

RINGMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 29 January 2009 at Ringmer Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs. P Longhurst (Chairman); Mrs J Fordham; AR Peters; Mrs E Pitts; and Mrs J Woollons. Cllr I P Wilson attended in connection with item 11.

There were 3 members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES ACTION

1.1 There were apologies from Cllrs Kay and White.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

2.1 There were no declarations.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

3.1 Mr Cooper reiterated his concern at the damage caused to the verge and roadway in Chamberlaines Lane by floodwater and is pursuing his dialogue with the Environment Agency.

3.2 Messrs Daniel and Cannell residents of 1 & 2 Upper Lodge Farm Cottages, The Broyle had witnessed the aftermath of the fatal accident there in December. They believe that perhaps surprisingly this was the first fatality on this road, given the very high speeds witnessed which often amount to 'similarities to a racetrack'. They stressed that this is a consistent problem on this road and asked that the road markings be re-examined. Mr Cooper added that there were too many distractions on this stretch of road and also that deceleration lanes etc should be provided at the approaches to the larger businesses along The Broyle to reduce the incidence of sudden obstructions by slowing and turning traffic.

It was agreed that the Highway Authority should be approached again by Council, but it was suggested to the residents that first they should gather a petition seeking action, and also encourage letters, from other residents fronting The Broyle, which should be returned to the Clerk.

**Clerk
09/01/01**

4. ACTION POINT LIST – Appendix 1

08/01/02 Speeding Traffic on The Broyle – 30 mph limit: it was reported that a letter had been received from the County Council, advising that the extension to the 40mph limit would be implemented during

the 2009/10 financial year but that it has been decided that extension of the 30mph limit as sought would be unwarranted. It was agreed to discharge this action point.

08/10/09 Allotment rents increase – it was reported that the tenants had been notified of the rent increase and it was therefore agreed to discharge the action point.

08/10/10 Confirm tenant's request for continued full plot and conditions – it was reported that this has been done and it was agreed to discharge the action point.

08/10/11 Proposed new footpath to Downs – letters expressing Council's support had been sent to ESCC and Messrs Christie and Loughborough, and it was agreed to discharge the action point.

5. ALLOTMENTS

5.1 It was advised that 2 half allotments had become vacant but that there was a waiting list of about 10 people. The Clerk noted that there appeared to be an opportunity to bring back into use 2 full allotments and a half allotment which could then be subdivided, although this would require some rubbish clearance, cutting back of boundary hedging, and turf clearance and/or rotavation. It was agreed that this should be organised.

**Clerk
09/01/02**

6. FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS, FOOTWAYS AND TWITTENS

6.1 Proposal for a new footpath to the Downs

The Committee was advised that the necessary documentation was in the process of completion and that the footpath should be open within 2 months. It will be necessary however to close it for between 30 and 40 days a year to enable adjacent land to be used for shooting and on such occasions appropriate warning signage will be displayed by the Estate.

6.2 Kissing gates

It is proposed to install kissing gates to replace stiles on footpath 22 this year, subject to agreement from the landowners to whom letters are being sent.

7. TRAFFIC, PARKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

7.1 Bus shelter outside Old Post Office

It had been reported that this shelter had recently been damaged and that on inspection it was apparent that this had been caused by vandalism, although there was weakness in the structure in any event as a result of decay of a main framing timber. As this was a possible public safety issue, it was agreed that repairs be investigated promptly and that appropriate recommendations for expenditure be made to Council.

**Clerk
09/01/03**

7.2 Parking restrictions

It had been confirmed that the parking and waiting restrictions proposed by ESCC would be completed during January and February, subject to weather conditions. Cllr Mrs Fordham advised that the double yellow lines agreed for the southern end of Broyle Lane had not been extended far enough and that she had written to prompt appropriate action.

8. RINGMER/BRAKE TRAFFIC SURVEY

- 8.1 The Committee had been circulated with an analysis of the survey conducted in November with a view to improving road safety and this had clearly identified the key issues. The Chairman stated that the response rate had been comparatively good for such a survey. The survey results and comments will be publicised by RADAR subject to Council's approval for this action. Speedwatch will be pursued, further attention will need to be given to the possibility of achieving further pedestrian crossings, and the need to taken action over heavy vehicles through the village will continue to be stressed with the County Council. As indicated in agenda item 10, safety is a particular concern nationwide. It was suggested and agreed subject to acceptance by ESCC that the posters provided by THINK for Speeding and Drink Driving would be displayed temporarily on the same poster frames that the faded safety posters prepared by the local schools had used. It was agreed that the survey be put to Council with a copy to be circulated to all other Members.

