



MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 8TH DECEMBER, 2009 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE
ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor Chairman (RT)
Mrs. C Eastwood (CE)
Mrs S Angel (SA)
Mrs K Wride (KW)
Mrs S Akers (SAA)
Mr R Stone (RS)
Mr T Thompsett (TT)
Mr K Speirs
Mr P Nicholson
Mrs D Westgate
Mr O St John
Mrs J Russell

APOLOGIES: Mrs B Watson (BW) Mr S Green (SG)

MINUTES: The minutes of a meeting on 10th November, 2009 were signed as a true record. The minutes of a meeting on the 21st November, 2009 were signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: Comments were invited from these. Notes on current legislation from SALC and NALC websites were sent to Councillors.

Waste and Minerals Core Strategy: Mr Nicholson had responded to this on behalf of the PC. It included that no further land should be allocated for primary aggregation production at the strategic site at Stantons Farm, which is the only soft sand extraction site in the county; it was agreed that the policy of privatisation of minimum development where no other acceptable adverse impact would be demonstrated within the SDNP and ANOB sites. Weight limits are not enforced and the operator is ineffective in this area. Mr Nicholson was thanked for his work on the submission by RT.

Funding for Business Plan AiRS were unable to help with funding for this.

Anchor – Using Village Hall for ‘safe environment’ for their services – no reply had been received.

Barclays Bank - TT now able to sign cheques. Letter from BB saying that the mandate was up and running which indicate that they had all the forms all along!

Dual Purpose Bins - This was being looked into by LDC.

Extra PCSO - Ringmer reported that they pay 0.4 for a second PCSO; this represents £3000 for 0.1 of the service you procure from the Police Authority. This cost represents nearly 13% of their total annual budget.

Pit Stop - Mr Baker MP and Mr Hawthorne had been informed of this situation. LDC Legal had not been able to track down the owners from several Probate and Land Registry Offices in the area. Mr Frost LDC Planning said that the only way was to

make the building safe (under powers relating to Dangerous Structure) and that Planning may consider tidying up the site and retrieving the costs at a future date from any owners that come to light. This decision would have to be taken by the full Cabinet of LDC.

Container in Riddens Car Park – LDC reported that they were undertaking redecoration of external and communal areas of their properties in that area.

Accidents - Mr Bex reported a serious accident at Beresford Lane and asked that the PC 'stirred up Highways' about the danger of the junction. There had also been an accident on the B2116 with fire crews, ambulances etc attending. Clerk had written to Mr Johnson Highways regarding this.

Speed Data - Linda Sawyer ESCC had sent data from December 2002 Plumpton Lane outside Townsend Cottage and January 2003 Station Road north of the crossing. ESCC are willing to carry out surveys at a cost of £250.00 plus VAT for a 7 day speed survey.

Chaos in Village - Mr St John reported an incident on 18th November when a Lendis lorry was tangled up with a school bus and a builders van; it was suggested that deliveries should take place away from rush hour and vans could park in Riddens Lane.

Rubbish next to churchyard at Plumpton College - A further report had been received from Mr Collins who had not received a reply to his letter about the rubbish near the churchyard from Plumpton College; he had chased this up. He subsequently reported that the rubbish had been cleared.

Network Rail - NR have now said that they are planning to convert the crossing to full lifting barriers in 2011 as it is difficult to maintain and resource spare parts for the existing gates. The CCTV cameras and strips placed at the station were for a census carried out in September. Clerk had contacted NR and LDC Planning responded to PC that they were aware of the proposed works and had been consulted by NR. The signal box and station are listed, but not the gates in their own right. LDC planning said they would consider listing the gates as curtilage listed structures because of their ancillary association with the listed building, and are of special interest and their loss will be resisted. LDC Planning advised PC to contact NR; they do have certain permitted development rights which would mean they would be exempt from the need to apply for planning permission, though they would not be exempt from listed buildings and any curtilage listed buildings and structures.

Signs - No Cycling Riddens paths– These signs had now been erected.

Skateboard area - Clerk had received letter from LDC Environmental Health saying that they were in the process of establishing whether local residents are suffering a statutory nuisance from noise from the skateboard equipment. If there is an unreasonable level of noise, LDC will issue an Abatement Notice under Section 80 on PPC. An estimate for £3124 for new sound deadening sheets from eibe was enclosed with LDC letter.

Clerk was requested to contact LDC Legal about this matter.

The above item was discussed further; Clerk reported that LDC Legal said that PPC could request a disclosure under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 of the final assessment made on the noise nuisance from LDC EH.

ACTION: Clerk to write to LDC EH and ask for results of assessment before considering any noise deadening measures.

AGENDA ITEMS

Road Safety Strategy - PC had met prior to the meeting (SG was present at this part of the meeting) and a road safety and highways strategy had been formed. A copy was given to Mr St John VAP RST team leader. Strategy objectives would cover speeding, parking, highways and policing. More discussion would take place on this document, and it would be ratified at the January 2010 meeting.

Mr St John asked if 'yellow road markings' on draft strategy document could be changed to 'road markings' as Highways had said that yellow lines were very difficult to obtain at a recent SLR meeting.

RS said that if this was left as it stood, it could also be altered at a later date.

BUSINESS PLAN – SAA said that the first meeting had taken place with RS and SG and herself, and the plan would be produced along the same vein as Hassocks; it would include areas to work on, as set out in the PC Agenda. Bullet points would be avoided. Targets for the various areas would be looked at and items discussed at the first meeting included, drop in clinics, alternative sites for allotments, more bulb planting, signage, road safety, Village Design Statement and increasing PC reserves. Another meeting was planned for the 17th December, 2009. Funding for plan would be looked into. One preliminary quotation was 24 pages A5, full colour, 1000 copies £500. ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr Hawthorne for any advice on other areas of funding

SAA presented the SOCS Newsletter for Councillors to read.

SANDPIT - Mr Nicholson reported that he had visited the site and things were very quiet, there was no dust problem and the pit was full.

KW said that she had noticed that comments about a possible landfill area in Streat had been 'hidden' in the Waste and Minerals Core Strategy document; she felt that other areas including Plumpton could be next on the list and asked if comments could be added to the submission already sent in. Mr Baker MP and the VOS are organising a public meeting in Chailey during the first week of January, and any further comments from the PC could be added to Mr Nicholson's comments; these had to be in by the 15th January, 2010.

PRECEPT ARRANGMENTS - The budget had been finally agreed at £36,121 for the financial year 2011-2012. This was proposed by RS and seconded by KW – all Councillors agreed to this. Clerk to submit this figure to LDC Finance.

VALE OF SUSSEX SOCIETY - Nothing to report.

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARDS - RS letter saying VAP were planning to erect several noticeboards to enable clubs and societies to advertise their events. These would be erected near the Half Moon, Village, the Garden at the Fountain and entrance to the Playing Field. ESCC had rejected a request for one near the oak tree by the Plough. ESCC Highways were happy with all other sites. VAP formally requested permission from PC to erect a board on the green adjacent to Belmont. VAP would ask all societies for a £20 contribution towards the boards; these would be erected and maintained by the VAP and there would be no cost to the PC.

RS and SAA declared an interest in this subject, as they are both members of the VAP Communications team; they signed the Declaration of Interest Book and took no part in the discussion.

CE asked what happens if the VAP ceases, would they be left for the PC to maintain? RS was asked to check insurance cover for the boards.

TT proposed that a board be put up on the green adjacent to Belmont, seconded by KW. All Councillors, except SAA and RS who were not allowed to vote, were in agreement.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS - KW asked about the red telephone box on Station Road, as she had read that several Councils were purchasing theirs. It was thought the cost of maintenance of the boxes could be onerous and PC had decided not to purchase the box.

ACTION: Village Parish Pump Sussex Express and Middy columns and parish magazine to ask if anyone in the village felt strongly about keeping the telephone box.

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of November, 2009 were: Village Hall £6353.91, Admin £8035.75, Playing Field £18,835.84.

Christmas vouchers were given to Parish Council staff. PC thanked by staff. Clerk had registered for on-line submission of PAYE forms.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

KW reported that there are several public transport strategies out for consultation at the moment. There is one for buses from ESCC, the December 2010 train timetable from Southern, and ESCC local transport plan. SAA suggested that KW sent all councillors her responses on behalf of the PC by e mail. KW felt that the village as a whole do not have access to these consultation documents, and asked if notices could be erected to inform the public who to respond to if they wished. It was agreed to put notices in the shop, in the press columns, and other noticeboards.

ACTION: Clerk to request that ESCC send any details of consultations to her so these can be published.

KW reported that Mr Baker MP had done a lot of work on train issues, meeting with Lord Adonis and the Managing Director of Southern which had resulted in Southern considering an extra train stopping at Plumpton at 47 minutes past the hour all day. Southern were also considering extra carriages on the 1847 from Victoria and it was hope that there would be more trains from London Bridge at rush hour.

ACTION: Clerk to write to thank Mr Baker MP for all his hard work, and ask if he would lobby for an extra rush hour direct train from London Bridge.

Further discussion took place on the crossing gates: KW suggested a public meeting as this was an emotive subject, and this was agreed. Mr Speirs said that he felt very strongly about the gates, and thought the untruths that had been told by Network Rail, denying that that there was anything other than routine maintenance taking place at the station, were intolerable. The gates were of historical interest (he had a sheet produced by Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society saying that the signal box, crossing keepers cottage and gates had been listed in 1986).

He said one of the main issues was that the crossing was near the playing field which a lot of children use; no-one would wander across the line with the existing gates, but there would be no protection with the new barriers. It was thought a sign 'keep off the line' would have to be erected.

RT said that PC had fought the problem of replacing the gates for two years several years ago, and as a result they had not been replaced.

Mrs Russell asked if there had been any comments from Highways as there was no time for motorists to be aware that the gates were crossing when coming from the south passed the racecourse on the bend.

RT said that there has to be a statutory space of metres to warn people. Had Highways been consulted about the vision from south due to the bend?

All Councillors were in agreement to ask LDC Planning to list the gates as ancillary to the listed buildings (station and signal box).

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Morris LDC to ask for listing, and enquire if Highways had been consulted. Councillors felt that they wished to contact LDC first before going to Network Rail which is what LDC had suggested.

HIGHWAYS

Clerk requested to enquire from LDC the figure for policing as part of Council Tax. Mr St John requested Clerk contact Highways to ask if the signs indicating highway maintenance near the 30 mph repeater signs by station and Drews Farm are removed as the work has been completed.

KW said that another vehicle had gone into the bollards near Novington Manor on the B2116 and these had been replaced. It was thought that the owner of the property should be asked to rebuild the verge.

It was thought that Novington Manor was in East Chiltington Parish.

ACTION: Clerk to contact EC Clerk.

KW said she had received complaints of residents parking on pavements, near the Fountain and other areas. RT said it was illegal to park on the pavements.

ACTION: Clerk to ask PCSO to look at this problem.

Clerk contacted by Mr and Mrs Hopkins requesting signs designating the borders of Plumpton village. This would be discussed at the next SLR meeting.

Mr Nicholson reported the poor state of the verge by the racecourse gates and The Warren. The verge at the racecourse had been reported before but this was not Highway land, and it was unclear who owned it.

ACTION: Clerk to write to owners of The Warren to request that the builders that have been working there make good the site; copy to Highways.

ENVIRONMENT

CE said that she had attended the Habitat Society AGM and discussion had taken place regarding keeping certain verges around the parish as meadows; four had been identified, (including two by the Half Moon and one down St Helena Lane) CE said she would send the details to councillors about these, and work with Highways to ensure these were not cut when verges were routinely cut; this would be discussed further at the SLR meeting. A catalogue of the flowers in the area at the playing field would be done.

FOOTPATHS:

A complaint had been received from Mr Carden about the footpath at the station which is continuously overgrown, and flooded, particularly at the moment. SAA said that this path is always an issue. It is a public footpath but believed to be owned by Network Rail.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Network Rail and copy to ROW. CE would contact Mr Carden.

KW reported that there had been a meeting with representatives of the VOS, VAP and South Downs Joint Committee. A footpath map, computer generated had been produced for another parish, and it was thought this could be useful for lots of things, and a copy could be put on the website.

ACTION: Clerk to ask for several copies of the East Sussex Definitive Rights of Way map from ESCC ROW.

PLANNING AND HOUSING

The following applications have been granted:

LW/09/1003 The Warren, Plumpton Lane. Enlarge of dormer window at side (amendment to LW/08/0023) and erection of a two storey detached dwelling with detached double car port.

LW/09/0981 Hackmans Farm, Plumpton Lane. Erection of livestock building.

POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SA reported warnings from Sussex Police and Trading Standards of a scam involving phone calls for collection of parcels, and then requesting a fee;

Act Sgt Theelke had recently been the Sussex nominee for the National Community Police Officer of the Year award; he did not win but his service was commended.

There has been a sharp rise in vehicle damage; 40 cars were damaged in one night in Ringmer. End of October crime figures: 304 fewer victims, 72 fewer car crimes, 262 fewer damage reports, 92 fewer victims of violent crime.

PCSO Julie Whittaker Jones is back on part time work in the office.
Police have issued posters re skateboarders using roads and pavements; these are situated at the shop, PC noticeboard and skateboard area.
Sgt Arnold has joined Lewes Police Station; he may be able to do speed gun training in the Plumpton shortly.

Clerk contacted Sgt Theelke about accident report forms; he had asked what items should be on the form, and Clerk had responded.

VILLAGE HALL:

ESCC had sent a plan of the village regarding the application to register land as village green and asked if the area of the green could be marked on the plan. RT marked the plan.

RT reported that the committee were looking at replacing the acoustic panels. The kitchen would be refurbished with an estimated cost of £17,000 to completely refurbish it. It would not be done all at the same time, and was a long term project. The Pantomime Society had asked about the stage lighting and more work was to be done. TT said that more quotes were needed for the kitchen refurbishment.

The grass cutting contract was due to expire next year, and it was thought that the grass cutting and the gardening could be split into separate contracts.

The first jumble sale of 2010 would be held on 30th January, 2010.

The suggestion from Mr St John for a barrier to be put on the edge of the stage had been discussed by the committee, but they had decided not to proceed on this.

Some card tables were to be replaced.

PLAYING FIELD:

TT reported that instructions had been given to Drivepoint to carry out the work. Clerk to write to Mr Westgate accepting his quotation for fencing.

Repairs had been carried out to the changing room floors.

Litter problem remains though less due to darker evenings.

Play Area inspection took place and there is some work to do; it is anticipated this will be done while the basketball court is being constructed or shortly afterwards.

Skateboard area: Letter received from Environmental Health LDC regarding statutory nuisance from noise caused by apparatus. Discussed in other areas of the minutes.

Confirmed Pavilion is on a water meter and ways in cutting consumption are being looked into.

Mrs Barrell has held an inaugural meeting with users of the Pavilion to consider everyone's requirements; these discussions will be ongoing.

Hiring rate for outside parties is to be based on charges for the small hall at the Village Hall.

The problem with older children using the skateboard is still occurring. There has also been people seen going down to the tennis club during dark hours.

ACTION: Clerk to ask PCSO to keep an eye on both areas.

Fields in Trust had sent details of Sport England Sportsmatch Programme who are resuming their grant making activities which will take place in 2010/11; these are grants awarded for projects that encourage sports participation at grass roots level.

COMMUNICATIONS

CE asked if Councillors would like to write brief summaries of meetings they attended on behalf of the Council – only a short report would be needed. Councillors said they would be willing to do this.

VAP – any items not covered elsewhere

Team Leaders Reports and summary of newly reported activities had been sent to all Councillors.

Mr Hawthorne had sent details of the VAP Plumpton Goes Green who had attended an AiRS meeting with groups of interested people within the communities in the Ouse valley and had expressed an interest in bidding for funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Low Carbon Challenge Grant Scheme; AiRS had merely

registered an expression of interest in this scheme and the deadline for the bid is 30th December. PC understood that this scheme could be helpful in Plumpton.

KW said she had noticed a reference to 'Low level lighting solutions' in the VAP report, and asked what this meant. She was told that this was just to get people's opinions at the present time.

KW asked about the proposal to expand the car park at the playing field with the held of Mr Baker MP also mentioned in the report; this would go through the VAP Steering Committee before being presented to the PC.

SAA was asked about the section in the report referring to EU funding for the improvement of existing footpaths for the less able, as this had not been discussed at a PC meeting; SAA said she had been invited to a VAP meeting about this, but was unable to go, and she had not heard any more.

TT said that the Festive Fair had been a great success, it had been well organised and well attended.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council: Burleys Catalogue, Glasdon brochure, SMP brochure, Your County, Clerks and Councils direct, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee December, 2009, LCR Winter edition, South Downs Joint Committee Annual Review 2008-2009.

The plaques had been received and Mr Taylor would erect them next to the trees planted in memory of Mr Keith Moorhouse and Mrs Foye Ridley..

News from the School: A new cycle shelter had been installed. The Poppy Appeal raised £4.98. The Rainbow Room had been painted. Change4Life Snack Swappers Wheels had been given to children which is designed to show healthy options to sugary, salty or fatty snacks. Plumpton Activity Scheme: Waitrose of Lewes has chosen this scheme as one of its charities for the whole of November.

Clerk asked by KW to request PC choose a date for Village Update. SAA said the business plan would probably not be ready for launch in February, and that this event should be postponed until later in the spring.

Chairman

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 5th JANUARY, 2010.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN MINUTES:

SDNP – South Downs National Park
LDC – Lewes District Council
ESCC – East Sussex County Council
VOSS – Vale of Sussex Society
EA – Environment Agency
LCR – Local Councils Review
ROW - Rights of Way
MOP – Member of the Public
SLR – Strengthening Local Relationships
VMT – Village Maintenance Teams
VAP – Village Action Plan
RST – Road Safety Team
PCSO – Police Community Support Officer
SID – Speed Indicator Device
SALC – Sussex Association of Local Councils
AirS – Action in Rural Sussex
NR – Network Rail
EH – Environmental Health