



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 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 I Earl (IE)

Mr Speirs, Mr Bailey, Mr Woodhouse, Mr Still

**APOLOGIES:** Mr R Stone

**MINUTES:** The minutes of a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 were signed as a true record.

Sgt Pye was unable to attend the meeting due to Police duties and PCSO Knowles was unable to attend as he was unwell.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: Comments were invited from these.  
Clerk had been asked by RT to send a letter of thanks to Mr Brooke Highways who was leaving his employment with the CC.  
Miss Deacon had contacted the Clerk to say she was to give up her allotment as from 1/4/2011, but it was free now to be taken over. Clerk would contact the next person on the waiting list.  
LDC street numbering officer had sent letter saying Royal Mail have approached them to add St Helena Lane to all addresses for people who live in that lane within the boundary of Plumpton Green— previously the address had just been the name of the property and Plumpton Green in the address..  
Barcombe Parish Council had sent the Clerk a copy of their comments on the Draft Local Transport Plan (LTP3).  
Notes on the meeting at Wivelsfield had been sent by their Clerk. Clerk had distributed these to Councillors.  
Village Appraisal had finally reached the Clerk; the original copy had been sent to the wrong e mail address.  
NADFAS Parking – it had been reported that there had been problems with attendees who had parked on the junctions of West Gate and Station Road. No cones had been put out. PC thought that maybe it would be a good idea to ask the PCSO to attend to ensure that cars were parked considerately and safely.  
ACTION: Clerk to write to NADFAS Secretary.  
Community Bus – RT had met ESCC representative and the signal is suitable for the bus to come to Plumpton; it is hoped this will start in early spring.

Fly Tipping – There has been further fly tipping at the Ferrings. Clerk had reported this to LDC.

Contracts had been completed and given to Council employees.

'Use the car park sign' at the shop – Nothing further heard from the shop owner.

S137 – the figure is £6.44 per elector for 1/4/11 to 31/3/12.

Insurance claim for window – payment should be received soon.

VAP Station Group had informed Clerk of event to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> December and issued an invitation to all the PC and Clerk.

RT would be saying a few words at the event.

A new train timetable was effective from 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.

Trees at Station Close – after a search at the Land Registry it was thought that this land belonged to the Crown.

ACTION: Clerk to ask LDC District Solicitor where the residents who have reported the overhanging trees should apply to next to have the trees trimmed.

Countryliner bus badly parked – This was reported to Clerk having parked on the kerb and grass verge outside Old School Cottages. The incident was reported to Countryliner.

Dog and Litter Bin Draft Policy Consultation – current arrangements had been reviewed and a survey conducted of on the location and current condition of each dog and litter bin in the area.

Changes in legislation now classify dog waste as non hazardous litter which can be treated in the same manner as other litter. It is proposed that the Council will provide, maintain and empty and cleanse dog and litter bins in throughout the district as necessary to help in the discharge of LDC duties as principal litter authority. Comments were invited to the consultation

Comments from Matters Arising. Dog and Litter Bin Consultation: Clerk to send back comments that PC endorse dual purpose bins and would like to see LDC give the service as in the past, to have bins emptied and paid for by the District Council, with the exception of the two dog bins on PC land.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

SAA said she had spoken to a resident who may be prepared to take on the role of Internal Auditor; they would contact Mr Greening to find out more about what the position entails.

TT asked about the new bike sheds (which are painted white) at the station, and whether the PC had been contacted by NR.

BW said that there would be no need for planning permission to be obtained by NR.

SAA said they were taking up four parking spaces.

PC decided to contact NR and ask why they were not informed that the cycle sheds were to be erected and to ask why four parking spaces had been lost. Also to ask would NR be prepared to help PC with future extra parking for those using the station.

ACTION: Clerk to contact NR.

TT asked if it could be minuted that the Saturday morning meeting in November, which had been requested by a MOP, and to which only one MOP turned up to, could not be repeated.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

HOUSING: KW said there was an opportunity to write to LDC regarding the SHLAA about the site surveys. The SHLAA is a document showing which plots of land in Plumpton that have been offered by LDC to landowners for development. It does not mean that planning permission has been granted or will definitely be granted in the future, but is a document which will help LDC to decide where to put housing as part of

the LDF for 2010 to 2026.

The sites in Plumpton which have been offered by landowners are:

Little Inholmes Farm (classed by LDC as suitable -green on map) O8PL – 150 houses in three phases. The access points are via the north at Station Road and via West Gate. It was thought there was a covenant on this land for no further development. SAA said that she had gone through legal documents for her property, but could not find anything. She asked if she should speak to the Landowner. It was agreed that it probably was not a good idea but perhaps she could ask another resident who lived there to ask.

Clerk had contacted LDC Legal about a document that the PC retained when the hall was built which mentioned the covenant. Legal had told her that this covenant may not stand in current times. Councillors thought Clerk should go back to LDC Legal with copies of the document and ask if there could be further investigation.

KW asked if this issue should be added to the SHLAA and it was thought a good idea to wait until it was confirmed.

Glebe Land (yellow on map - classed by LDC as available within 5-10 years) OBL4 – 40 houses (this area is near the church). KW felt that the amount of houses on this small piece of land should be challenged. The access points are in front of the Rectory and next to Strollings, ( as a one way system). KW said that the access point next to Strollings is 3m wide and the PC needs to ask LDC whether this would be acceptable. There is evidence of surface water issues which needs adding to the site survey.

Land on Station Road near old Beetle Garage (green on map - classified as suitable by LDC) O5PL – 36 houses. The site survey states that if the existing dwelling is retained there is no access to the site. The garage adjacent to the site could provide access.

MOP said that only 20 foot (half) of the land behind the garage is owned by the landowner so the access would have to bend sharply to go through the landowner's garden. KW asked that the PC discusses these access issues with LDC and the site survey be updated. She also asked that surface water issues are added to the site survey.

Land behind Whitehouse Farm (green on map - classed as suitable by LDC) O2PL – 10 houses.

MOP said that he had spoken to the landowner who had assured him that he had not offered the land for development to LDC. KW said it was her understanding that any MOP can offer any land for development which is what had probably been done in this case. She said that the PC needs to check with LDC that this plot has been withdrawn from the SHLAA.

Land rear of Plumpton School (classed as not suitable by LDC - red on map) O2PL – 70 houses – KW said that the site survey states that access via North Barnes Lane has been classed by ESCC as not suitable but that access via the electricity substation onto Station Road had been agreed in principle with ESCC, subject to other considerations. The site survey suggests that the southern boundary is within flood zones 2/3 which could easily be avoided through design layout. KW said that LDC had classed this site as not suitable because it protrudes into the countryside, and LDC should be challenged to ask why they had decided not to agree to look at this, as all other sites protrude into the countryside too.

MOP said that housing was an impact on all villages and that he had moved to Plumpton as he hoped it would be a quiet village and he thought that any development would spoil the village. He was concerned about the infrastructure, the traffic on race days and jumble sale days, flooding, countryside and wildlife habitats and asked what the PC's take was on this?

KW said the SHLAA document would be finalised in April. LDC would

then prepare a Development Plan document which will prioritise plots of land in the District which are most suitable for development. This document would go to all villages for consultation.

KW felt that the PC should not wait until September but should amend the Site Survey documents and Village Appraisal document as well as letting LDC know its concerns about the level of housing which could be imposed on Plumpton as soon as possible.

RT said that almost 300 houses is clearly far too much for Plumpton CE said it was important to respond, residents are asking questions. MOP said that this document was not planning permission but land owners have been approached by developers and it was important that a response was sent to LDC soon.

Councillors decided that instead of saying to LDC that they do not want any houses, that they should let LDC know the PC's housing Policy and then release a statement to residents.

KW said that the HNS had shown that 42 affordable units were required; PC should let LDC know that they were prepared to build 14 units in the next 5 years, with future phasing up to 42 over a 20 year period. This was in line with the PC's Business Plan.

KW said that the HNS was not on the website yet, even though the Clerk had requested it. CE said she would organise for it to be put on.

MOP said that 06PL – 10 houses were too many on a small plot and integration could be a problem. It was not thought that any more houses were necessary other than what the HNS survey had revealed; the village could end up with 42 social housing plus others, these should be kept separate.

Village Appraisal document – this is a document that will also be used by LDC in writing its LDF.

It said that the 'village had no core' but this was refuted as Councillors thought the green, shop area etc were the heart of the village.

TT said that comments prepared by KW should be sent to LDC.

MOP said he had heard the Doctor's surgery was not used much.

SA said that the Ditchling Practice had said that the surgery at Plumpton did not have the facilities such as IT. RT said that the Newick Practice decided not to continue to use Plumpton. RT said that there was now a transport system in place to take people to other surgeries.

KW said that additions to the Appraisal could also include, the Habitat and Historic Landscape Survey, SOCS pond (pond surveys). TPO's (Clerk to ask Mr Wynn LDC about trees after she has been given photographs and sites of certain trees which could be affected by the development)

KW said that comments at the Wivelsfield meeting were that Councils were urged to fight and put up more opposition to housing VOS were thinking of organising a public meeting for early in the new year as there are quite a lot of issues that LDC can be challenged on, such as housing numbers.

BW said that there was a suggestion at the meeting to have cluster meetings with surrounding parishes, but it was felt that it was better to keep separate from other parishes. KW agreed to go to the cluster meetings and keep the PC informed at any progress made at them

PC decided to put out a statement to LDC and the residents on its Housing Policy.

'Plumpton does not have the need or infrastructure to support the number of houses as identified by the LDC SHLAA. The PC will be adhering to its Business Plan whereby it would endorse small discreet development sites, taking into account, habitat and infrastructure issues. The PC has completed a HNS which has identified a need for 42 low cost housing units and it was hoped to provide the village with 14 social units within the next five years. The remainder would be phased in over

the following 15 years.

MOP said he was keen to support the PC and to share concerns. A support group had been set up and would help the PC. The group had concerns regarding the SHLAA, and he thanked the PC for their comments.

A vote was taken on the PC's Housing Policy.

All Councillors were in agreement.

The policy statement would be made available in the magazine, website and the minutes.

DROP IN CLINICS – This was in the Business Plan; other PC's have this facility where two councillors sit in a room usually on a Saturday morning so that residents can come to talk about any concerns they have.

TT said that the Saturday meeting had been tried and no one had come.

RT said that if there was something to say, the PC would always have an extra meeting.

It was decided not to have Drop In Clinics. All Councillors were in agreement.

#### **SANDPIT: NTR**

#### **FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of November, 2010 were Admin £14,646.19, Village Hall £12,455.25, Playing Field £4625.49.

Clerk thanked PC for Christmas voucher.

Clerk said the computer had to be rebuilt as there had been a corruption in the Windows System; a company recommended had done the work very efficiently. Mr Satchell had also helped the Clerk a lot with the computer problems and she proposed a vote of thanks to him.

The precept was increased by £1000 for contingencies that the Council may incur as some services may be devolved to parish councils as a result of the Localism Bill. The precept for 2011 to 2012 would be £33,570. This was proposed by RT and seconded by BW and all Councillors agreed to this.

ACTION: Clerk to send off precept request to LDC Finance.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** KW said that she had enquiries about the work that was taking place at the station recently; she asked the surveyors and they were doing a site survey of the crossing; their findings would be passed on to consultants – there were four options for new rail gates, and the village would be consulted when the consultant's had drawn up their proposals.

Cycle Sheds: Clerk to ask VAP Station Group if they knew the cycle sheds were to be installed by NR. PC had not been consulted and think they are out of place in a rural village.

Community Transport Consultation KW said that she disagreed with most of the policy. Her response will state 'In rural villages we have lost our bus services due to lack of use, This is mostly because of an extremely disjointed timetable. In Plumpton, for example, residents can get to Haywards Heath on a Saturday morning but have no way of getting back, ESCC's policy is to cut rural bus services, saving hundreds of thousands of pounds and encourage community transport scheme.

Plumpton has set up a volunteer driver system to help people to get to doctor's appointments. ESCC helped to fund the start up of the scheme for under £1000. However, it is run solely by a small group of volunteers who take no payment apart from petrol costs. Over the years it may be increasingly difficult to recruit more volunteer drivers and there is a risk that it will fold. PPC feel that the reliance in rural villages of volunteer transport systems is unsustainable and provision for this should be made

within the Strategy Given that ESCC has saved so much by gradually removing rural bus services these savings need to be ploughed back into community transport scheme which are part funded by ESCC i.e. subsidised taxis, provision of vehicles, i.e..mini bus taxis with paid drivers. This would make the services more reliable, sustainable and serve the needs of rural communities’.

LTP3 Consultation: This prioritises urban areas; there is no policy for rural villages. KW felt that PC should say that there was a need to have a policy for rural areas based on the same issues that had been discussed regarding the Community Transport Consultation. With part of Plumpton being in the NP, it was thought it was important to have transport facilities.

