



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2011 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 I Earl (IE)  
Mr R Stone (RS)

Peter Hughes, Linda Watson, John Watson,  
Vicky Tree, Jean Rainger, Richard Cottell,  
Woodhouse, Barry Still, Daryll Bailey,  
John Bowden, Glenda Bowden, Nigel Alderton.

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MINUTES:** The minutes of a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 were signed as a true record.

Mr and Mrs J Bowden and their Agent Mr Alderton (Prospective Planning) attended the meeting to put forward draft proposals for a planning scheme at Fallbrook, Plumpton Lane. There had been discussions with LDC planning and the scheme was in the early stage in design terms. The two four bedroomed detached houses have environmental credentials, and the two holiday lets would be useful for tourists visiting the National Park. Points in favour were: use existing access – brown field site – business use at present but business relocating to Ditchling – trees with TPO's on them will be retained and maintained. A landscape report had been done – houses meet Code 5 of Environmental Standards – existing use not particularly attractive – new buildings will enhance the plot and provide much needed housing and holiday lets for those visting the National Park.

BW – where is the access for the holiday lets?

Mr Bowden – There are two accesses one for holiday lets and houses and existing access.

SAA – there is a need for affordable housing in the village but these houses do not fulfil that criteria.

Mr Bowden – this has been looked at – 2 bed houses were not viable and 4 small houses would make a crowded site.

SAA – they are far enough away from the road so would not be visible.

Mr Bowden – LDC encouraged us not to go down the affordable housing on this site as it is fairly isolated.

KW – the scheme could include one affordable house

Mr Bowden – it was thought better to have holiday lets to try to

encourage tourism and accommodation.

KW – PC have done a HNS and there is a need for affordable housing.

SAA - there is some confusion with low cost and affordable housing –

Low cost housing is to encourage young people to stay in the village.

The houses at West Croft are expensive and I would like to see low cost housing.

CE – are holiday lets more important than 2 /3 bed houses – couldn't you have 3 small houses?

RT Do you use the same access to the house?

Mr Bowden – we have looked at a scheme, it needs to be financially viable, LDC seem to think the suggested scheme was all right.

LDC did not want as dense a site as West Croft – they liked the modern design – sustainable – they had no problems with the holiday accommodation incorporated into the scheme.

CE – will there be things like solar panels visible from the Downs?

Mr Bowden – LDC did not think that would be a problem.

RS What about visibility splays?

Mr Bowden – it is not thought likely that any trees will have to come down

Mr and Mrs Bowden and Mr Alderton thanked the PC for their comments.

Sgt Pye was unable to attend the meeting due to Police duties.

PCSO Knowles attended the meeting and gave a report.

There have been several garage and shed break ins, residents were asked to be vigilant. Items have been stolen from vehicles and residents

are advised not to leave anything of value such as Satnavs in their car.

Theft of heating oil – this is still happening and residents can the Crime Prevention Officer can give advice on how to try to prevent this happening.

Main concerns in Plumpton are: Speeding vehicles – there has been regular use of the Mobile Speed camera and this has resulted in several drivers being given Fixed Penalty Notices for exceeding the 30 mph limit in the village. Anyone seeing vehicles being driven erratically can contact Operation Crackdown on 01243 642222 or

[www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org)

There are still parking issues around the village particularly at school drop off and collect times though this has decreased recently.

Road conditions have deteriorated since the bad weather, and residents are asked to look out for large potholes, some of which are really large and very dangerous and can cause serious damage to vehicles.

PC thought that the monthly reports should be put in the parish magazine, put on noticeboards and on the website. PCSO Knowles was asked to send reports with the Sussex Police crest on them

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

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

Allotments: Suzanne Sansom has taken over Hannah Deacon's allotment; there are now 4 people on the waiting list.

Mr and Mrs Akers had written to the PC asking if they could work the allotment that belongs to Mr Lunn. Clerk had checked with the Allotments Society and there were allowed to be co-lessees of allotments providing they all signed an Agreement. It was thought that another resident would also want to be a co-lessee of this plot.

