



## MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 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)  
Mr R Stone (RS)  
Mr T Thompsett (TT)  
Mrs S Akers (SAA)  
Mrs S Angel (SA)  
Mr I Earl (IE)

Sgt R Bates  
PCSO S Knowles  
Mr P Nicholson  
Miss J Tingle East Chiltonton Parish Council

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MINUTES:** The minutes of a meeting on July, 2010 were signed as a true record.  
Minutes of Planning Meetings on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 26<sup>th</sup> August were signed as true records.

RT welcomed IE as a new councillor; he presented signed Declaration of Office and Declaration of Interests.

RT introduced Sgt Bates, the Sergeant in charge of area neighbourhood policing.

PCSO Knowles gave a report. He said that there had been complaints about the website blog pages which had been a disaster recently; this had been sorted out, but he felt that PPC should know what had happened in the last few months. He reported incidents that had taken place from April 2010 to current day (Clerk to send all Councillors copy of record of these incidents). The main problem across the district has been breakins to sheds and outbuildings. PCSO Knowles showed the Council a simple shed alarm which he said was very loud and inexpensive and could be purchased from DIY shops such as B and Q. Vehicle crime had also been reported, and asked he asked that all residents should ensure valuables are removed from vehicles.

Cold Callers – there have been reports recently that these people have been visiting houses in Plumpton. PCSO advised that ID should always be requested, and if there is any doubt to call the Police.

Parking Issues: These continue to be monitored in the village. Speed checks continue to be done, and this method has helped decrease the number of speeding motorists in Plumpton.

SA asked about parking on verges. PCSO said he would be aware of this and put notices on any vehicle that he sees parking in dangerous places, particularly at road junctions.

Miss Tingle, attended the meeting to speak about Gradwell Park in South Chailey; there is currently a planning application in for this. East Chiltonton are very close to the boundary and were consultees, though PPC had not been consulted. She urged PPC to make comments, but as PPC were not consultees, it was not on the agenda for the meeting, so it was unlikely they would make comments, though they agreed with Miss Tingle's comments. PPC's concerns were with any extra traffic that could be generated from the proposed development.

KW said that representation should go to ESCC transport to recommend that buses that would take staff to and from the proposed building (Gradwell Park) should not go through Plumpton.

ACTION: KW to let Clerk have information to write to ESCC Transport.

Miss Tingle asked if the PC wished to be informed about future developments with this application, and Councillors agreed that they should be kept informed. Miss Tingle said she would contact the Clerk with any information.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

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

Clerk had contacted Mr Rowe LDC and Mr Warder AiRS regarding Housing Needs Survey and SHLAA for current information and had not heard back.

PC are now only paying for two dog bins situated on council owned land.

EDF – problems had occurred during the summer with electricity supplies. Clerk had contacted EDF and on 10<sup>th</sup> June, a full survey of the low voltage networks took place.

Plumpton College: Letter from Mr Lambert to say students were available to do minor tree works if PC requests it; students are fully supervised.

Tyres in North Barns Lane: Mr Hawthorne reported that the farmer had said he needs the tyres for protection for his harvest and EH have agreed to allow the farmer further time for this Chalk has also been dumped; this was reported and it is understood that this is for a base for an agricultural building.

Mobile Bus: ESCC are revising the stops and giving serious consideration to a new stop in Plumpton.

LDC Statement of Community Involvement Review – LDC have acknowledged Plumpton' response to this.

South Downs National Park: A survey has been received; KW will complete this.

Train Services: Mr Baker MP has sent a letter to say Southern have agreed to extend their train service to Plumpton in December. Details of the changes are in the parish magazine.

Allotment: Mrs George has given up half her allotment for another person to use; Mrs Lee and her son have taken this on, and SAA has organised the split of the allotment.

Station Gates: Mr Butler NR has visited the village briefly recently; he is to return in the next few months to do topographical and heritage surveys.

Mr St John has asked for sings (gateway style) to be put at the entrance to the village on the B2116 and to the north.

Mr P Baker has sent details of the new Premier Garage which is to open on the site of the old Beetle Garage.

Mr Ramsay had contacted the EA about weeds and rushes either side of the bridge which are impeding the flow of the stream.

Mr Nicholson has reported contact with Cascade Rural Housing Solutions which have considerable experience of working with PC's. He has got the information through the VAP Housing Team and asked if the PC would like to take this further.

CE has sent in her resignation as cleaner at the Pavilion but will continue until someone takes over; an advertisement will go into the parish magazine.

Waste and Minerals Strategy: The consultation on the preferred Strategy had 3000 responses. This is taking longer to process, but a fact sheet should be available at the end of September.

SALC Conference in October: BW, RS and Clerk attending this.

Community Emergency Planning: It is hoped that RT and Clerk will attend this seminar.

