

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2019

Councillors Present: Mr R Cooper, Mr J Harden, Mr S Hellett, Mr N Jowett, Mrs J Landstrom, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman) and Dr A Tate

In Attendance: District Councillor Mrs Norma Graves
Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk)
There were no members of the public present.

Mrs Martin-Jenkins declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.

PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

105/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Peter Wilding, Mr Phillip Osborne and County Councillor Janet Duncton.

106/19 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

107/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

108/19 MATTERS ARISING

The Mobile Skip came on Saturday 21st September and was successful although was not full to capacity. It was suggested the date be advertised earlier next time. It was hoped to repeat the provision in the spring.

109/19 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Councillor Norma Graves reported on the following:

- **Disabled Facilities Grant Policy:** this grant is a mandatory grant introduced 30 years ago to fund works to enable disabled persons on low income to live at home independently. The grant can be used to fund works such as wet rooms, stair-lifts and ramps, up to £30,000. In 2015 the funding of this grant changed to the Better Care Fund (accessed through CDC) and now the new policy, Disabled Facilities Grant Policy 2020-2024 provides a package of grants aimed to reduce hospital stays, provide a safe warm home and help those who choose to move to a more suitable property. It is the first county-wide policy of this type and has been led by the Chief Executive.
- **Public Conveniences:** In this year PC awards, the facilities in North Street, Midhurst and Northgate in Chichester were awarded Platinum whilst those in Pound Street, Petworth were awarded a Gold.
- **Gymnastics at The Grange:** The Grange has recently launched Max Whitlock gymnastics sessions. These have been a great success with all places sold out and children achieving certificates for their new skills already.

- **Christmas Market at The Grange on 7th December 10am-3pm:** A Christmas Market featuring a number of festive stalls selling a variety of products, from arts and crafts to giftware and beauty products. Includes a visit from Father Christmas.
- **Chichester Christmas Market:** The Market Square will host a nine day festive market on North and East Street in Chichester from 7th-15th December. This will complement the High Street offering.

Mr Cooper asked whether there would be any grants available from CDC to help with celebrations of the 75th anniversary of VE day. Mrs Graves to look into this as it has yet to be discussed.

If there are any issues of a District nature then please do not hesitate to contact Peter Wilding on pwilding@chichester.gov.uk or Norma Graves ngraves@chichester.gov.uk

Clerk read out the County Councillor's report in Mrs Duncton's absence:

County is progressing slowly but surely with the improvement of its Children Services. As you know the Ofsted report was not good and WSCC are doing everything they can to bring the service up to good or even outstanding. However this is going to be a long process which is likely to take 2 years plus. Like Adult Services, it does need more money as do many other services.

The Fire Service is working under the new Chief Fire Officer, Sabrina Hatton-Cohen, to bring it up to the required standard. A lot of what is needed are internal items with regards to working with other authorities which do need improvement and some better working practices. The Service is still pretty good and no one need worry that a fire or road traffic accident, for instance, would not have an immediate response as always. The best community project grant which can be applied for is from Hall and Woodhouse, the brewers, the nearest pub being The Stag at Balls Cross.

The new Highways contract is out to tender and it will be a very different contract than before. An update will be provided as soon as more is known.

Peter Wilding came to the CLC meeting in Midhurst on Tuesday evening and raised the question of passing places in Fernden Lane. Chris Dye was there so he knows what is being requested. Again it's watch this space.

The County Council meeting has moved from the 13th December to the 17th. This is because the General Election is on the 12th and many of the Staff will have either been counting all night or still doing so on the 13th.

If there are any issues of a County nature then please do not hesitate to contact Janet Duncton on janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk or 01798 342528.

110/19 FINANCE

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 2a and 2b which included:

- a) A statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts as at 7th November 2019 incorporating details of cheques which needed to be issued, and for which approval was sought.
- b) Budget Monitoring sheet as at 7th November 2019

The Council's current financial position at £25,233 bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted. The members duly approved the payments for Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk's September & October 2019 Salary & Expenses) @ £813, The Leconfield Estates (Allotment water and grit bin site rental) @ £80, Mr Gary Sharp (Refurbishment of two fingerboards) @ £1,040, Goss Mini Skips (Mobile Skip provision) @ £960, Garden Escapes (Village grass cutting 2019) @ £1,505 and Mr Nathan Silius (Allotment hedge cutting and strimming) @ £187

The Finance Committee is due to meet on Tuesday 19th November to discuss the budget and precept for 2020/21.

