

THE PARISH OF EAST HOATHLY WITH HALLAND

Minutes of the 115th Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 24 May 2010 in the Village Hall, Church Marks Lane, starting at 8 pm.

Present: Parish Council: Councillors David Vaughan (Chair), Susan Cole, John Graham, Bryan Kidd, Jenny Vaughan, Susan Whitehead and Marian Wilson.

Councillor Ms Barby Dashwood-Hall (WDC).

Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk).
Mr Derek Keeley (Grounds Manager)

Approximately 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Parish Councillors, Susan Cole, Pete French, and Roger More.
Councillor Nick Bennett (ESCC).

Copies of the agenda 'pack' were available to the public attending. This contained the agenda, minutes from the meeting held on 18 May 2009, Chairman's Report (including the War Memorial Sports Ground Trust), a financial spreadsheet for the year ending 31 March 2010, and the Chairman's Report and accounts from the Village Hall.

Questions from the public arising from the reports are detailed in the minutes below.

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 May 2009

These had been included in the agenda 'pack' and were proposed for signature by John Graham, seconded by Jenny Vaughan, and adopted as read.

2. Chairman's Report

The report was taken as read. David Vaughan highlighted the following items and questions from the floor are detailed as and when they were asked.

Provision of Allotments

The planning application for the amendment to the Section 106 is live. WDC have asked for ecological surveys prior to determination. These are required by Natural England if they are to issue a licence for any works to the site. Three quotations were obtained and a company appointed; the surveys are now underway at a cost of some £5,000 (six concurrent surveys for Great Crested Newts and 4 or 5 for other reptiles).

- Helen Harrison asked if any soil surveys are being carried out and the Clerk replied that at the moment the Council is complying with the requests of WDC so as not to cloud any issues. Any further work can be considered at a later date once the planning application has been determined.
- Concerns were raised about the land drain, which runs from the newer dwelling on Thomas Turner Drive. The Clerk was asked to look into the matter.
- David Vaughan commented that the Council would very much like to see the land used for allotments.
- John Graham thanked the would-be allotment holders for their patience and that their individual expertise might be needed if mitigation measures are required once the surveys have been concluded and if the allotment project is to move on.

Woodlands

The woodlands are in the process of being transferred from Hillreed to the Council – this is still with our solicitors who are ironing out a few issues with Hillreed. The PC will then be looking at taking on someone to manage it properly in line with the management plan and hopefully some local people can be involved. Andrew Wright, a resident and expert in the field, has offered his expertise and has drafted a report on the management plan. This has

been sent to WDC who are considering the contents with a view to changing the details within the plan.

Youth Shelter

This is still ongoing particularly as some S106 monies will become available specifically for the playing fields. Any element of the younger generation with ideas should approach the PC.

Speed Camera, Halland

The speed of traffic on the A22 has given residents cause for concern and a local resident, Stephen O'Halloran has taken up the cudgel on behalf of the Parish challenging ESCC on several issues. The speed camera was deactivated when the reduced speed limit was put in place but it is hoped that it will be reactivated once the statutory year is complete which is very soon. Any other highway concerns should be directed to Councillor Nick Bennett (ESCC).

Recycling

A version of the CROWN scheme is to be introduced to the rural parishes during the year – East Hoathly/Halland is now on line, following some operational difficulties, for the autumn. WDC have currently turned down the suggestion of a bring site in Back Lane, Halland, due to the cost of enhancing the land to bring it up to a standard whereby ESCC will issue a licence. Further pressure might be brought to bear on this.

- Helen Harrison commented that she thought it was regrettable that WDC were not collecting more recyclables with their new scheme for which she would be willing to pay and increased Council Tax.

Councillor Dashwood-Hall explained that the reason for the decision to only collect two from the kerbside is cost and most people would not be willing to pay anything over and above what they already do. Also a local authority needs to find a market for recyclables and get a good return on them. One myth that WDC mix all the different coloured glass together on collection from the bring sites can be dispelled as they always separate it as they get a much higher cash return, whereas ESCC mix it together for less return. The two collectables were to be green waste (garden waste/cardboard etc) and tins/plastics.

ESCC – Section 106 monies

It was thought that the 106 monies earmarked for road improvements (cycle lane/pavement between the two villages) etc might be under threat of reduction due to the economic downturn.

Landraise

As most people were aware Halland was picked as one of five sites in the consultation as it was some years ago. Councillor Dashwood-Hall confirmed that WDC have strongly objected to the proposals. David Vaughan suggested that everyone lobbies both ESCC and Brighton & Hove's councillors. It was thought that ESCC were in the process of issuing a list of objectors with a validation of their objections. A decision on a short list of sites was thought to be on the cards for November this year. It was thought pressure ought to be put on the authorities to find alternative brownfield sites for temporary use for waste until other more suitable ecological solutions are found. Once a landraise/fill site has reached maximum capacity, it is covered with topsoil and left – not removed as possibly thought.

John Tarry asked for an update on some 'matters arising from the 2009 meeting.

- If any progress had been made from the last Annual Assembly on a solution for the Village Hall. David Vaughan commented that a meeting hadn't been held but as the loan for the Long Pond was into its final year, that money in subsequent years could be put on one side for the Hall and/or pavilion.
- News on the proposed doctors' surgery on the Linden Homes site and what was the trigger for such work – had it passed? Councillor Dashwood-Hall stated that she did not have the up to date information and as every Section 106 is different it would be difficult to hazard a guess. It was thought that the issue could be to do with a change of approach by the PCT. Councillor Dashwood-Hall stated that she would look into it by the next PC meeting. John stated that it seemed as though developers could get away with

what they wanted to. Rosemary Kidd commented that it was assumed that Lydfords would retain the temporary surgery.

Councillor Barby Dashwood-Hall took the floor and made the following report – these minutes include questions from the audience.

- LDF (Local Development Framework) – progress towards the Core Strategy was ongoing.
- SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) – this had been published and two potential sites have been identified for development in East Hoathly. This does not mean however that this will ever happen.
- Council Tax – WDC have managed to keep the increase low and are undertaking a transformation programme to reduce costs including partnering with other authorities and contracting out of some functions. The Council has also set in motion the move to a single site headquarters in Hailsham, which will save revenue.
- Barby is entering her second full session as Chair to PCS (Planning Control South).
- She is a Trustee of AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex) who have set a list of priorities, one of them being to investigate the quality of rural broadband speeds and anyone who is suffering should contact AIRS to add their thoughts to the survey for evidence to BT.
- Barby also sits on the South East Regional Board representing rural needs at a Governmental level.
- WDC Housing Needs Survey. When conducted earlier in the year the results for the Parish did not add up with the number of people on the housing list – it was thought that some of those already on the list did not complete the surveys. Although the figures do change all the time with people moving into accommodation and people moving into an area or changing their circumstances. Fred Dinan asked if some of them could have been accommodated in the new developments in the village. This was thought possible but reiteration given that the numbers change all the time and Councillor Dashwood-Hall thought the figure detailed tied up with a list she had seen recently.

John Tarry asked if anything that had been promised by the Conservatives prior to the election was likely to materialise. Councillor Dashwood-Hall thought that they had promised to abolish the South East Plan and devolve building down to either ESCC or WDC, with WDC being the obvious favourite. News was still awaited on this.

Finance Officer’s Report

Fred Dinan asked for the reason in the rise in precept – higher than either ESCC or WDC. David Vaughan stated that it was difficult to use percentages on such differing figures; the PC was still building up the reserves and having the extra houses coming on line, this would mean a drop in the current residents’ council tax as the total amount would be spread over more houses. No further questions were raised and the accounts thereby accepted.

3. Report of the Chairman of the War Memorial Sports Ground Managing Committee

There were no questions from the floor and the report was agreed as read. David Vaughan stated again that monies put aside to repay the Long Pond loan might be utilised in a further refurbishment of the Pavilion. He asked the meeting to give thanks to Derek Keeley for all his efforts, particularly over this last difficult year.

Treasurer’s Report of this Committee

No questions were raised and the accounts thereby accepted.

4. Report/Accounts of the Chairman/Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee

There were no questions from the floor.

No further business or questions. The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

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