RS has reported that Mr Barry Wells is concerned about the external Playing Field bronze sign after the disappearance of the Meridian Globe at Landport in Lewes. He suggests that it should be moved inside and a replica erected in its place.

Community Right to Build: PC had sent in a response to this.

Mr Nicholson had reported that the seat dedicated to Mr and Mrs Ridley on the Ridge did not provide a view anymore because of the over grown hedge surrounding it.

Subsequent comments from matters arising were:

Mr Nicholson said he would contact the landowner of the hedge at the Ridge.

SAA said it was not necessary to clear away the reeds in the stream near the Beverside – water will flood through now it is cleared. She felt that anyone wishing to report such issues should contact the PC and SOCS before contacting the EA.

Brass Plaque: TT said that he had tried to remove the plaque but it was impossible to do so without damaging it.

Cascade Rural Housing Solutions: KW said that all housing associations should be considered when the results of the Housing Needs Survey had been received.

Proposed Council Tax Increase Referendums: PC had received information about this from SLCC and had circulated this to all councillors. PC had sent representation that there had not been enough time to respond as it had been sent during the summer recess when few councils meet; most Councils had sent in the same comments. KW said that the PC would not be able to raise its precept without a referendum which would involve in obtaining the views of all the residents who would be asked to vote; this would be at a cost and would be expensive and impractical. She said that this subject would be discussed at the LDALC meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2010

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

BW said that there were two wooden bollards down at the Half Moon; Highways have said they will not replace these. The verge on Station Road near East View Fields has been reseeded and a good job had been done by the VMT.

ACTION: Clerk to thank VMT teams.

SAA requested a meeting to review the business plan. This would be on 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7,30pm.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

**EDF Meetings:** Councillors agreed that Clerk should attend these meetings in the future, to get an idea of what the proceedings consisted of and if they could be a help when dealing with complaints from the public about power cuts.

ACTION: Clerk to contact EDF to find out when and where the next meeting will be.

**Dog Fouling:** RS had contacted the Clerk about this over the summer months, to report that there had been persistent dog fouling opposite the Church Annexe to Wells Chase – fouling had taken place within three yards of the dog bin. Clerk had contacted the dog warden, and RS had spoken to her on the phone; LDC Dog Warden will come out and look at the situation and recommend whether signs are needed and any further action. It was decided that this should be publicised again in the press and magazine, asking for residents to use the dog bins provided.

**Fly tipping:** An incident had occurred during the summer where car parts were dumped in an area in the Riddens. LDC had been alerted and initially the car parts were not removed, but they had since disappeared, so it was thought they had been collected. Fly tipping is an offence, and LDC are taking incidents very seriously. If anyone sees any fly tipping they should inform the Clerk who will contact LDC.

**Bottles at Recycling Area:** TT reported that bottles are being left around the area which is dangerous and have to be cleared by others. TT will ask VAP Green Team to look into obtaining a bottle bin for the recycling area.

**SANDPIT** - Mr Nicholson said that the main problem was chalk which had been taken from Brighton. The sandpit was being used more recently. Mr Nicholson said that he was hoping to arrange a meeting before Christmas.

**FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of August, 2010 were Admin £24,797.47, Village Hall £11,322.98, Playing Field £3511.80. The second precept payment had been sent from LDC. The Audit had been signed off by Mazars and there had been no requests from members of the public to have sight of the accounts, during the statutory time for this. S137 Grants had been requested and approved from Windmill Rangers (£100), 1<sup>st</sup> Plumpton Scouts (£100) – Mr. Taylor declared an interest in this Group and signed the Interest Book and took no part in the discussion, Plumpton Wildlife and Habitat Group (£100). A request from Plumpton Morris Black Brook was not agreed, but Clerk to write to say that an application to use the hall free of charge could be made by this group. PC agreed to let the Care Club use the hall for their lunches free of hiring charges.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

RS reported that there had been slight changes to the Sunday timetable to December. From December, there would be hourly services except Sunday. BW reported that the 166 and 824 buses provided an hourly service.

**HIGHWAYS:**

KW said there would be a map on the Highways website which showed which roads are to be gritted in the winter, and information as to who can scrape snow from drives. KW said there was a draft strategy to look at local transport plan, and PC could contribute to this.

Drains in Wells Close were sinking and this should be reported.

ACTION: Clerk to report this to Highways.

White lines had been redone at the bottom of East View Fields, Southdowns, near the Shop, West Gate near the School, and Chapel Road.

ACTION: Clerk to thank Highways for this.

KW reported that people were parking on verges near the school area during drop off and pick up times and one of the newly reseeded verges had been damaged.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Head Teacher to ask her to ask parents via the newsletter not to park on verges and on road junctions.

**ENVIRONMENT**

SAA reported that the allotments were looking good.

CE suggested that there should be a Best Kept Front Garden competition. This had been done in the past.

ACTION: CE and TT to organise this.

CE said she would not be doing any further bulb planting in the village.

## **FOOTPATHS**

SAA reported that the following footpaths needed attention:

Footpath 17D back of Old Mill House – roots exposed near the footbridge making this difficult to walk on.

Junction 13a and 12B Riddens Lane – near the gate across the farm entrance – stile to the left hand side of gate has overgrowth round it and needs reinstating; also finger post does not show where the footpath is.

Footpath 12B across the fields – last stile, tree trunk holding up support, stile is rotting and needs replacing.

Footpath 26A – there is a tree down on the north side blocking the footpath.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ROW.

## **PLANNING AND HOUSING**

The following application was discussed: LW/10/1070 Electricity Act 1989 – Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 Beresford Manor Farm No 4520606732 Upgrade of existing pole mounted transformer. PC approved this application.

The following application had been withdrawn: LW/10/0726 Old Chimneys, Beresford Lane. Erection of single and two storey extension to rear of property.

The following application had been granted: LW/10/0724 23 West Gate, Plumpton Green. Erection of single storey extension to west elevation.

It was reported that the owner of the old butcher's shop intended starting an internet business and wanted to use the window to advertise. BW had suggested that the owner contact Mr Young at LDC planning.

KW - the Rural Challenge - everyone should be Parish or Town Council lead.

## **POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

SA reported that a resident had to be taken to hospital during an evening and ambulance services had difficulty getting to the address as the area was blocked with cars. This was reported to the Police. RT said he understood there was a party in the area on that evening which would account for the problem with access.

KW said that the government were in talks with the police authority to let people know what powers PCSO's have; PC's can stipulate what powers PCSO's have in their area, under new government laws; PCSO's could also have the power to issue speeding/parking tickets. KW recommended that this is followed through. She will raise this at the next LDALC meeting.

It was agreed by all councillors to pursue this.

## **VILLAGE HALL:**

RT reported that some of the acoustic panels needed repairing. The hand dryers are to be replaced. New guttering is needed because of leaks. SAA suggested replacing it with wider guttering.

RT said this would cost a lot. The Village Fair made £1800. Mr Satchell was getting quotations for the kitchen refurbishment and applying for the PWLB loan.

A loose tile at the end of the building had been repaired and ridge tiles had been cemented. The small hall, entrance, lobby and corridor had been painted. It had been suggested that a ceiling fan be placed above the hatch from the kitchen to the large hall. TT had painted a sign for jumble sales. There appeared to be a sound problem, and this may be overcome by changing hatch doors.

Primary school had held a play in the hall. Mr Satchell was putting together a Manual of all the equipment in the hall. EDF had done a test and report.

There had been discussions about the contractors that maintain the village green at the last hall meeting; RT had spoken to the contractors about some issues and they had responded quickly to his comments.

## **PLAYING FIELD:**

TT reported that the next PF Committee Meeting would be on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 at 7.30 pm.

Water Supply: Tennis Club are not on mains drainage so no charge can be apportioned for this; Clerk has sent details of water rates for the last five years to Chairman. IE has had a meeting with the South East Water and TC is looking into

having a separate water supply.

Repairs and Maintenance: Part of the corridor floor has been replaced. A pane of glass in outside toilet has been replaced and one of the new double glazed windows in the changing room on the south side has been broken. A quotation for replacement is being requested.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Insurance Company.

Electricity Safety Check: This has been carried out by EDF.

Skateboard Area: Nothing further has been heard.

Percy's Patch – this is ongoing.

Fund Raising: Recent jumble sale raised over a thousand pounds for fund raising.

Nothing to report regarding the new play area and pavilion.

New noticeboard has been erected by the VAP. Energy Audit being prepared by LDC.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

RS took a photograph of IE for his profile; these would be updated by the Communications Team.

**VAP- any items not covered elsewhere**

Two Year Implementation Summary, an annex to Team Leaders Reports issued throughout 2010/11 had been sent to all Councillors.

KW said she had noticed on the agenda for the VAP AGM that they would be changing the constitution.

Mr Nicholson said that they had now had funds and this needed to be included in the constitution.

**CLERKS REPORT:**

Clerk presented to the Council: AiRS Newsletter July 2010, brochure Street Furnishings Ltd, CPRE Fieldwork August 2010, Your County Summer 2010, Clerks and Council Direct September, 2010, Glasdon brochure, Bus Timetable, AiRS Village Hall Mailing Summer 2010, Safe in Sussex August 2010, ESCC Exploring East Sussex, LCR Autumn 2010, St Peters and St James Autumn 2010, ESCC Get involved in Adult Social Care, NALC Legal Topic Note 40, Clerk Magazine September 2010, SLCC Notice of Annual General Meeting.

Letter of thanks for donation from Happy Circle.

**BUSINESS PLAN**

A meeting would be held to discuss this on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 at 7.30.

**CHAIRMAN**

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 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  
LDF – Local Development Framework