



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2010 AT 7.30 PM, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

**PRESENT:**

Mr R Taylor Chairman (RT)  
Mrs B Watson Vice Chairman (BW)  
Mrs. C Eastwood (CE)  
Mrs K Wride (KW)  
Mrs S Akers (SAA)  
Mrs S Angel (SA)  
Mr T Thompsett (TT)

Mr T Hawthorne (TH)  
Mr P Nicholson  
Mrs Wells  
Mrs Massingdale  
Mr Chauan  
Mr Charles  
Dr Parry

Mr L Rowe LDC Housing  
Mr T Warder AiRS Affordable Housing

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr R Stone

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 were signed as a true record.

The Minutes of Planning meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June were signed as a true record.

New Councillor: Two candidates had put themselves forward for Councillor, Mr Paul Nicholson and Mr Ian Earl. Paper votes were completed and handed to the Clerk who counted them; Mr Earl was elected Councillor, and the result was verified independently by Mrs Wells. Mr Earl would start his service at the PC meeting in September; all relevant paperwork was sent to him, for him to sign and present at the meeting in September.

Mr Hawthorne said he was disappointed that the PC had gone into committee at the last meeting to discuss the request from LDC for a response to the LDF. Clerk explained that three councillors had requested that this issue was discussed briefly in committee before the draft was produced and submitted for ratification at the current meeting. PC decided to request a Housing Needs Survey and asked the Clerk to request this from AiRS and LDC. These details had been fully reported in the Minutes of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

Mr L Rowe LDC and Mr T Warder AiRS attended the meeting to talk about Affordable Housing.

Mr Warder (TW) said that there had been several studies done on the need for affordable housing; the housing stock was dwindling and affordable housing was a problem in rural areas; it appeared to be income based and it was thought that those who were affected were

children by the potential breakup of family networks and the elderly. He said that his role was to educate what AiRS are trying to do, through housing needs surveys which go out to parishes, number crunching then follows, and it identifies those out there who need affordable housing.

The surveys should indicate:

- a) What level of support there are for small developments
- b) How many people need affordable housing
- c) How to meet that need.

AiRS would work with Parish Councils, Planning Officers and eventually a specialist rural housing person who could draw up a list of potential sites.

Exception sites were those outside the planning boundary. These sites could be granted planning permission if a local need was established for 100% affordable housing, for the local community, to be built on them.

KW Under the LDF, can these be brown or green field sites?

SAA asked for a clarification of 'local connection'.

TW Under S106 agreement this would include people who have currently lived in the Parish for five years – previously lived in the Parish – close connection with their family who live in the village – work in the village.

Exception sites are usually made up of maximum 14 units but can range from 4-14, depending on the level of need. If 25 people were in need of housing, then about half the units would be provided.

If there were vacancies in such housing people with local connection could have them, they cannot be left empty, and if no one can be found, a cascade mechanism would be put in place.

SAA – Not all those in the social housing on West Gate site have connections with the village. Could the 14 units be part of another development?

LR – these would usually be 1 or 2 bedroom flats, some would be 3 bedrooms and a small number 4 bedrooms.

Mr L Rowe (LR) All PC's received a letter asking if they wanted to know more about housing needs.

CE – Results of the survey may not be 100%.

TW – the idea is to work in partnership; to be successful, all parties need to be working together, and should be community lead.

LR – we would take a look at who was on the housing register.

KW – can the PC have a list of those on the Housing Waiting list?

LR – people usually express an interest in five areas in which they wish to live. There are 13 people currently that have requested Plumpton as their choice.

MOP – were they previous residents of Plumpton?

LR – not necessarily.

KW – have these put Plumpton as their first choice? How can you prove that they have a connection with Plumpton? Is that a question asked on the Housing Waiting List form?

LR – not at the moment.

MOP – how does that compare with other villages?

LR – it depends on what the form said for individual villages.

KW – If people need affordable housing they will need to join the housing waiting list by filling in the Housing Needs Survey form – are they not counted twice then?

LR - the numbers would not be added together.

