that parked cars in Station Road slow the traffic down.

Mrs Eastwood had a meeting with the Station Manager and his Manager about car parking and they suggested a voluntary contribution for those using the playing field park so this could go towards resurfacing the car park. It was thought Southern may make a contribution.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Southern to ask if any money would be forthcoming for this project. The PCSO would be contacted to ask her to keep an eye on cars parked in East View Fields blocking drives which may be commuter's cars.

MATTERS ARISING: Minutes of the following meetings had been circulated to all Councillors before the meeting:
Sandpit, Village Action Plan Steering Committee, Rural Voices Rural Choices, RVRC Sustainability Sub-Group, LDALP.

Telephone Box at Plough Bus Stop – This phone is still not working. The bus time table post had been knocked over.

ACTION: Clerk to contact BT again and report bus time table post to ESCC.

Insurance - PC had paid an extra premium to increase the Public Liability cover to £10m. The VAP team had been offered a Stand Alone Policy by Suffolk Acre.

Save Our Chemist – Meetings had taken place in Newick and points put forward were: the average GP surgery who dispense drugs earns over £20,000 more than GP's who do not.

The loss of 2300 patients receiving drugs looks very high for any pharmacy to accept and this could happen to Lloyds Pharmacy in Newick, if it had to withdraw would lead to a serious curtailment of the health facilities it offers; if fewer people were to use it, the other five small shops in the village could have their viability compromised.

Tree Survey – Mr Wynn had completed this and a report had been sent. Items in bold should be dealt with as soon as possible, and other recommendations were made on trees at the Hall, Playing Field and Bevernside. It was thought that some of the small trees at the hall could be dealt with by volunteers, but the majority of the work would have to be done by a tree surgeon, in stages, starting in the new year.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Chris Symes to quote for the immediate work required. Mrs Akers would look at the reports to see if any work could be done by volunteers.

Trains – Clerk had received information from various action groups and a 'e petition'. PC had sent letter to Southern saying they were disappointed they were not consulted. ACTION: Clerk to give details of e petition to residents in Parish Magazine, and to ask Mr Stone to put details of petition in Sussex Express and ask commuters to write to Southern.

Mr Speirs had spoken to the Station Manager; the Victoria service had improved and Mr Speirs felt that the PC should not get involved with a petition, though there was sympathy for those using London Bridge. The Station Master could not start a petition against his own employers.

Mrs Wride had spoken to the Station Manager and it was hoped that a meeting with Mr Baker, MP, the PC and Mr Hawthorne could be arranged.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr Baker requesting a meeting.

Mr Hawthorne had asked whether to go on his own in this campaign or with the PC.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Hawthorne what he could do.

Buses – Several problems had been reported and Clerk had contacted ESCC.

Busses were not stopping or not arriving at certain destinations in Haywards Heath and residents were left in the cold without transport and some had to pay expensive taxi fares to get back to Plumpton.

ACTION: Clerk to put ESCC contact details in Parish Magazine for residents to report problems direct to them, as it was felt this would add more weight to PC complaints.

Policing – Clerk had heard from Sgt Macdonald. He had partial success in his bid for officers on Friday and Saturday in rural villages, and extra officers would be patrolling the village.

Land Adjoining The Old Brickworks - Clerk had received acknowledgement of letter from Mr Baker MP. Advice had been taken from Planning Aid and letter had gone to Mr Frost LDC Planning asking for a response to the alleged misinterpretation of Part 6 Class A (h) of the GPDO 1995 planning acts, with regard to the planning application for the above area. He had responded and said the matter would be passed to the District Solicitor.

It was felt that the residents affected by this application and should move forward with their input into these complaints.

ACTION: Mrs Wride would speak to the residents concerned.

The Paddocks – No 3 had been vacated.

Road Closures: - Cuilfail Tunnel closed between 08m until 0600 13/12/08.

U5996 Spatham Lane level crossing: closed from 0100 on 11/1/09 until 0400 12/1/09.

Plumpton Lane sign: Clerk had asked LDC to put up a new sign at the Half Moon junction.

Parish Magazine: Clerk had received several e mails from Mr Stone and Mr Green in response to queries about the magazine article.

The website fee is not included in the editorial costs of the magazine; they are separate concerns. Mr Green only charges for the website hosting fee and domain name fee, which are costs incurred by him; he does not charge for his time spent on working on the site which is updating the site, communicating with the Clerk etc.

The magazine article for October has appeared in the December issue, the November and December articles will be in the January issue and the January article in the February issue. The February article will appear, along with March, in the April issue. A suggestion was made that maybe the PC meetings could be altered to the second Tuesday of the month.

A full page ad would cost £400 a year, and the Parish Council get almost that; the magazine is distributed free to all households.

PC did not want to change the dates of the meetings. Clerk suggested that she could report some of the answers she had received to queries from the previous month's meeting in the form of an article before the meeting,; this would be circulated to councillors to agree it, and submit to the editor to meet the deadlines of the magazine. Any items that arose after the next meeting could be reported the next month.

ACTION: It was decided to try this for six months to see how it goes.

Mud from Plumpton Garage site: Report of heavy lorries churning up grass strip opposite the development and footpath on Stream Cottage side has become very muddy.

ACTION: Clerk reported this to Director developer of this site.

Election Costs – Clerk had sent three e mails to Mr Leggo and had received no reply, also queries about the FOI Act.

TRUSTEES – Clerk had heard from Mr Taylor, Hedleys that the present arrangement for Trustees of the Hall was rather transparent and that if anything should go wrong on a day to day basis it is the Managing Trustees that are responsible. He recommended the same arrangement was put in place for the Pavilion.

Clerk had written with several queries including asking if £500,000 trustee liability cover was sufficient.

FOOTPATHS: The following reply from ROW.

Footpath 36 – kissing gate and waymarker being put in.

Footpath 17d – signpost will be put in

Footpath linking 17 to 15 – stiles are all safe, stable and usable, so landowner will not be contacted.

Footpath 8b – no signpost can be erected as this is not an official route.

Footpath 8a – a signpost will be erected.

ACTION: Clerk to ask ROW officer to ask for action to be taken on Footpath linking 17 to 15 and persue the erection of a sign at Footpath 8B as there used to be one there.

Parish Magazine – any resident can contact ROW if they have a footpath issue.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Salt bin in Southdowns is still in use, but the scoop is missing.

Mr Blencowe has been using his lollypop stick to scoop salt out!

ACTION: Clerk to thank Mr Blencowe for all his help and ask him to purchase a scoop and send the account to the Parish Council.

BUDGET - This was discussed further. Clerk recommended that PF and VH budgets remained the same as there would be tree work to be done in both areas, which could be expensive. She suggested that the costs for the tree survey should be shared by

each budget and that costs for tree surgery should be taken from the relevant budget. Mr Stratton LDC had reported that dog bin emptying costs could not be reduced or the amount they are emptied be reduced. PC decided that dog bins should remain for the time being, but PC should look into bins produced by Glasdon that take dog waste and general waste. Budget would remain the same as discussed at the November meeting, which was an increase of £4319. ACTION: Clerk to enquire about pricing of these bins and ask Mr Stratton if LDC would empty them and if there would be an extra cost as the bins may be sited in areas where the present dog bins are. Clerk to submit precept amount of £30,631 to LDC Finance. This was proposed by Mr Speirs and seconded by Mrs Eastwood. All Councillors were in agreement. Clerk to explain reasons why extra precept has been necessary; election costs, dog bin emptying, vandalism, tree work etc, in the parish magazine.

SANDPIT - Mrs Nicholson: Issues arising from Minutes sent to all Councillors were:

1. Mr Nicholson had sought confirmation from Mr Patterson of ESCC regarding the Conservation Management Plan 'which for the Eastern extension is subject to such a monitoring programme on completion of the restoration which could be from 2017 (10 years from the commencement of operations) thereby taking it to 2022; a management committee is to be set up.
2. The Waste and Minerals Local Plan from 2011 is being worked on by ESCC; the crucial dates are September 2009 for consultation on a preferred strategy document and February 2010 for consultation on a proposed submission by ESCC to Government. It is during these periods that East Chiltington and Plumpton will need to be vigilant and ensure that they contribute to the consultation. Mr Nicholson indicated to the meeting that he may need to call on expert legal advice; representatives from East Chiltington undertook to request from their PC that a reserve of at least £250 be set aside for a 'defence' fund.

EMERGENCY PLAN - Clerk had done work on this, obtaining a model from ESCC and LDC, and adapting it for Plumpton. Co-ordinator (Mr Taylor) and Deputy Co-ordinator (Mr Speirs) was appointed and designated areas in an emergency were expected to be: Hall, Pavilion, School, Church and Annexe, School, Plumpton College, Station Waiting Room. A cascade telephone system would have to be put in place, and whether residents with specific skills would be asked to join the PC team. A list of supplies had been suggested, and this will be looked into, and what alternative forms of communication could be used if telephone lines were not suitable. A list of potential emergencies were in place, with the inclusion of a major train disaster because of the proximity of the station. This would be discussed further at the January meeting. ACTION: Clerk to ask LDC if there would be any funding for supplies.

Mrs Wride: Update on Slow Down Scheme proposed at last month's meeting and VAP Road Safety Team and inter-parish Vale of Sussex Society; all working together on the project and Councillors from other parishes would be taking proposals to their councils to see if they wanted to sign up. This is a voluntary scheme asking drivers to pledge to drive slower through villages and rural lanes; stickers would be for cars and lanes would have discreet signage designating them as safe lanes for cyclists, riders and walkers. Mrs Wride produced an initial design for the car stickers. Mrs Stroude had sent a flyer to residents saying that she is putting traffic calming in Plumpton and the safety of Half Moon junction high on the ESCC agenda. A meeting has been arranged with Mr Whittington (VAP), Mrs Stroude, Mrs Wride and another Vale of Sussex member in the new year, and are asking for Mrs Stroude's support for the voluntary traffic calming scheme and the speed limit of the top and bottom sections of Plumpton Lane to be reduced to 40 mph.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of November were Admin £3431.91, Village Hall £8412.04, Playing Field £8298.19. The Council agreed to give the three Council employees Marks and Spencer vouchers as a Christmas present.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Nothing further to report.

HIGHWAYS

Mrs Wride said that a change of priority scheme was in place in Lewes in West Street, so why couldn't a similar scheme be in place at the Half Moon.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Johnson if this could happen – copy to Mrs Stroude.

Mr Taylor said Mr Hills had offered to buy a mirror for the Half Moon junction if Highways would erect and maintain it. Mr Johnson had said in the past that a mirror would not be allowed, unless it was on private property, but it was thought worthwhile asking Mr Johnson again.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Johnson.

Pothole outside Wells Chase.

Lines in the turning area opposite the Winning Post; this work has not been done.

Parents to be asked not to park there, as it is causing a problem with the school crossing.

ACTION: Mrs Eastwood would produce some flyers to give to parents asking them not to park in the turning area.

There has been extensive work on the B2116 south of Novington and this has been left unfinished for some time. There are two holes and a drain cover is missing and no top cover.

The drains opposite Rylands, and south of Rylands are blocked.

ACTION: Clerk to report the above to Highways.

A child was hit by a car whilst reversing in Southdowns. Cars are parked inconsiderately in Southdowns during start and finishing times of school.

ACTION: Clerk to put in parish magazine please do not park in Southdowns, but park elsewhere not on the corners of roads, by the bridge or on pavements.

ENVIRONMENT **Footpaths/Trees**

Mrs Nicholson: ESCC ROW had now finished the survey in Plumpton and the whole area would be surveyed by the end of April 2009. Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Akers would meet with the ROW manager to look at some of the more strategic issues for future maintenance of the mapping and condition reports. ROW were interested in looking at disabled access for some footpaths.

Mrs Akers asked if the new salt bin could be located on the other side of East View Fields as if there was to be a flood, all the salt would run down into the stream.

Chalk had been obtained to put down in a certain area at Percys Patch, which had been successful in keeping the mud down. Mrs Akers asked if it was possible to obtain more chalk; she would make enquiries.