There was no representation from VAP transport committee at the meeting as had been advised; they had been invited to make comments on the consultation.

The comments on the consultation would go forward to the CC.

**HIGHWAYS:** CE reported that the old salt bin in Beresford Lane was still there despite the new one being installed. She reported a large dip in the road at the end of Beresford Lane going towards Chailey and Wivelsfield.

ACTION: Clerk to report these issues to Highways.

**ENVIRONMENT:**

Nothing to report.

**FOOTPATHS:**

Nothing to report.

**PLANNING AND HOUSING:**

The following applications have been granted:

LW/10/1145 45 East View Fields, Plumpton Green Conversion of garage to study and addition of pitched roof over garage and pay window.

LW/10/0709 Heath Farm, South Road, Plumpton Green. Section 73A retrospective application for the change of use of shed for housing hens (discontinued) to a B2 use including conversion and processing of wood into logs, peelings and mulch with some B8 storage of wood and machinery.

The following applications were considered:

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

PC approved this application.

LW/10/1395 21 Woodgate Meadow, Plumpton Green. Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of extension at rear creating large kitchen/family room. Enlarge porch to front and construct a dormer at first floor at front.

PC approved this application.

LW/10/1384 EDF Overhead Lines (exemption) England and Wales Regulations 2009. To re-conductor the existing low voltage overhead lines with Aerial Bundled Conductor (ABC) classed as a design successor.

PC approved this application.

**POLICING:**

SA said that the car parking problems at school times had improved though there were still a few incidents.

Letter had been received from a resident about parking

near the shop and blocking the road. Clerk had informed PCSO.

Chief Inspector had reported an incident in Lewes where an elderly couple were attacked in their own home. Perpetrator was in custody.

**PLAYING FIELD:**

TT reported that a PF meeting had taken place on 30<sup>th</sup> November, and the next one would be on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2011.

The Tennis Club had been invoiced for £150 for water charges covering the last five years. Water is to be metered separately with the Tennis Club paying for the meters and water used.

The new cleaner was proving satisfactory.

Percy's Patch is on hold until the spring.

Grass mowing – account from Cricket Club had been received and paid by the PC.

New Pavilion – Mr Speirs had taken over as Chairman of VAP Facilities Team and he reported that it is hoped to have some proposals to show the PC in early 2011. PFC expressed concern about the time scale that has been shown for the project as there was no mention of fund raising. Mr Speirs is aware of this and will be monitoring the situation.

Play Area revamp – Mr Speirs had nothing to report on this and the PFC reiterated its willingness to take this project 'back in house' particularly as a lot of work had 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 items.

Honeybees – this is in better shape and hoping to continue as a new supervisor is employed.

Fund Day will be on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.

**VILLAGE HALL:**

RT reported that the Football Club had offered to run the bars – the VH Committee had agreed to this. Football Club may want to advertise this service.

Hand dryers had been fitted.

Mr Satchell had installed coloured lights on a Christmas tree on the green, but these had been seriously vandalised.

RT had received a complaint that the substation looked 'rather shabby'; it was not thought EDF would be able to do anything about this.

Mrs Baker has asked to have an event with the Rude Mechanicals Theatre Company on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. PC had refused someone else in the past for this type of event. This event is to raise money for an electric piano for the hall.

EH and Insurance company would have to be contacted. It was thought that the only money made from the event would be on refreshments.

The hall has been hired for the use of the toilets or if the event has to be brought inside.

TT said that those running it should pay expenses such as insurance etc.

ACTION: Clerk to contact EH and Insurance company and PC will then contact Mrs Baker. Clerk to let Mrs Baker know what the procedure was.

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

Nothing to report.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Nothing to report.

**CLERKS REPORT:**

Clerk presented to the Council:  
Press release on Lewes parking review is launched, ESCC Steps to Action, The Clerk November 2010, SDNP Newsletter, Glasdon Brochure, SLCC Newsletter, Fieldwork CPRE newsletter December 2010, Your County Autumn 2010, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Rural Review, SOCS Autumn Newsletter, LCR Winter 2010, details from AiRS about contacts for those who can help and support families who have a dementia sufferer, LDC Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

News from the School: PPTFA fair took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, buy your Christmas presents on line [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) which raises money for the school – register [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/plumptonprimary](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/plumptonprimary)

**BUSINESS PLAN:**

Nothing to report.

**Chairman**

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 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