PC agreed to this and Mr and Mrs Akers would be sent an Agreement.

SAA said she would find out details of the name and address of the other person working the allotment.

SAA declared an interest in the above signed the Interest Book and took no part in the discussion.

Playground inspection: the annual check has been arranged.

Insurance claim for the window at the Pavilion has been paid.

RS has a quote for the information flyer for £60 for 850 copies plus £20 for insertion in the magazine plus VAT.

It was decided to put the production of the flyer on hold for the time being.

Rude Mechanicals event: EH and insurance company have been contacted. A TEN's licence will have to be obtained from LDC with a copy to the police. EH recommended that a letter should go out to all those in the vicinity warning them of the noise from this and giving a number of the organisers.

Cycle Shelters: Southern have installed these at the station. The reason they were introduced was because of demand for additional space for bikes and the request came through direct contact with station staff. At the event in December to launch the new timetable, the new shelters were complimented on offering a better facility for greener travel.

Southern said that only one parking space was taken up.

E mail of support from a resident had been sent to Clerk.

Sign outside the Shop: Shop owner said he is not opposed to the sign. The type of sign will be discussed at the SLR meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Trees: Tree Officer has said it would be useful to know where the special and outstanding trees are located in relation to sites identified in the SHLAA study; if the PC are minded to survey the trees that they believe may be threatened then these need to be plotted on a map with the species, if known and a brief statement why it is believed the trees are important to the local area.

Possible covenants on SHLAA identified site: Clerk contacted LDC Legal who are doing a search at the Land Registry to ascertain information about this.

Andy Brooke sent an e mail to say thank you to the PC for their kind letter wishing him well for the future.

Declarations of Interests: Clerk had checked this out in various reference books and spoken to advisory bodies, including LDC Legal. There was no breach at the December PC meeting and LDC Legal confirmed this.

#### Further Matters Arising

An e mail from LDALC revealed that an initiative called Street Watch was being investigated by Sussex Police. A University Student was creating this and she is to make a presentation to the Police to see if her idea will be taken up – it involves members of the community being the eyes and ears of the village deemed to be in the 'worried well' category where problems required no direct police response; they would wear yellow vests. A meeting had already taken place to earmark Plumpton as potentially being a suitable village for the scheme attended by Chief Inspector Maloney, Mr Leggo, Sgt Pye and Mrs Nicholson VAP. PC had not been informed about this and Clerk had been asked to ask Sgt Pye who had given the above information.

SA said she had heard that it would be something along the lines of Neighbourhood Watch, but did not know any details.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Chief Inspector Maloney for further details, as it felt that it should be included in any discussions if the scheme goes ahead.

Localism Bill and implications for the LDF: Sessions to provide an update on progress of the LDF and how the Bill would impact on the LDF, have been arranged by LDC; Councillors were invited to attend on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Lewes. KW, RS and TT would attend with the Clerk.

ACTION: Clerk to contact LDC and give the above names as attendees.

Mr Ken Sorhaindo had taken over from Andy Brooke as Team Manager for Reactive Maintenance at ESCC Highways.

The Mobile Office was coming to Plumpton each on Monday starting on 14<sup>th</sup> February, between 1pm to 3.30 in the village hall carpark. Clerk had publicised this in the magazine, on noticeboards, the press and on the website.

Facilities include: five laptop computers, tutor based help in computing free, free internet access, free scanning and printing and free e mail facilities. There is also information on services provided by ESCC. Clerk said she intended to send a flyer to organisations that could tell their members about the facilities and encourage them to use it. She also asked if any Councillors who were free on that afternoon could go along to see what was on offer.

Trees in Station Close: RT said that this area had been identified as Crown Land; he thought that PC should help towards the cost of trimming the trees.

The item on Bike Shelters was raised: BW suggested that the shelters were painted green like the station. Apparently Southern said they had contacted PC but did not receive a reply. PC had not received any communication about the shelters being erected.

CE asked why we have to have them.

TT said if they are needed they need to be a more complimentary design, in keeping with the Listed Buildings on the station.

RT said a resident had reported to him that he had hit his head under the roof of the shelter.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Southern making the above comments.

There were no further comments on matters arising.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

BW said that there had been complaints about the 166 early bus in the morning from Plumpton to Hayward Heath which goes round to Warden Park School and makes the bus late for those going to work.

ACTION: Clerk to contact ESCC Transport and ask them to look at scheduling.

SAA suggested that the PC send a donation to the British Legion Poppy Appeal in Memory of Mr Bob Taylor. RS proposed this, and CE seconded it.

All Councillors were in agreement to sending £100.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

Further items from the SHLAA: MOP asked what the SHLAA meant. KW said it was the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment from LDC. She emphasised that this was a paper exercise in working out the LDF which is where LDC might be able to put housing in the future but none of the sites in Plumpton had been given, or necessarily will be given, planning permission. MOP said that she had read that Plumpton

is definitely having 42 houses. KW said the HNS had been done and 42 residents needed affordable housing but it is against LDC policy to build them all in one go. They would be built in three phases of up to 14 at a time; PC is looking at various sites with LDC as identified by residents who returned the forms. LDC looks at viability of sites, this then would go to public consultation; it is very early days for this issue.

MOP said they had been told that there would be houses built behind their house but would not be allowed as they are in the National Park. RT said this particular area was not in the National Park. He said that a similar thing had been done some years ago when areas were green belt. Land owners had offered land to LDC for the current project which is what the SHLAA is.

CE said that this was an exercise that LDC have to go through if land has been offered; many areas had been looked at.

KW said that the site that had been mentioned by the MOP above had already passed the first stage of requirements and has been classed as Available and Achievable and Suitable; some sites in Plumpton have been dismissed as not being suitable.

RS said it was all hearsay, there were no facts, and no formal proposals. PC will wait until proposals have been sent in, and then there would be a public consultation.

MOP asked if the village envelope would be changed?

KW said it was part of a process looking at sites – if a site is suitable the boundary would be changed. She said the updated version of the Core Strategy which the village had been consulted on last year will be out in June/July. This will go to the whole village for consultation again and this would then be adopted in December 2012.

PC had sent in comments to the site surveys:

Glebe Land OBL4 – concerns over access points have been mentioned and surface water issues. LDC said they would consult with ESCC Highways at some point in the future.

Land Station Road near Beetle Garage O5PL – access issues have been mentioned and surface water issues. LDC said they would consult with ESCC Highways at some point in the future.

LDC confirmed that Whitehouse Farm O6PL land owner has withdrawn.

Land rear of Plumpton School O2PI. PC asked why this plot has been classed as unsuitable. LDC said that is was because the access is liable to flood. SA said that this was flooded already, and that the stream rises. LDC said they would consult with ESCC Highways at some point in the future.

LDC Landscape Capacity Study – LDC has asked ESCC to do this. PC is concerned that lack of resources could mean that information is not included. LDC said they would like to see any information Plumpton may have. Plumpton will use Landscape Habitat Survey. Mr Hutson had sent an e mail saying he would send information. KW said this would be very useful for the survey.

Village Appraisal Document - the amendments had been sent to LDC and KW had received acknowledgement that the changes would be made.

MOP asked whether the present government figures or the past government figures were being used for the amount of houses required. KW said that they were using the previous government figures and would be doing so for a year. She said it is important to see how the Localism

Bill whereby communities can choose what and where to build, will fit in with the LDF process, whereby LDC prescribes housing in the area. The seminar in March organised by LDC should help with this. Another Bill which needs discussion is the New Homes Bill whereby the government gives communities 6 years of Council Tax for every new home built. This could be an incentive for LDC to built lots of houses as District Councils will get 70% revenue and County Councils 20%. PC's get nothing. One option is for Plumpton to do a Neighbourhood Plan whereby the PC does a survey and decides how much housing, what type, and where and when to put it. PC has already been contacted by AiRS and a planning consultancy offering their services but at a fee. SAA – isn't this what we have done already with the HNS? KW said yes but this only included low cost housing. PC will have to decide if it wants to do this and it will be discussed at the LDC seminar.

Mr D Bailey had written to the PC to ask if he could include some words in January minutes regarding the discussion that took place on the SHLAA at the December meeting. He has asked to include the wording "within the existing planning boundaries" and believes this would be consistent with the PC's Business Plan 2010-2015. PC agreed to this being minuted as part of the January minutes.

#### **SANDPIT: NTR**

#### **FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of December, 2010 were Admin £13,646.19, Village Hall £9995.05, Playing Field £7012.02. There was still a vacancy for an Internal Auditor – from September 2011.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** KW said that a bus consultation had taken place. Bus passes were to be reduced to using the service after 9.30am after this had been altered to 9am. PC commented that this was very inconvenient to those who had to get to work from Plumpton and other rural areas as it would make them late for work. Consideration was being given to raising the bus pass age to 65.

#### **HIGHWAYS:**

SLR meeting would take place on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2011. Grit bin in Beresford Lane was being removed. Article on Winter Wonderland – grit and bear it had been circulated to all councillors. PC's are responsible for areas outside their properties. RT said he had a supply of salt for outside the village hall. CE said she had seen a dustbin size grit bin and suggested that perhaps one could be purchased for outside the Hall and Pavilion. SAA reported a large pothole and verge damage opposite No 43 and 45 East View Fields. It was reported that the drain outside Fyndings is causing a noise when vehicles are driven over it. It was suggested that there should be a walk round East View Fields to look at the setts. It was reported that the road surface north of Strawlands towards the churchyard was rough. It was reported that the verge at the Plumpton end of Beresford Lane on the left if coming from Chailey at the junction was in a poor state with a big dip in it, and was dangerous to cars travelling over it. There appeared to be parking problems again on the south side of the railway entrance at the entrance to the Racecourse where two large vehicles were parking half on and half off the verge. It was suggested that maybe posts or restrictions could be put on this area to stop this. ACTION: Clerk to report the above matters to ESCC Highways, and reiterate certain issues at the SLR meeting.

## **ENVIRONMENT:**

BW reported that she thought there was a shed on the allotment site.

SAA said it was in a private garden.

Clerk reported the litter bin at the Plough had gone.

ACTION: Clerk to find out if it will be replaced.

SAA suggested that the allotment leased by Suzanne Sansom should be split into two when it becomes vacant again.

## **FOOTPATHS:**

SAA said she had heard that the VAP had a link with the Monday Group and the VAP had suggested that the PC should give £250 to the Monday Group for work done in the parish on footpaths. RT and Clerk said that the Monday Group had done work on the footpaths for the PC before.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Monday Group what the finances would be used for and PC would want to know what they were doing in advance.

Sophie Coleman was on maternity leave and Chloe Rowling and Claire Drew are replacing her.

SAA reported that there was flooding at the bottom of the footbridge near East View Fields. The water is ankle deep at present.

ACTION: Clerk to ask ROW to come out and look at this.

## **PLANNING AND HOUSING:**

The following application has been granted:

LW/10/1420/NP 1 Fairhaven, Plumpton. Erection of a two storey side extension with pitched roof and dormer to side and front and provision of new double garage to replace existing.

The following application was considered: LW/11/006 Plumpton College. Single storey addition to existing equine unit to create new classroom and office accommodation.

PC approved this application.

BW said that all planning documents were sent out first class and sometimes there were two separate items sent out on one day. She suggested that Planning be asked why they have to waste money on first class mail.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Planning.

## **POLICING:**

Nothing further to report.

**Further Items from the Public:** A MOP said that there is a problem with parking in Barnfield and the dustcart could not get through on occasions. He enquired why there could not be a pay and display system in. RT said that PC had looked at areas such as the Racecourse. CE said that the Board at the Racecourse had refused this. RT said Southern and Network Rail had been asked for extra parking land but none had been forthcoming.

The Playing Field car park had also been looked at for Pay and Display. TT said the only solution was yellow lines.

RT said that there was no one to police them.

MOP said there was a problem with people parking in Station Close, and that she had people parking across her entrance.

KW said that residents could have a white line across their drive;ESCC Highways could do this for a fee of £35.

MOP said there was a danger for children near the railway crossing as with cars parked there, and the dropped kerb area for wheelchairs was also used for parking.

MOP said that the Playing Field car park was for parents of children who take them to use the play area facilities etc.

MOP asked where the money had come from for the cycle shelters. She thought they were an eye sore, and wondered why they had been

erected. Clerk to give her details of who to contact at Southern about them.

**PLAYING FIELD:**

TT reported that a PF meeting had taken place on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2010, next meeting would be on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Tennis Club had not paid the invoice for water supply.

Grass Mowing: invoice had been received and paid.

New Pavilion: Nothing further had been received from the VAP Facilities Team. PFC reiterated its concern about the progress of the scheme and will if necessary, take it back in house.

Play Area: nothing further received from VAP Facilities Team, and PC reiterated its willingness to take this project back in house especially as a lot of work has been done prior to the VAP's involvement. It is likely two different types of schemes will be considered i.e. eco friendly play items and other types of play equipment.

Honeybees would like to reinstate BT telephone line and pay all costs involved.

Fun day 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

CE said she had spoken to Mr Sharrock FIT about information that may be available to help building a new pavilion. Nothing had been heard from AiRS who had also been approached.

IE said that the football pitch had dropped by 3" in three months; it was not known what was causing this, though it was thought it could be subsidence. It was suggested that builders involved in a new development could be approached for top soil, though it was not certain that this would be suitable treatment. IE thought it would be too expensive to shore it up.

ACTION: Clerk to contact insurance company to see if any repairs would be covered under insurance.

**VILLAGE HALL:**

RT reported that Mr Satchell was obtaining another quote for the kitchen. The hearing loop needs to be connected permanently. RT said he had tried to store the tables up ended but this did not work. TT said there could be a solution. There are now two chair trolleys. The small hall floor has a hole in it – this would be repaired. RT said he had put a carpet in the foyer to protect an area where the floor was damaged. The VAP had requested a Perspex display frame to be placed in the entrance hall to house footpath walk leaflets. VH Committee and PC agreed this.

ACTION: Clerk to let Mrs Nicholson know the decision.

There would be a jumble sale on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2011. SAA asked if councillors could see if they had anything to give for the tombola.

RT said that the lights in the main hall would be replaced.

SAA said that the hedge by Belmont had been cut and also two branches of the willow tree overhanging the pond. The area near the hedge needed reinstating as it was suspected it had been done by a machine and had left the area churned up. She said the contractors were pruning the flower beds during dusk and it was not thought this was a good time to do this, because of poor light.

ACTION: RT said he would check the contract to see if the hedge cutting was on it. He would contact the contractors to clarify these issues.

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

Team leaders report from November meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. There were no matters requiring PC noting or approval

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

CE said that any councillor can write a section to be included in the parish magazine article, and this should be sent to her.

**CLERKS REPORT:**

Clerk presented to the Council:

CPRE letter, Christmas card from Mr N Baker MP, FIT Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, SLCC Courses, British Legion Great Poppy Party Weekend, District Link Winter Edition, ESCC Local Flood Survey, Clerk January 2011, Clerks and Councils Direct January 2011.

News from the School: Congratulations were sent to the PPTFA for the wonderful Christmas Fair on the last day of term.

**BUSINESS PLAN:**

Nothing to report.

**Chairman**

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2011.

**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  
SHLAA - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment