

HEATHFIELD AND WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 12 MAY 2009, 7.30 PM
AT HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Mr Baker, Mr Bassingthwaighte (Chairman), Mr Chambers, Mrs Clark, Mr Davis, Mrs Gander, Mr Harmer, Mr Hart, Mrs Holmwood, Mrs Kentish-Barnes, Mr Kerby, Mrs Muddle, Mr Newnham, Mrs Oakes, Mrs Plant and Mr Wood.

The Clerk and Administrative Officer were in attendance.

Also present: County Councillors Simmons and Dowling and District Councillor Mrs Kirkpatrick
1 member of the public, 1 member of the press, Sgt Ruth Hammerton and PSCO Fleur Whittaker.

09/39 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

PSCO Whittaker addressed the Committee and explained they wished to get members of the public to act as volunteers to carry out speed watches on designated roads in the area. PSCO Whittaker explained that they had two volunteers at present but needed a minimum of four, Councillors Mrs Holmwood and Mrs Plant volunteered. It was asked how the scheme operated it was explained that a speed check was carried out on roads where limits of 30 and 40 mph applied and if caught speeding twice warnings would be given. If caught speeding on a third occasion a fine would be imposed. The training consisted of a couple of hours and volunteers would be given information on roads to be used and provided with highviz jackets. The Chairman thanked PCSO Whittaker for speaking to the Committee.

09/40 **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

The Chairman welcomed County Councillors Simmons and Dowling and District Councillor Mrs Kirkpatrick. Apologies were received from District Councillor Angel and Mrs Dunk.

Councillor Simmons expressed his appreciation to Chairman Ray Bassingthwaighte for his work to the Parish Council in the last three years. He emphasized that this had been carried out with grace, dignity and harmony. He felt that the Chamber of Commerce, the Partnership and the Parish Council had worked well together making Heathfield a better place to live.

Councillor Mrs Kirkpatrick addressed the meeting and wished to endorse Councillor Simmons' comments. It was noted that the next phase of the Local Development Framework would not be out until 22 June 2009 and it was stressed that the document did not contain specific sites. The Vice-Chairman asked why the Local Development Paper had been delayed until the end of June and it was explained that this was due to local elections being held in May and householders receiving a lot of paperwork around this time. Councillor Kerby questioned that this document was not site specific but a further consultation paper and said members of the public would be concerned about this.

Councillor Dowling spoke to the meeting and also wished to thank the Chairman for his last three years in office. He said it was good to see work progressing on the A265/A267 Junction and he understood work to be on schedule. Due to the heavy amount of traffic expected for the Heathfield Show the traffic lights would not be in operation.

The meeting commenced at 7.45 p.m.

09/41 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Archer, Mr Hough, Mr Waterhouse, Mr Woodhouse and Dr Rayner.

09/42 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors and said he had thoroughly enjoyed his three years in office. He wished to thank the Vice Chairman who had stood in for him on numerous occasions and expressed his thanks to the Clerk and the staff in the Office for their support.

He then reported that Mr Baker had nominated Mr Newnham for Chairman and this was seconded by Mrs Kentish-Barnes. No other nominations being received, a vote was taken and Mr Newnham was duly elected as Chairman.

Mr Newnham took the Chair and said that three nominations had been received for the post of Vice-Chairman. The persons nominated were Mrs Plant, Mrs Kentish Barnes and Mr Baker. Mr Baker addressed the meeting and gave his thanks for the nomination but wished to withdraw his name. The Chairman then asked for a show of hands for the remaining two candidates and Mrs Kentish-Barnes was duly elected Vice-Chairman.

Mrs Kentish-Barnes thanked fellow Councillors for their support and said she felt very honoured and would do her best to serve them.

09/43 **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

09/44 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2009 and the Annual Parish Assembly held on 7 April 2009, having been previously circulated, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

09/45 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman said that now the weather had improved Mr Baker and he would be inspecting the fingerposts in the Parish.

09/46

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the following representatives on outside bodies:-

Emergency Co-ordinator – Mr A Baker
Emergency Co-ordinator Assistants – Mrs D Kentish-Barnes and Mrs V Oakes
Heathfield and Waldron Twinning Association – Mr P Newnham
The Heathfield Charities – Mr P Newnham and Mrs V Oakes
The Heathfield Partnership – Mr P Newnham and Mrs A Muddle
The Safer Wealden Partnership – Mrs J Holmwood
Tree Warden – Mr R Wood
Uckfield Citizens Advice Bureau – Mr P Newnham
Wealden District Association of Local Councils – Mrs P Clark and
Mrs L Plant

Local Action Team – Mrs P Clark
Hardy Roberts Playing Fields Association – Mr P Newnham and Mrs L Plant
Cross in Hand Village Hall – Mr P Newnham and Mrs A Muddle
Punnetts Town Village Hall Committee – Mrs P Clark and Mr R Davis
Goward Hall Management Committee – Mr R Davis
Heathfield and Waldron Millennium Green – Mrs L Plant
Lucas Hall Shadow Management Committee – Mr J Chambers
The Cattam Project – Mr J Chambers

09/47

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Bassingthwaite had nothing to report.

Mr Newnham had attended the following events:-

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| 30 March 2009 | Wealden Parish Conference |
| 2 April 2009 | Broad Oak Speed Limit and Calming Meeting |
| 25 April 2009 | Annual Cuckoo Fair |
| 2 May 2009 | Forges les Eaux, Heathfield |
| 7 May 2009 | Opening of Tower Recreation Play Equipment |
| 7 May 2009 | Cross in Hand Amenities Society |
| 9 May 2009 | Auction of Antiques |

The Chairman had received a letter from the organisers of the Cuckoo Fair thanking the Parish Council for their help and support and informing him that £3,000 had been raised for Demelza.

09/48

CLERK'S REPORT

A correspondence list as at 5 May 2009 had been circulated to all Members and it was noted that an Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Council would need to take place to enable the Annual Return to be signed.

09/49

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Clarke reported that Punnetts Town Village Hall Committee had accepted a revised quote from BH Builders and work would start in June 2009.

The Vice-Chairman raised concerns regarding on-going parking on the pavement outside Lloyds Bank, which made it very difficult for pedestrians. Sgt Hammerton said that the area was patrolled regularly and that parking tickets were given out on a frequent basis. It was suggested that an 'A' Board be erected on the pavement noting 'No Parking' and this might act as a deterrent and anyone seen parking here would be noted. The Chairman said that in January 2010 the final phase of High Street would begin and it was planned to have bollards erected on the pavement outside the Bank.

Mr Kerby asked if there was any progress on the replacement post box at Old Heathfield. It was reported that the Parish Council had been in touch with the Royal Mail and had received an email to say that this was being investigated. Councillor Simmons had been in touch with the Royal Mail, Head Office in London and had been informed that it would be replaced within the next month on the opposite side of the road.

Mrs Muddle raised concerns of the High Street bus stops and asked why there were two stops within such close proximity to one another. The bus stop outside Pipers, in the High Street often caused traffic congestion. The Chairman reported that it would be detrimental not to have two stops as the furthest stop was situated further along the High Street and would incur a longer walk for elderly passengers.

09/50 **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

09/50a Finance and General Purposes Committee

Mr Bassingthwaight reported on the meeting of 17 March 2009. Members noted that included within the minutes was a Resolution to transfer some of the Parish Council's reserves to HSBC.

09/50b Highways, Planning and Street Lighting Committee

Minutes of the meetings held on 16, 30 March 2009 and 14 and 27 April 2009 (previously circulated). Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2009 (unadopted) were circulated at the meeting. Mr Newnham reported thereon. Mr Kerby reported on the Rural Transport Meeting which took place on 16 March 2009.

09/50c Burial Grounds Committee

It was reported that the next meeting is on 1 June 2009.

09/50d Recreation Grounds and Properties Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2009 were to follow. Mrs Plant reported thereon. It was asked that special thanks be given to Mr Woodhouse for his hard work in obtaining funding for the skatepark through the Pathfinder Scheme. The Parish Council also wished to acknowledge appreciation to Jeni Woodhouse of Huffle Nursery School for bringing children to Tower Recreation Ground for the opening of the play equipment.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings reported above be approved and adopted by the Parish Council.

09/51 **LIST OF PAYMENTS MADE BY THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 20 FEBRUARY TO 31 MARCH 2009**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments made between 20 February and 31 March 2009.

09/52 **CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 SECTION 17**

The Council wished to note the implementation of the Speed watch scheme within the Parish and noted with regret the vandalism to the swing at Tower Recreation Ground.

09/53 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Damage to the play equipment at Tower Recreation Ground
Bank reserves

09/54 **TO CONSIDER MOTIONS**

There were none.

09/55 **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 July 2009, at 7.30 pm in the Ian Price Room, Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Signed

Chairman

Dated