



MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6TH NOVEMBER, 2010 AT 9 A.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, PLUMPTON GREEN

PRESENT: Mr R Taylor Chairman (RT)
Mrs. C Eastwood (CE)
Mrs K Wride (KW)
Mr R Stone (RS)
Mr T Thompsett (TT)
Mrs S Akers (SAA)
Mr I Earl (IE)

Mr S Green

APOLOGIES: BW, SA.

MINUTES: The Minutes of a meeting on 12th October, 2010 were signed as a true record, with the following amendment: Page 1 third line after 75% amend 'the village' to read 'those'.
Minutes of a Planning Meeting held on 19th October, 2010 were signed as a true record.

LDF, SHLAA and Housing Needs Survey: Clerk read out an e mail sent by Mr Hawthorne to LDC regarding the SHLAA. Extracts from this e mail were as follows: He said he was concerned about the impact on Plumpton Green and cannot allow such a large scale development to occur without a fight.

The SHLAA is not in itself produced for consultation; it is not a statement of LDC policy and does not allocate land for housing, or permit a housing development on a site.

It is a study which identifies and assesses sites with the potential for housing and assesses when they are likely or could be developed.

In undertaking the assessment the following broad criteria were applied:

Site's suitability for housing in principle, the site's availability for housing and is a housing development achievable on the site (i.e would it be financially viable).

The SHLAA is a technical piece of evidence which will feed into the Core Strategy and ultimately the LDF. The next part of the process is for LDC to start work on their Allocations Development Plan Document.

This is very important and it is this document that will identify sites LDC would like to allocate as building land for houses. It is important that the Council watch and influence progress on the document, which it is understood, will start in about twelve months time.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to Mr Hawthorne to say they agree with what he has said and asked him to keep the PC informed of any further information.

KW thought PC should respond now. She had asked LDC some questions about the LDF to clarify issues and was awaiting the answers; she had also asked CPRE what their thoughts were. PPC was a Parish Member of CPRE.

SAA said that not all sites were suitable; there should be a criteria for choosing the sites, as hardly any are suitable. PC should not be jumping in with the comments at this stage.

TT said PC should get more information.

RS said that everything should be monitored

CE said she had been to LDC drop in planning meeting. LDC said they had looked at every site. She asked how this would impact on AiRS/LDC looking at housing. She gave Clerk a copy of the SHLAA –Frequently Asked Questions.

RT said that PC could write a letter saying they did not want housing.

TT said the District Councillor was looking at all the issues regarding the LDF and

SHLAA.

RT said that an eye should be kept on the whole situation.

The PC decided not to respond at this stage. KW said she disagreed with doing nothing, and asked that the PC follow CPRE's lead and challenge the SHLAA on its preference to deem green field sites in villages more suitable for development than brown field sites.

CE said a Meeting of the Housing Needs sub committee (BW KW CE RS) had taken place with Mr Rowe and Mr Warder and the responses to the HNS were discussed.. Site appraisals had taken place and then scored, taking into consideration, access, is land available etc. There were 26 sites.

KW and BW went round the village with Mr Warder and Mr Rowe to look at sites and these were then rated by Mr Rowe and Mr Warder.

KW said the next stage was to look at the top four.

RT said that the properties would not be part ownership; Mr Rowe had said at the PC meeting in October, they would be 'in perpetuity'.

KW said there was a set format of 14 units; 2-3 bedrooms have not met the need.

IE said that there was a need for 2-3 bedroom properties but that the higher rate price of around £250,000 would send people to areas, such as Uckfield and Burgess Hill that have the same type of accommodation at a cheaper price .

It was thought preferable if houses/flats could be given to local people. KW said that there was a need identified for housing for elderly people.

TT said he thought there was a problem with availability of smaller accommodation for older people who wanted to down size.

SAA said that the elderly were proud to stay in their own homes and don't like to appear in need.

CE said the HNS was nothing to do with the LDF.

KW asked what type of housing was needed as a result of the survey could be added on to the end of the HNS Report.

MATTERS ARISING:

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

EDF - PC made further contact with EDF over recent power cuts, and asked Mr Baker MP to continue to support PC's efforts in ensuring a better service. EDF had said that the low voltage system would be refurbished soon.

Footpaths: ROW Officer had difficulty locating one of the landowners whose stile was reported in need of attention.

Winter Maintenance: Document was very comprehensive. Services would be increased to cope with adverse weather should it occur again this winter.

Hedge at Station House: Owner had contacted Clerk and the hedge would be cut.

Drain covers in Wells Close: SE Water had claimed responsibility for this and they would be dealing with the matter.

Parking and Police: District Commander reported that Sgt Bates would be moving to another position; Sgt David Pyke would be taking over his role. PCSO still coming to the village to observe inconsiderate parking.

Cluster Meetings with SDNP representatives: All adjoining councils agreed, in principle, to attend these meetings.

Buses: E mail from ESCC Transport to say they often have requests for extra bus services and understand the problems of residents getting to work and back at a reasonable time. However, with increasing pressure on their budget, they are unable to provide funding to meet all requests. The CC spends £2.8m per annum on local buses; they are sorry they cannot help.

Election Costs: E mail from LDC to say they are not able to provide a breakdown of election costs until after the election has taken place.

Bank at Stream Cottage: The owners were very upset when highways recently had cut back the bank in front of their house (which has a lot of wild flowers) , giving it a very close shave. They had approached highways who said that PC would have to contact them to get something done.

Clerk had contacted Highways and asked that they are aware of the wild flowers and asked that they did not give the area such a radical cut in the future.

HNS Sub Committee Meeting: BW, KW, CE and RS attended this meeting. Further details above under HNS.

Clerk had also circulated her notes on a Clerk's Course and LDC conference she had attended during October. Subjects raised were: Decentralisation and Localism Bill, Legal Matters concerning Trustees and Village Greens, Employment issues. Items from the Conference were: The Rural Challenge, address from A representative of Lewes Villages Dementia Project, the Census 2011, LDC Finance Budget issues for the forthcoming year, SDNP, ESCC Community Transport, Housing allocation, and an address from District Commander.

PC had raised two questions at the Conference:

Election Costs: District Solicitor said that the figure quoted was the maximum that could be charged (Plumpton £3800). It was questioned why other areas such as Rother charged between £1600 and £2000 for their elections, and LDC was so much higher. This was because there was an increase in postal voting, and costs estimated were 10% higher than those at the last election.

PCSO's – PPC raised the question to ask if PCSO's could have more powers, such as issuing speeding and parking tickets. District Commander said she would look into this, though they would have to be retrained and this would cost a considerable amount.

There were no comments to add to the above matters arising.

Further matters arising: Fly tipping had been reported to the Clerk at the Ferrings. She had reported it to LDC.

Clerk had enquired if there had been any progress on the procurement process regarding the gates at the station. NR replied that they had only just let the contract for option and heritage impact assessment, but that there should be people arriving within weeks to start their work; they would keep the PC informed.

Sustainable Communities Act: Document from Steve Shaw asking for response to this document. PC decided to wait until it comes in.

Community Chest Application from DOC: Business development support for those social enterprises based in the Lewes area to apply for.

ACTION: Clerk to send the information to the VAP Business Team.

Mr Green asked why the Tennis Club had only been invoiced for five year's water supply, and why not for 20 years. TT responded that a line had to be drawn as to where to charge from. After further discussion with the Club, and a sum agreed, TT will raise an invoice.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

SAA said that the Clerk had said there had been many references to the elderly community at the recent LDC Conference about services available and providing

information to help them.

Clerk had suggested that maybe a pack of information could be sent to elderly people letting them know where information could be accessed, particularly as they may not be on the internet. She said that the recent Information Booklet which had been produced had a lot of information that would be relevant to the elderly. SAA said that there could not be a definitive list, and it would not cover every area that the elderly may need to access information.

CE suggested putting a list on the website, and RS said he would look into including a flyer in the parish magazine with relevant information on it. He would get a costing.

Clerk said she had heard from ESCC about the Mobile Bus. They were hoping to come to the Village Hall car park in the near future to test out their satellite system to see if it worked before arranging for the bus to come to the village. They asked if toilet facilities would be available. The staff on the bus provide access to the internet, help with IT skills, and information for all areas of the community.

ACTION: Clerk to say that if days were known in advance, then toilet facilities could be arranged. It would not be suitable for the bus to come on NADFAS day.

SAA said that this service should be well publicised. RS and KW said they would put it in the press and it would be put in the parish magazine, at such times when it was definite that the bus would be coming.

IE asked how many hits there were on the PC website? Mr Green was asked how many he thought there were while he was Webmaster? He said they were mainly for public transport (because of timetables being available), PC minutes and agendas. CE said she would ask Webmaster whether she had a facility to record hits and if so, how many there were at this time. Mr Green said he was happy to help the Webmaster with this.

SAA said she had contacted a resident who potentially may be interested to take over the position as Internal Auditor to the Council next year. She would get back to the Council when further details were available.

AGENDA ITEMS

SANDPIT - NTR

FINANCE:

The balances at the end of October, 2010 were Admin £15,455.06, Village Hall £14,101.22, Playing Field £7,287.73.

PC agreed that staff Christmas staff gratuities would be given to all Council employees.

Contracts: Clerk had prepared contracts for three other staff employed by the Council, but was still unsure of issues concerning Sick Pay and Holiday Pay. She had asked representative at AiRS for advice on these areas at the recent Clerk's course, and they said they could prepare a contract at a cost of £150, but were not prepared to give specific information on areas of sickness and holiday pay without having to draw up an entire contract. PC thought this was a considerable cost, particularly as there were only two areas of information necessary. Clerk said she was obtaining information elsewhere and it was hoped the contracts would soon be ready.

Budget: Clerk suggested increasing S137 funding: PC thought that as they had not received many requests for funding this year, their decision was not to increase this area of the budget. It had been suggested at the SALC course that a list of 'PC Achievements' should be publicised with the Budget Figures.

Clerk had prepared a list of these, and asked Councillors to add to the list which had been completed. PC agreed to publish budget asking for comments and that it would be ratified at the PC meeting on 14th December, 2010, and include the list of achievements.

ACTION: Clerk to finalise the document and put it on the website with the budget sheet.

A question was raised why was there no budget inclusion for a fire inspection. TT said that this was not an annual inspection; it happened infrequently and would be budgeted for when necessary.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

KW reported that a consultation about Bus Services was through which included Dial a Ride – she asked for comments. It was thought the service needs to be publicised more, but it was a good service.

It had been agreed at the October PC meeting that the PC should invite the VAP Public Transport team to submit comments to the TP3 Bus Consultation, after a suggestion made by Mr St John that the VAP may be able to put forward comments.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr St John to ask him for comments from the team.

New Train Timetable: New hourly service from Plumpton will be available.

Clerk to write to Mr Baker MP to thank him for his hard work, and ask him if he could lobby for an improved service from London Bridge during evening hours.

HIGHWAYS:

Report from ESCC Highways: Reclaiming highway ditches – October to December 2010 St Helena Lane and Middleton Common Lane.

Polite Notice – Infringement on Highway – format sent to Clerk to issue when situations arose.

KW said that the SLR meeting recently had looked at the speed situation coming from the top of the village, potentially to reduce it to 40mph.

SAA said that there was no need to reduce speed there; there were no pavements, no accident record, and very few houses.

TT thought it would be better to request white lines as you cannot see the side of the road in foggy conditions; lines would be needed from the north of the 30mph from the last house to the junction and be on both sides of the road.

ACTION: Clerk to put this on the agenda for the next SLR meeting.

The signs for Plumpton (to incorporate 'Slow Down') were discussed at the SLR meeting; ESCC were looking at costs for these at the Half Moon and Plough areas.

Also discussed were the signs coming into the village to include 'Please Drive Carefully' – sign would be too big to incorporate this wording; it was thought the sign could be reduced. KW asked if PC should ask ESCC for these if there was a budget available; it was agreed to discuss this at the next SLR meeting.

KW reported that she had requested at the SLR meeting that the pavement towards the station before the crossing gates going south could have the grass removed to reinstate the pavement. This had already been done.

ACTION: Clerk to thank Mr Brook for this.

Clerk had received an e mail in response to a resident's concern about parking on the brow of the hill near the village store.

Clerk had contacted PCSO Knowles. He commented that he has no authority to move anyone on unless they are causing an obstruction. He had observed inconsiderate parking near the shop and opposite (who are usually residents that live there), and if they were causing an obstruction, he is able to issue a ticket.

He and his colleagues believe that unless there is an obstruction, cars parked there do alleviate speeding as people have to slow down when entering that area.

He asked for the PC's decision on this. It is a breach of the Highway Code to park on the brow of a hill.

PC agreed with what he said, and a suggestion was made that the shop owner should be asked if he would be prepared to have a board to ask patrons of the shop to park in the parking area at the side of the shop.

ACTION: Clerk to write to owner of shop.

ENVIRONMENT

Clerk reported notice of changes to flood warning codes. To find out more or sign up for free flood warnings www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsouth or call the Floodline on 0845 988 1188

SAA said that the verges had been well cut recently.
A resident from Station Close had asked if a group of Cypress trees which are very high and wide growing, could be trimmed back as they were blocking light from their property. They had contacted NR and Southern who said that they did not own the land, but thought it could be the Council. The land does not belong to the Parish Council, but could be Highway land.
ACTION: Clerk to write to ESCC Highways to ask if this area is highway land, and if so, if they could trim back the trees.

FOOTPATHS

SAA reported the following:
Plumpton 12b junction with Streat 13 – stile completely broken.
Footpath Streat 13 junction with bridleway, the down stile step is cracked and gets slippery; a resident had broken their arm when negotiating this stile.
ACTION: Clerk to inform ROW officer.

PLANNING AND HOUSING

The following application was discussed: LW/10/1213 4 Tenby Cottages, Plumpton. Erection of self contained accommodation ancillary and attaching to existing dwelling for Mrs L King. PC approved this application. They would ask that LDC ensure that that previous applications resulting in increase in the property, be taken into consideration.

POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SA sent a report to the meeting: She had completed the 'Crime and Safety in Your Neighbourhood Report'.
Parking problems still ongoing, and registration numbers given to PCSO.
No reports from PCSO of any incidents in the village recently.
St David Pye is to be the new Sergeant in charge of Plumpton

TRAVERS TRUST: SA reported that the Happy Circle had received an acknowledged a donation of £50 from the Trust.

VILLAGE HALL:

Lightening Conductor test had taken place.
RT reported that he had removed the hand dryer in the ladies toilet.
Electrical stage lighting had been completed. Lights in the lower part of the hall had been replaced.
Measurements had been taken to possibly create a mezzanine floor on the stage which would enable people to get up on it to do work. There were more dimmer packs to install.
There had been a meeting to look at altering the hall to have more storage space.
Areas looked at: knocking down wall between committee room and doctor's surgery room (having a partition between the two areas).
Extend projection room out – this would require planning permission and could be expensive.
Cover dustbin area. This would mean moving dustbins to locked area to the west side of the hall.
North and South chair stores made in line with double doors and combine into one.
IE asked how often the bar area is used. Would it be possible to have a bar area in the small hall when necessary?
RT said the bar was used approximately 25 times a year. There were plans to refurbish the bar area when the kitchen is done.
SAA said the bar was used for weddings, the school, Plumpton Players and Pantomime.
RT said he favoured the roofing over the dustbin area but was not keen in having a lock up area elsewhere for the dustbins.
Committee will look at all options.
An energy audit had taken place and a report will be submitted; it was thought solar

panels could be suggested.

PLAYING FIELD:

The insurance claim was in hand.

ACTION: Clerk to fax estimate for window to Insurance Company; the claim had been chased up.

TT said that there would be a meeting on 30th November.

Water Rates for the Tennis Club: there was need for further discussion.

PF committee were waiting to hear from the VAP who is to be the new member representing them on the committee.

The Best Garden Project was mentioned; Mr K Beard will judge it along with someone else and it will take place in July next year. There would be several categories

ACTION: KW and RS would publicise this in the press, and it would be put in the parish magazine nearer the time.

COMMUNICATIONS:

CE said that she would mention the budget progress to date and the achievements of the PC during the last year, in the next parish magazine column.

The profiles had been updated with photos and would be placed on the website; Details of access to LDF documents would be put on the website next week.

VAP- any items not covered elsewhere

Clerk had Team Leaders reports and information for noting to all Councillors.

Mrs Nicholson asked for comments from the PC on certain team areas.

VAP Road Safety Team: PC asked if they would like to review data from the Speed Radar boxes.

PC did not want to act, and thought there was no need for traffic calming measures.

The PCSO has been out with the speed gun, and it is understood if he has a Police Officer with him, fixed penalty notices could be given to those caught speeding.

PC would like to see the SID used more.

VAP Public Transport Team: LTP3 As was minuted at the October PC meeting, Mr St John suggested that the VAP should look at the bus services, and this was agreed. PC will contact Mr St John when the report is put together to ask the VAP to add any comments they would like to include, before the comments are finalised at the next PC meeting in December.

CLERKS REPORT:

Clerk presented to the Council: Clerk and Council Direct, Census Jobs, Lewes District Business Survey October 2010, District Link Autumn, AiRS Newsletter October, 2010.

News from the School: Head Teacher requesting that parking considerably near the school at put down and pick up times, staff currently working towards securing a 'Dyslexia Friendly' status,; PPFTA received donation of £150 from the Pantomime Society; 350 bulbs planted behind the benches at the school entrance.

BUSINESS PLAN NTR.

CHAIRMAN

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 14th DECEMBER, 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
HNS – Housing Needs Survey
SHLA – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment