



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 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)

Mr P Nicholson  
Mr O St John  
Mr T Hawthorne  
Mr B Still  
Mr D Bailey  
Mr P Woodhouse  
Mr P Baker  
Mrs K Baker  
Mrs D Miller  
Mr T Hutson

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MINUTES:** The minutes of a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 were signed as a true record.  
The Minutes of a Planning Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 were signed as a true record.

Plumpton East Residents Against Development Action group had prepared a presentation to reflect their concern at the proposed SHLAA sites O2PL, O4PL, O5PL, for consideration by the PC.  
Mr D Bailey (DB) talked through the presentation and asked for questions.

BW said the areas in Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill mentioned as areas of available housing were in West Sussex and their housing needs may be different.

DB said that there is a lot of housing within a small radius.

KW said that the Wildlife Group were looking at the SHLAA sites above and Mr Hutson had prepared a report to submit to LDC regarding environmental issues; further information would be added about trees which could be affected and also studies including badger and dormouse habitats would be added.

Mr Hutson said there were no protected areas on these sites, but that he would be doing further work on whether there were TPO's on the trees.

KW asked if the PC agreed that Mr Hutson's report should go in the Landscape Capacity Study,

CE asked Mr Hawthorne if he had any comments on the SHLAA.

Mr Hawthorne (TH) said that it was good that there were serious issues being discussed but there should be some development in the village.

MOP asked why there should be more development.

RT said that at present there was a need for social housing – this had been revealed from the HNS, 42 people had identified a need for housing.

MOP said that the residents group fully understands and supports the need for affordable housing as the PC had written in to its Business Plan. Had this been reflected at District level?

MOP asked what TH take was on this.

TH said that comments should be collected and the village looked at as a whole, with both sides working with the PC.

MOP said that the residents group wanted to work with the LDC and PC. All areas would be affected by traffic issues.

TH said that he didn't believe that speeding was an issue as a survey had been done in the village by the Action Plan some time ago.

MOP said that their concern was not about speeding, but about congestion.

MOP asked TH if he could clarify his position with regard to housing.

TH said that there is a need to provide more smaller houses to allow elderly and people living on their own to stay in the village.

RT said the SHLAA was different from the social housing issue.

MOP asked if TH supported 42 homes, or what did LDC want in the way of houses?

TH said the SHLAA had been done by consultants; he did not want the village over developed. There is more work to be done on this.

KW said the whole system will change – every village will have to have a Neighbourhood Plan and be able to go to the DC for help with this – plots will be identified within this plan and a referendum will have to be taken with 50% agreeing to any proposals; this will be then be examined and assessed by LDC, and the PC and the whole village will get a say.

TT said it was important for the PC to put forward their concerns.

RS said that maps identifying areas were meaningless – he had not studied the SHLAA properly yet – it had been produced by consultants and solicited from landowners what would be available.

MOP said that a huge amount of work had gone into the presentation.

There was support taking a view of the whole village, and the group were willing to work with the west side.

MOP said that some of the issues should be dealt with now, there was an opportunity to influence now, and representation should be sent to LDC.

KW said that some of the papers from the residents group and survey from the wildlife group should be sent to LDC for the Strategic Transport Study and the Landscape Capacity Study.

RT asked for a vote and 8 councillors agreed to this.

RS said that no one should jump too soon, as nothing had been decided regarding the SHLAA possible sites.

RT thanked the resident and wildlife group for their hard work and said that the PC will would work with them.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

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

Buses: A survey has been conducted on the first two journeys of the day on Service 122; it may be possible to advance the 0850 departure from Perrymount Road (H Heath) by about 3 minutes to get the service running to the published time in Plumpton, and this will be discussed with the operator.

Bus Consultations: ESCC sent out a survey with another tight deadline. There were no specific services mentioned for Plumpton. KW asked if the Dial a Ride service could be extended to Plumpton.

Salt bin, Beresford Lane – This has finally been removed.

ROW – Footpath 1 St Helena Lane. ROW will take this up with the landowner.

ROW have reported that although they still offer stile kits at a subsidised price of £35 for installing gates and stiles for landowners, the cost has had to be adjusted to £200 to install a stile or basic pedestrian gate. Generally the CC has to maintain the position that the landowner is responsible for stiles and gates on their land, with the exception of CC promoted routes. ROW can arrange with the landowner to do repairs. The Monday Group is not instructed by the CC, although it does receive limited funding through the volunteer co-ordination programme.

Footpath at north east corner of Half Moon – Mr St John had requested that ROW be informed that the stile had fallen over in this field, and that the fence has fallen down.

Clerk had reported this.

Mr St John reported that there was a large pothole in the verge to the south of Plumpton Mill. Clerk had reported this.

He also reported that there are some horizontal timber posts on the verge in front of Westcroft which are held together with metal stakes. Some of these are starting to poke out onto the road and could be dangerous.

Clerk had reported this to Highways.

Station Gates – The report should be available very shortly.

Planning Documents – planning applications are now being sent by second class mail. Paper plans do not need to be kept unless there is an appeal pending.

LW/10/1010 Application for land at Gradwell End, Chailey  
Accommodation for elderly mentally infirm.

PC were sent this application for noting – the additional information is regarding lighting, design strategy and visual impact which does not concern Plumpton.

Road works - B2116 Lees Road/Keymer Road, Ditchling. Patching work between 11<sup>th</sup> April – 15<sup>th</sup> April. Diversion B2116 Lewes Road – B2116 Ditchling Road – C110 Plumpton Lane – C110 Station Road – C6South Road – C71 St Helena Lane.

Village Maintenance Teams – Request forms and guidance notes had been sent.

Comments were invited from the above:

Requests for VMT - Pavement by village green, cracks in tarmac.

Westgate - cracks on pavements. Verges poor condition particularly north of Barnfield – pothole repairs outside 7 Old School Cottages.

Clean 20mph sign at Half Moon. Potholes at Half Moon layby (may be too big a job for VMT, if so, Clerk would contact Highways), 41 East View Fields, dip in grass verge, also other verges in front of properties in East View Fields which have been damaged. Ask VMT to collect redundant street furniture from 6 East View Fields. Wells Close – verge outside No. 14 damaged

Police Report from PCSO Knowles.

Parking and speeding remain concerns; both tackled by regular patrols and use of Police Speed camera.

Garages and sheds are still being broken into – members of the public urged to report any suspicious people or vehicles to Sussex Police.

Vehicle crime also high property; being dealt with by high visibility patrols.

Poor weather recently – members of the public are encourage to check weather conditions and not drive unless they have to in adverse weather such as snow and ice.

Monday Group – All Councillors were in agreement to giving £250 to the Monday Group for the work that they have done on footpath stiles etc in Plumpton. Clerk would ask them to provide a schedule of any work they are to undertake in the future in Plumpton.

IE asked if ESCC or the Monday Group do the work, does that let the landowner whose land the stile may be on 'of the hook' as far as paying for the repair/replacement?

ACTION: Clerk to contact ROW to ask this.

Cycle Racks: It was thought that the idea to screen the racks was good, but that painting the racks would change the colour and the paint will flake off. A resident had received a reply to her letter of complaint but was not satisfied with the reply.

TT, KW, RS and Clerk had attended a seminar at LDC Planning on the Localism Bill.

Councils were encouraged to have Neighbourhood Plan, which would be part of the development plan, and must have regard to national policy, be in general conformity with strategic policies and be consistent with neighbouring plans and underpinned by robust evidence. It was stated that it was important that PC's took this on, as other groups within a community could request to form a Plan – there can only be one plan for a village. These could cost approximately £17,000, but the local authority would probably contribute.

It was agreed that this was a good idea, and that it should be looked at by the end of the year when the Localism Bill is expected to reach Royal Assent

TT said that it had been mentioned that there would be a dedicated planning officer for certain areas and this was thought to be a good idea.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

None

**SANDPIT:** Mr Nicholson reported that all was very quiet at the site. The outflow had been contaminated and this had been picked up by SOCS.

#### **FINANCE:**

The balances at the end of February 2011 were Admin £11,451.70, Village Hall £8600.51, Playing Field £6094.53. Clerk said the VAT claim and end of year accounts were being prepared.

The APM would be at the Pavilion on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 at 7.,30 pm. Mrs Stroude and PCSO Knowles said they would attend. Sgt Pye hoped to attend and Mr Hawthorne said he would attend if he could, but would send a report if not.

Clerk's appraisal had taken place during the finance meeting.

Only comments made were that Clerk's hours are not sufficient at the present time with increased amount of work with new legislation and extra accounting at this time of the year; there was no funding in the budget to pay over time.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Nothing to report.

#### **HIGHWAYS:**

SAA reported that a vehicle had gone off the B2116 and there was damage to the verge on the road going towards Lewes, about 200 metres coming from the Half Moon junction on the left. Highways had

previous said this was not their problem, but it was felt that they should try to liaise with the landowner to see if there could be a solution.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Highways to look at this again.

**ENVIRONMENT:**

Nothing to report.

**FOOTPATHS:**

Nothing further to report.

**PLANNING AND HOUSING:**

The following application has been granted:

LW/11/0006NP Plumpton College. Erection of single story addition to existing equine unit to create new classroom and office accommodation for Plumpton College.

The following application was considered:

LW/11/0217 Plumpton College. Two storey addition to main college building to create new information technology classrooms for PC. PC approved this application.

**POLICING:**

KW said that PCSO Knowles had given her posters with pictures of PCSO Knowles and Sgt Pye and information of how to contact them. She would put them up on PC noticeboards.

SA said that Marilyn and Ray Young were resigning from the role of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. There was a section in the Parish Magazine asking for anyone who may be interested in taking over the position to come forward.

**PLAYING FIELD:**

TT reported that PF committee had held a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2011, next meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2011.

Tennis Club – invoice submitted to Tennis Club for £150, this has now been resubmitted to the Club Secretary.

Letter received from Tennis Club who would like to replace existing club house with a new building between courts 1/2 and 3. PC Committee had no initial objections and have notified the Tennis Club.

ACTION: Clerk to write saying there were no objections to this in principle but Tennis Club should contact planning to enquire about permission etc.

Repairs – Invoice received for repairs to manhole covers and doors – invoice paid.

Private Party – damage caused at a private party late in 2010. Letter has been sent by PF Committee to hirers but there has been no response.

Clerk to write on behalf of the PC to that this unfortunate incident can be concluded

Cleaner has resigned and CE has taken over the task temporarily.

Grass Mowing – Main mower needs to be sharpened at a cost of approximately £150; committee agreed to this as mowing season is about to start. The Cricket Club are asking for an increase in the mowing contract of between 10% and 15%, this needs to be discussed further. New Pavilion: TT wrote to the VAP as requested by PC and has had a detailed reply from Mr Hawthorne. The plans will not be available until late April and TT is proposing that the new PC discuss these following the May election.

Honeybees have asked for the emergency meeting point to be changed to the play park; PF committee agreed this.

Fun Day: This is to be on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2011.

Football Pitch subsidence – Clerk had been in contact with Insurers. Clerk asked IE to give precise details of the problem so she can go back to insurance company.

Mr Bob Taylor – PF committee intend to provide a fixed seat in memory of Bob for all he did for the PF over all the years. TT is dealing with this. SAA asked if any tree works had been done at the playing field recently as she had seen some wood there.

CE said that a diseased horse chestnut tree had been cut down. SAA asked where it had come from. This was not known.

RT said that he had been informed by UK Power Networks that an underground cable would be laid near the tennis club. CE asked if this would impact on the new pavilion, which would be on the same footprint as the present one.

RT said it would not impact on it. TT asked for copies of the plans for the new cables.

RT said there would be another scheme underground from the Winning Post across Station Road which would lead to the sub station by the hall.

#### **VILLAGE HALL:**

RT reported that the new kitchen would cost £16,000, and the work would be done in late spring/early summer. The floor would also be replaced.

Mr Satchell was looking at a CCTV system for the hall.

TT was doing drawings for alterations to the building.

Mrs Baker said that the main hall had been very hot during the NADFAS lecture earlier in the afternoon, and asked if there was a way of turning off the heat. RT said someone would need to be shown how to do it; he suggested that the thermostat could be turned down.

She also asked if anything could be done about the noise in the small hall which was high, and that maybe some sound absorbing material could be used to help with this. RT said he would ask the Hall Committee.

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

No formal report this month.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

CE said she would up details of the election timetable on noticeboards in the village.

RS said he had received several reports from residents who were pleased with the information on Parish Council meetings in the magazine.

Further Items: IE reported that car parking is still a problem in Barnfield. RT said that he felt that the trees in Station Close that were blocking out light for a resident should be trimmed, and because the land was owned by the Crown that perhaps the PC should deal with this.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Mr C Symes to give a quotation.

CE reported some general rubbish behind the garage for No 1 Station Cottages.

RT reported that there was still rubbish down the bottom of Riddens Close, alongside the Bevernside (just past the last two garages).

ACTION: Clerk to report these to the Green Team.

CE said she thought that the trees at 7 Old School Cottages had TPO's on them and Mr Hutson had a document with this on.

ACTION: Clerk to clarify this with Mr Wynn Tree Officer.

**CLERKS REPORT:**

Clerk presented to the Council:

AiRS Village Mailing Winter 2011, AiRS newsletter March 2011, 3 View Spring 2011, Winter snow and ice form pavements 2011, SDNP 20 Years of Achievement, The Clerk March, complimentary Parish Map of Ditchling, Plumpton, East Chiltington, Streat and Westmeston, Clerks and Councils Direct March

News from the School: Fundraising day for comic relief on 18<sup>th</sup> March, details of Horticultural shows during 2011 – spring show there is a children's craft section,

**BUSINESS PLAN:**

Nothing to report.

**Chairman**

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM. THEY WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL AT THE MEETING ON 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 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