111/19 PLANNING

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DISCUSSED SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/19/04489/FTP

Location: Hobstevens Farm, Jobsons Lane, Lurgashall

Proposal: Diversion of footpath 2030

SDNP/19/04683/TCA

Location: Well House, Hamstead Lane, Lurgashall

Proposal: Notification of intention to crown reduce by up to 4m on 1 no. Ash tree

SDNP/19/02792/FUL

Location: Blackdown Park Fernden Lane Lurgashall West Sussex

Proposal: New access track from Fernden Lane for commercial vehicle use

SDNP/19/05020/OHL

Location: Courts Yard, Windfall Wood Common, Lurgashall

Proposal: Relocation of an existing pole as part of the dismantling of 2 spans of overhead line

SDNP/19/03875/CND

Location: Courts Yard, Windfall Wood Common, Lurgashall

Proposal: Erection of 2 detached dwellings and garages following the cessation of the current use and demolition and removal of all existing buildings, hardstandings. (Variation of condition 2 of permission SDNP/15/05454/FUL - elevational amendments to plot 1 and 2, including changes to materials, windows and doors).

SDNP/19/03772/HOUS and SDNP/19/03773/LIS

Location: Blackdown House Fernden Lane Lurgashall GU27 3BT

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and log store. Erection of greenhouse/orangery. Removal of garden steps to north of existing house and replace with a seating area. Removal of incidental garden structures and various landscaping works.

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/19/04163/PRE

Location: The Quell Quell Lane Lurgashall Haslemere West Sussex

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage. The proposal contains space for 4 no. parked vehicles and a storage room with provision for electric car charging points. Proposed cladding, roof and window framing to match existing house. Proposed PV panels located on roof

Advice provided

SDNP/19/02719 and SDNP/19/02720/LIS

Location: Greengate Farm House High Hamstead Lane Lurgashall

Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory, replacement rear ground floor extension with loggia. Front extension to annex. Alterations and additions to fenestration. Replacement of any damaged roof tiles

Decision: Approved

SDNP/19/03595/HOUS

Location; Aldworth Farm Jobsons Lane Lurgashall

Proposal: Demolition of stables and garage. Erection of triple garage. Alternative to planning permission SDNP/18/05243/HOUS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/19/04207/PRE

Location; Little Brockhurst Farm Dial Green Lane Lurgashall

Proposal; Refurbishment and extension of main house, refurbishment of outbuildings and erection of 2 bay garage. Advice provided

SDNP/19/02646/HOUS and SDNP/19/02647/LIS

Location; The Village Shop High Hamstead Lane Lurgashall

Proposal: Demolishment of existing out buildings. Single storey rear extension with various additions and alterations including changes to fenestration.

Decision: Approved

Members were disappointed that the Village Shop extension had been approved by SDNP with what seems a complete disregard of the Parish Plan. A huge amount of work and effort had gone into this in 2002/3 and it is felt the document had since, rarely been considered. Dr Tate said he had attended the recent SDNP workshop and Lurgashall was not alone thinking this.

Mrs Martin-Jenkins said as there had been a lack of planning meetings of late, it was important that one is held in December for full transparency.

112/19 HIGHWAYS INCLUDING VILLAGE GREEN AND WINTER MANAGEMENT

The flooding issue on the Village Green had been reported to WSCC Highways along with the bad state of repair of the lane running between the Noah's Ark and Church. Mr Cooper said he would ask John Simpson to clear the ditches and culverts on Jobsons Lane as he had kindly done last year. Flooding was a problem throughout the parish, water was flowing across the road at the Winery and up towards Gospel Green.

Mr Cooper reported all was okay on the Village Green and he would finish painting the benches shortly. The salt/grit audit had been submitted and an updated Winter Plan 2019/20 would be submitted to WSCC by the deadline of 6th December. WSCC Highways have reduced their gritting schedule. Clerk to check the school bus routes and whether these will be covered.

113/19 LITTER BIN

Clerk had been in contact with Lisa Jones at Chichester District Council (CDC) and at the moment, CDC cannot give a date for installation as they currently have a vacancy on their facilities team which is unfilled. Therefore it is unlikely the installation will happen this year. A quote will be sent through for agreement once a site visit has been carried out to check for electrical services etc.

114/19 FINGERBOARDS

Gary Sharp had refurbished two fingerboards in the village; one on the Village Green and one at Dial Green. He is continuing the project and refurbishing two further fingerboards in the parish; one at Shoppe Hill and the other at Jenner's Corner.

115/19 BT KIOSK AT GOSPEL GREEN

BT have consulted CDC on the proposed removal of kiosks (not just the telephony) in locations across the District, including the kiosk at Gospel Green. A notice should have been placed in the kiosk by BT along with information on the adoption process. CDC have until the end of December to make a response and are unlikely to object to the removal without a strong justification from the Parish Council. The consultation document

indicates that no calls have been placed in the last 12 months. The majority of members agreed that there should be no objection to the removal of the kiosk. Clerk to write and inform the residents (Mr and Mrs James Lane) of Gospel Green Cottage, opposite the box, and thank Mr Lane for his help in maintaining the area.