POLICING AND **NWATCH**

It was hoped that there would be extra policing for rural villages. Sgt Macdonald had attended a meeting and there were to be police patrolling the West Gate area during the evening.

PCSO Whittaker Jones would just be patrolling in Plumpton in future, and not other villages as before.

Crime reported in Plumpton area:

Bread had been stolen from outside the village shop on 27th November.

Yaris car front bumper stolen from Chapel Road.

Front bumper of Daihatsu stolen on Haywards Heath Road, North Chailey; there maybe a link to other Daihatsu parts stolen in Plumpton

Acid substance poured over car in Southdowns between 7pm 5/12 and 9am 6/12.

Wrought iron cockerel stolen from garden in Station Close.

Scams reported: Distraction burglary; individuals posing as Sussex Police, gain entry and ask where valuables are kept.

Telephone investment scams. Text messages warning people that a large parcel is awaiting delivery – only results in large phone bill.

Newspaper article Anti-crime scheme – residents of Plumpton and surrounding villages Encouraged to join scheme; personal possessions can be registered and recorded on a secure data base which the police can use to catch criminals and prosecute.

ACTION: Clerk to put contact details in Parish Magazine www.immbolise.com

PLANNING:
HOUSING

The following application had been refused: LW/08/1177 Plumpton Wood, Beresford Lane, Plumpton . Application for single storey cabin.
The following application was considered: LW/08/1311 Plumpton College Addition to forge workshop to incorporate boiler extension for Plumpton College.
The Parish Council approved this application with the following conditions:
PC would like to know what emissions are coming from the chimney of the boiler house because of previous problems with fumes coming over to Plumpton Lane area with the prevailing wind to the south west.
PC did not want this building increased in size any further.
It was thought that there has been too much building work and expansion at Plumpton College in the last few years.
ACTION; Clerk to write to Mr Lambert asking if it was possible to have a five year plan of expansion for the College.
Mrs Akers asked about the setts on the new driveway at Railway Cottage as she had been asked by a resident about this; would similar setts be on the road leading to the new development on the old garage site.
ACTION; Clerk to look at conditions of planning consent for both applications.

VILLAGE HALL:

Village Hall main hall floor to be sanded and re-sealed in August 09. A new control has been fitted to a fan. Committee were pleased to agree to all jumble sales.
Footpath round the main road part of the hall area is owned by the PC. It is not proposed to do any work on this at the moment.
The telephone will not be replaced at the moment.

PLAYING FIELD:

A skip is outside the Pavilion for this use only. A Band Evening raised approximately £500 for playing field funds. There will be a Fun Day on 28th June, 2009. The location of the proposed netball/basketball court was discussed but a location had not been decided on. Discussions would take place in the future with the PC and users of facilities to see where was the best place to site this.

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere

Plumpton Goes Green – Development of full project plan for Historic Landscape Characterisation. – Steering Committee agreed to this.
Permission asked to talk to Newick PC about recycling of cardboard. This was agreed.
VAP had approached Clubs and Societies about more publicity. A Societies and Hobbies Day was arranged for 19th April, 2009.

Mrs Watson asked if VAP were looking at transport to Ditchling surgery as it cost a lot to get there by taxi.

Mrs Eastwood said she felt the PC was at risk of losing its identity, as there were sometimes not very clear lines between which organisation, the PC or VAP were doing about certain issues, and this was a cause for concern. A clear definition should be made about what the PC does, and what the VAP does.
Mrs Nicholson said that the two should work together.

REPORT OF CLERK

Clerk presented to the Council: FWAG Autumn and Winter Newsletter, Glasdon Local Council Products brochure, AIRS Newsletter.

News from the school: A Music Recital had taken place. More goodies were needed for the hampers; the Big Sing took place on 2nd December; the PPTFA School Grounds Committee had been awarded £4000 from the Royal Bank of Scotland's Supergrounds Grant Scheme; Kids Go Green competition run in conjunction with the Eden Project and could win up to £8000 for school grounds; a Carol Singing Event would take place on 18th December starting at 6pm at East View Fields and working their way through the village.

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 13th JANUARY, 2009

CHAIRMAN