TW - there are usually about 10-20% of people who want affordable housing who are already on the Housing Needs Register.

CE – can you build outside the planning boundary

TW – it has to be close, not far away from it. Exception sites, if on agricultural land, usually attract less value; slightly more is paid if these are sites for affordable housing – keeps it viable.

CE – once building has started on these sites for affordable housing, can more be built in the future.

LR – it would be a long time before these sites would be looked at again – Barcombe has two sites joined together now and it looks good.  
SAA – have any areas in Plumpton village been identified?  
LR – No.  
MOP – who runs the HNS surveys?  
TW - AiRS.  
MOP – how are you ensuring you are reaching everyone – I attended a meeting and only two families had received the survey, how can you check this?  
TW – they have been publicised by the PC, on posters, in the press and magazine. They are sent to every household on the Council Tax list. The usual response to HNS are around 20% - 40%.  
MOP – I would say a base analysis of 14% - which is very valuable – more valuable to get as many sent in. There are concerns that not many people will respond.  
TW – some will look at it and are not interested, and some are dead against it. Whatever can be done locally to encourage people to fill them in is important. Lots of surveys only get a 5% return.  
KW – In the parish magazine it says if you don't receive a survey, contact the Clerk.  
BW – they were sent to the occupier and this puts people off and they will just dump it.  
MOP – how do control and track the responses? How do you know they are valid, could they be duplicated?  
TW – they are asked to return them with their name on – this is confidential to AiRS – they store information and will make contact if there is a need for clarification.  
MOP – will this affect the LDF.  
TW – The District run the LDF – there is a level of control ownership. We have done everything we can.  
MOP – under the LDF do you have to identify local housing needs, will you be using the survey?  
LR – I am the Housing Officer for LDC – other sources can be used.  
KW – Plumpton was given the LDF document – this was for 560 houses in Plumpton and Cooksbridge – people are very concerned – there is a map going round the village talking about potential sites.  
LR – these sites are being assessed by LDC Planning Team.  
KW - when the SHLAA is finalised will this come to the village for consultation?  
LR – SHLAA results will come out in August.  
KW – how does it work if a farmer comes with a site as part of the SHLAA – can it then not be considered for affordable housing?  
LR – AiRS will not take much notice of LDF or SHLAA – looking for local knowledge – this survey is not used for this.  
TW – SHLAA hypothetical exercise, trying to map the area – its speculation.  
MOP – how is this clarified – is there going to be a form of words?  
KW – there is a map going round the village which is old – there is a new map and everyone will have a say.  
TW – can there be a distinction between the HNS and LDF?  
RT – this has happened before, about 15 years ago, people were up in arms when more housing was suggested for the village.  
BW – there will be a public meeting when there is something to say.  
MOP – can you put back the date of the Housing Needs Survey?  
TW – it is fine to extend the deadline.  
TH – how will this linkage between the survey and LDF resolve itself.  
TW – it is unfortunate timing, particularly with the maps going round. People who have housing needs will respond anyway.  
CE – this needs to be cleared up – what is the next step?  
TT – confusion needs to be clarified. Clarification should be put in the press.

TW – it can be extended by two weeks. 7<sup>th</sup> September suggested as a cut off date.

What about a flyer in the parish magazine? Clerk offered to make up posters to put around village clarifying situation,

MOP – is the survey available on line?

LR – it can be put on the LDC website.

MOP – how is the PC responding to the LDF.

Clerk asked to read out response to LDF which had been prepared by KW and sent to all councillors for their comments prior to the meeting – this document will be available on the website as soon as the hand over of the webmaster has taken place.

RT asked Councillors and the MOP if they were happy with the response.

A vote was taken of Councillors to ratify the LDF response document. It was unanimous to send this to LDC Planning.

ACTION: Clerk to send to LDC planning.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: Comments were invited from these.

Gully in St Helena Lane: This will be fixed in July.

Affordable Housing: Housing Needs survey to be sent out. BW and KW have attended meetings on the LDF.

Co-Option: To take place at meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Short resume given to Councillors sent in by the two candidates, Paul Nicholson and Ian Earl.

PWLB – Loan has been approved for £30,000 for refurbishment work on the Hall.

Licence for Parish events notice board in Station Road (VAP) has been granted.

Flying tipping in Riddens area; Reported to LDC.

SLR meeting will now be in September.

Submission to SDNP has been acknowledged.

Website: Sally George has agreed to take this over temporarily and has received the disk from Mr Green.

Footpaths: A very overgrown footpath by the Fountain has been reported to ROW. They have inspected and will contact property owner next to footpath.

SAA asked if Clerk could thank ROW for the work on the footpath behind EVF and also putting new boards on the railway footpath.

Waste and Minerals: PC submission on sighting of landraise site in Newick has been acknowledged.

Further Matters Arising: Dog bin charges: LDC waiting for Mr Clifford to return to agree to reducing charges.

PCSO Blog: Sgt Theelke reported that style of blog is now changing and including the reporting of local crimes; team are regularly 'dip' checked to make sure the content included is relevant, current and of interest to residents.

Network Rail: Martin Butler reported that there had been no further progress the proposed change of gates, though a study on the feasibility and impact of a limited number of options are still on the table. After the PC meeting in February NR are ruling out seeking to close the road at the crossing (traffic being diverted on existing roads much like when the crossing is closed for maintenance) or the construction of a road bridge, and asked if the PC could confirm NR assumptions that the PC would not support such options.

PC agreed with NR and would not support such options.

ACTION: Clerk to inform NR.

Waste and Minerals Core Strategy: Letter from ESCC saying numerous letters have been received and some residents and organisations were dissatisfied with communications regarding the consultation. They are learning from these comments and will improve the way consultations are carried out in the future.

RT had received a letter from Plumpton College to say that they were intending to have weddings in the grounds which would mean there could be low level music played and as these are private parties, the college would not take responsibility.

ACTION: Clerk to write to ask if they have an entertainments licence from LDC and if so, they would be responsible for any event held in the college grounds.

There were no further comments on matters arising.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:** Nothing to report.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

**LDF Response:** It was thought the response was a well balanced view. KW asked TH what involvement he had with the DC in the preparation of the LDF?

TH said that there had been two high level meetings though a lot of it was on tourism. He said he didn't get to see the final draft. It is all still up for consultation, and all PC submissions will be looked at.

KW asked TH if in his capacity as DC whether he would be able to reinforce the views of the PC and public.

TH said that views were different and MOP may want to make their own representation. It was a good process and there would be a public consultation.

CE said she thought PC was not aware of what meetings TH attended in general and would like details of any meetings that he attended.

TH said he would give information on meetings. He said he was surprised that PC had not attended meetings about the LDF.

KW and BW said they had attended three meetings recently.

Now that the government has scrapped the SE plan and its housing targets, the Clerk had been requested to ask for information from LDC Planning Director to find out its impact on the LDF:-

Mr Hoppen had responded: "Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies, including the South East Plan, with immediate effect on 6<sup>th</sup> July. However CLG wrote to Chief Planning Officers on the same day stating that 'it will be important for local planning authorities to carry on delivering LDF's.

LDC is carrying on with the preparation of its LDF – this does not affect the SHLAA which we are undertaking at present; CLG have made it clear that local planning authorities will be responsible for establishing the right level of local housing provision in their area".

KW suggested that this should be challenged – why are LDC continuing with the survey of available land when the amount of housing will be reduced. There are enough brownfield sites in towns which would mean rural villages would not need to be prescribed housing at all.  
RT – finance could be a problem.

It was reiterated that the response to the LDF should be sent off.

**Tree Works under Schedule:** SAA said that there was no scheduled work to be done at present, and she was rather dubious about using Plumpton College for minor tree works, though this should be investigated. She said that the blackthorn in the twitten should be cut back.

ACTION: Clerk to find out more about what services Plumpton College would provide and what insurance cover would be available.

**SANDPIT:** Mr Nicholson reported that it was not as quiet as it was. There had been reports of lorries coming through the village during school hours and Mr Nicholson had reported this.

#### **FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of June, 2010 were Admin £8,678.58, Village Hall £10,151.79, Playing Field £4,182.92

Clerk had received all but one allotment agreement – a query had been raised as to the notice given, which on the agreement states that a year's notice is needed. PC agreed that this should be altered to one month, particularly in the light that there were more applications for allotments during the recession.

ACTION: Clerk to inform allotment holders of the change.

Clerk said she had only received one request for S137 payments, from the Happy Circle. She asked if it could be publicised that small grants under S137 are available to local organisations that benefit the village. The PC agreed to give £50 to the Happy Circle.

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

BW and KW had attended a meeting with the Listed Building Officer LDC with regard to the station gates. A suggestion was made that a request should be made to list these in their own right; it was hoped that there would be a response to find out the history of the gates through the parish magazine as residents may know something of their history. This could be an important factor when applying for listing in their own right. Listed Building Officer said that he would fight to keep the gates as they are curtilage listed. TH asked if there had been any dealings with anyone about that? KW said the planning committee would be aware at that stage. KW asked TH if he could help with this process, and he said he could.

NR said the project needs more funding – it is anticipated that it would be Christmas time before the plans may be available.

#### **HIGHWAYS:**

It appeared that the grass verge near the station had not been widened, PC had asked for this some time ago.

ACTION: Clerk to chase this up with Highways.

SA reported that the drain at the end of EVF had been done and it was setting.

SAA noticed that works were being done opposite Wells Close and that the verge had been taken down – no one seems to know what is happening.

ACTION: Clerk to find out what was happening here.

KW reported that PCSO Knowles had been out on the 12<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm with the speed gun and had 'clocked' quite a few people. He had been given permission by his Sergeant to attend in the morning. The SID had been used on the 12<sup>th</sup> July.

KW said she had been given two signs about speeding by the PCSO. It was suggested that these should be placed at the end of the village, but it was thought that there were too many signs there. It was suggested to put one near the school.  
KW would find another place to put the remaining sign.

**ENVIRONMENT:**

CE reported that she had heard from Jacky Hutson and that the Habitat group were working with Highways and the County Ecologist to protect the wild life in the verges.  
SAA said that there had been a better cut on the verges.  
RT said that car parts which had been dumped in the Riddens area had still not been cleared.  
ACTION: Clerk to contact LDC.

**FOOTPATHS:**

Public ROW Network Survey had taken place and PC had received items that had been repaired in the Plumpton area.  
SAA reported that a good job had been done to repair the footpath behind EVF and the footpath over the level crossing.

**PLANNING AND HOUSING:**

The following application had been granted:  
LW/10/0459 7 Woodgate Meadow, Plumpton Green. Construction of front kitchen extension and rear garden.  
The following application was considered:  
LW/10/0709 Heath Farm, South Road. Section 73A retrospective application. Change of use of shed housing to storage for wood and logs and associated machinery for Mr R Hanbury.  
PC approved this application.  
Mr Taplin had requested that PC reinstate the notices to neighbours of any new properties that are to be built in the village. He also asked PC to contact LDC to ask for planning applications to be more visible outside properties.  
Clerk had contacted LDC. PC agreed to reinstate notices but only for new properties.

KW asked if the PC could confirm for the records that no housing development has been given planning permission on any fields in Plumpton.

BW – no, it would come to PC for approval first.

**POLICING:**

SA reported that she had been told that speeding had reduced in the village during the last few weeks. There had been warnings about tools being stolen from sheds and garages, and residents were recommended to keep these areas locked.

PCSO blogs – see above.

PCSO Julie Whittaker Jones has now been appointed to patrol Lewes so will not be returning to Plumpton. PCSO Knowles remains the PCSO for Plumpton, with PCSO Buggins from Ditchling coming to assist when necessary.

Sgt Theelke has moved to another post.

Theft of a bicycle from the station on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2010.

Police report during June in comparison with 2009 figures.