9. RESULTS OF INSPECTION OF RUSTIC BENCHES

- 9.1 Members were provided with copies of a survey undertaken by Mmes Cruttenden and Longhurst, for which they resolved to record their gratitude. As a result of the findings, it was agreed that a watch be kept on benches 1, 2, 6 & 12 with appropriate repair work to be undertaken if & when shortcomings were identified. Immediate remedial action is to be undertaken to benches 3 & 11 and bench 16 is to be checked further and any appropriate repair work carried out. It was noted that necessary trimming to hedges and trees adjacent to bench 13 had

**Clerk
09/01/04**

now been carried out.

10. DoT ROAD SAFETY COMPLIANCE CONSULTATION

10.1 Committee Members had been circulated with details of this consultation and from the Chairman's perusal he found that the following key points emerged from the research undertaken:

- 2946 people killed and 28,000 injured in 2007
- Driver behaviour is a factor in 95% of all accidents
- 408 deaths due to careless driving, reckless driving, or being in a hurry
- 727 deaths where speed was a contributory factor
- 460 deaths where drink driving was a contributory factor
- 50% vehicles exceed 30mph limit
- 45% people say that speeding is a problem in their area
- 6 point penalty proposed for > 20mph over limit
- 95% wear seat belts - penalty of £60 proposed for not wearing
- Careless driving – fixed penalty of £60 + 3 penalty points proposed
- More remedial training centres proposed
- THINK campaign being refreshed
- Time over distance (average speed) cameras felt to be most effective

10.2 It was agreed following discussion of continuing speeding problems within the village that it may well be appropriate to consider the introduction of average speed cameras and that given that the Council gave its 'approval in principle' the cost and criteria for justification of these should be looked into.

10.3 It was agreed that a questionnaire supplied with the consultation be completed in draft by Cllrs Longhurst and Mrs Fordham with this response to be ratified at Council.

11. DRAINAGE ISSUES IN VICINITY OF NORLINGTON STREAM AND BULLDOG SEWER

11.1 The Chairman suspended standing orders to enable Cllr Wilson to address the Committee.

11.2 Cllr Wilson advised that:
- in July 2007 as a result of heavy rainfall, flooding occurred which amongst other problems led to surface water and sewage impacting on the Community College.

-flooding of Turners Field area has not been rectified and pollutants have as a result entered the Green Man spur and Chamberlaines Lane drain and hence the Glynde Reach, which has been experiencing

serious impacts on wildlife including fish.

-in 2000, 4 residential properties were inundated with sewage and surface water. This led in 2006 to approval being successfully sought by Southern Water and its contractors for a system that is designed to hold back such effluent as necessary and then pump it away when the drainage system is under less strain. However this system has not worked satisfactorily where the drainage system has been under sustained overload. Both the Parish Council and the County Council have as a result complained about sewage entering the highways drainage system. Ofwat and SW commissioned reports on this type of system and in 2008 the design was condemned as unsatisfactory.

-the Environment Agency is taking these issues seriously and is apparently undertaking various surveys.

- 11.3 The Chairman resumed Standing Orders and following advice from the Clerk that he had written to the Environment Agency and would also be approaching the other drainage authorities, it was agreed that the concerns and problems identified should be pursued with a view to seeking satisfactory resolution and a clearer understanding of the various areas of responsibility. Cllr Wilson agreed to assist over this and to supply information that he had gathered to date.

**Clerk/Cllr
Wilson
09/01/05**

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- 12.1 The Committee considered a letter from Mrs J Craig of Gote Lane, who sought the reinstatement of a street sign for New Road near the eastern corner with Lewes Road; the provision of a footpath in that location for safety reasons at least near the corner; and the provision of a dog bin in the vicinity of Saddlers way/ Harvard Road.

After consideration and discussion of these separate issues, it was agreed that the sign and footpath provisions be pursued but that Mrs Craig be advised that an additional dog bin will not be entertained but that the presence of a bin in Mill Road be brought to her attention.

**Clerk
09/01/06**

13. ANY REPORTS (by leave)

- 13.1 No further reports were received from councillors.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 14.1 The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place on Thursday 4 June 2009 at 7.30 pm in the St. Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall; **also** that this will be preceded by the annual inspection of the Allotments which

will start promptly there at 6.45 pm.

The meeting closed at 9 pm