All Crime – Down 10% 498 fewer victims

House Burglary – Down 37% 75 fewer victims

Theft from Vehicle – Down 32% 152 fewer victims

Violent crime in public place – Down 7% 36 fewer victims

Shoplifting – Down 20% 69 fewer victims.  
It was reported that wheels had been stolen from a car overnight.

**VILLAGE HALL:**

£1807.00 had been taken at the Village Fair after expenses.  
RT reported that some repairs were needed to windows. There are new hand dryers in the toilets. The boiler and the dishwasher were working. Committee were satisfied with the work being done by the new contractor on the green.  
The next Jumble Sale would be on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.  
MOP asked about the issue of the keys at the Hall particularly those to the bar – she had to find someone to get her a key.  
RT said the keys were kept in the box in the lobby

**PLAYING FIELD:**

Notification from Awards for All to say that the end of grant report has been issued and that it confirms all their requirements.  
TT reported that a meeting of the PF had taken place on 13<sup>th</sup> July  
Water supply: Tennis Club had contacted CE and Clerk had provided water accounts for the last five years.  
Corridor floor needs repair at a cost of £360 including VAT. This was approved by all Councillors.  
Electricity check has been arranged for some time in September with EDF.  
CE reported that she would be asking contractors to clear Percy's Patch in the autumn.  
Junior Football team (Paul Johnson) and Football Club (Ian Earl) to be sent letters of thanks for helping with fund raising events over the World Cup time. £860 had been raised. CE was also thanked.  
PF and VAP Facilities Team were looking at the feasibility of a new Pavilion and playpark. It was anticipated to show plans at a November event and it was hoped to hold a meeting with the PF committee and PC prior to this.  
Cricket Club had asked for a donation towards repair to the damage to their lawn mower when it hit tree stumps. CE and TT would look at this.

**VAP – any items not covered elsewhere:**

Nothing further to report.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

CE said it was hoped the website would be up and running shortly. Mr Green had offered to help with the hand over.  
KW – it was agreed at the last PC meeting that I would write something about the LDF consultation and how residents could respond in the parish magazine. I spent time doing it and it was edited out.  
CE – I was not involved in the PC column last month  
KW asked if future someone writes something for the PC and it is drastically changed, could they be shown the copy before it goes to press?

**CLERKS REPORT:**

Clerk presented to the Council:  
AiRS Affordable Housing leaflet, The Clerk July 2010, SDJC Parish letter 2010, Clerks and Council's Direct, 3VA Lewes District News, Your County Summer 2010, LCD Magazine Summer 2010, District Link Summer 2010, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee June 2010, Becoming a School Governor, What we will do with waste in East Sussex leaflet, SLCC Sussex Branch Newsletter, Information from CPRE and newsletter 2010.

Fire Survey: Clerk received survey from East Sussex Fire and Rescue Services regarding the efficiency of their services.  
ACTION: Clerk to fill this in.

SALC Briefing Session at Wivelsfield: This had been offered by Wivelsfield PC – no Councillor was available to attend.  
Emergency Planning Conference: RT and Clerk would hope to attend this in November.  
AiRS Conference: TT would attend this.

PC approached ESCC to have the Mobile Bus in the village – this provides computers and information for the public. Nothing had been heard.  
ACTION: Clerk to approach ESCC again to see if there is a slot available for Plumpton.

School: Newsletters are being published fortnightly, but only one was available for the meeting.  
Jewellery Recycling is still taking place, so any unwanted items should be handed to the school office.  
Sunflowers will be judged at the end of term Barbecue.  
EasyFundraising: Please log on to sie [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/plumptonprimary](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/plumptonprimary) as by registering PPTFA will get a percentage donation from any shopping you do on line at no extra cost. School has raised £80 so far.

**BUSINESS PLAN:**

Nothing to report.

**Chairman**

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 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  
NTR – Nothing to Report  
OHP – Overhead Projector  
CPRE – Council for the Protection of Rural England  
PL – Public Liability  
PWLB – Public Works Loan Board