116/19 RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr Hellett reported he had contacted Northchapel, Lodsworth and Tillington Parish Councils regarding setting up a combined Community Land Trust. He is due to present at the next Lodsworth PC meeting and is waiting to hear from Northchapel and Tillington.

117/19 PLAYGROUND

Mr Cooper said there was nothing to report. Next year the equipment in the playground would need to be painted.

118/19 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 4, an update on the allotments which Mrs Landstrom had prepared. Mrs Landstrom reported there are 4 full-sized plots currently available. The first meeting of existing and prospective allotment holders was held in October, it was agreed to meet 4 times a year with the next meeting being in January. There is a strong community spirit now (with a working party being set up every Sunday morning) and people are willing to give their time, but some projects require financial assistance. The allotments need maintaining and improving to attract and keep allotment holders. Mrs Landstrom asked whether plots 8b and 23 could be used as communal areas for a picnic area and bonfire. Furthermore whether a budget be made available for new taps (water pipe, tap fixings and posts) and a table/bench for the picnic area? Members agreed this as there was money in the current budget to cover these items and thanked Jane for her hard work and commitment in making the allotments thrive once again. Lurgashall Village Shop Committee is looking into options for storage once the shop and the rest of the property are separated. One possibility would be to erect a shed at the allotments for storage. The Parish Council is, in principle, happy for this to be done (in an overgrown spot identified) on the basis that the land owners, The Leconfield Estates, agree.

119/19 RIGHTS OF WAYS

Mr Harden stated that there was a lot of water pouring off the field on FP1068 where works had been done. The support rail was being well-used. Some waymarker posts in the parish had not been replaced. Clerk to chase.

120/19 L.R.A

Dr Tate said the L.R.A wine tasting evening (Your Wine Anyway) is being held on Thursday 28th November at the Village Hall. The hedge is due to be cut at the Jubilee Field when the weather is less wet.

121/19 CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr Hellett had previously distributed two background documents. He reported on the recent 2018 IPCC report on Climate Change which states that we have already caused a 1°C rise in global temperature. The difference between the impacts of global warming of 2°C and 1.5°C is much greater than previously thought and we are currently heading for a catastrophic 3°C rise. We are running out of time, and we need to get to Zero Carbon emissions by 2030. The need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible is so clear even a school child can see it. The recent protests by school children are putting national governments to shame. We must remember who has the most to gain or lose from decisions we make now. A growing numbers of parish, town and county councils are declaring a Climate Emergency. This is a non-binding commitment, partly symbolic, but is a genuine commitment to work towards a specific measurable target. It might seem that a Parish Council can't really do much, but by declaring a climate emergency as policy we could:

1. Start by acknowledging the problem and accept that action is needed.
2. Climate change is relevant to many of our activities, creating green space in the village, working to improve public transport, providing feedback on wider council strategies for transport, housing as well

as specific feedback on planning applications. This proposal provides justification to treat climate change as a factor in all future decision making.

3. This could also be a route for getting help with some projects if they are in the context of working towards a carbon neutral community.
4. We can help to break the 'crowd mentality' where no-one steps into action because we all think someone else is better able to act. If other councils and governments see communities and councils stepping up, it becomes easier to join them. We would therefore work with CDC on their climate initiatives.
5. All levels of government, national, regional and local, have a duty to secure our community from the negative impacts of climate breakdown. Local government should not wait for national government to change their policies. We should ensure our community is briefed on the climate emergency and offer help to them to reduce their carbon footprint.
6. Set up a parish council sub-group with the aim of providing a recommendation to the PC to adopt local initiatives and targets.

Mr Hellett added if school children can put national government to shame over their response to climate change and specifically the IPCC report, then surely so can parish councils.

Members agreed that the Parish Council should set an example as an influencer. It agreed a sub-committee be formed to take this forward, organise and make a definite plan which would then be presented at a Village meeting. The sub-committee to consist of Mr Hellett, Mr Cooper, Mr Harden, Dr Tate and Mr Osborne. They would report back at the next PC meeting with an update. The proposal should include where possible measurable targets, and actions the Parish Council and the community can take to achieve this.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hellett for all his hard work on this important issue.

122/19 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

Mr Cooper reported that there would be a programme of the planned celebrations by January's meeting. The Fete has promised money and it is hoped CDC will be handing out grants.

123/19 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that the way PCSOs will be deployed across Sussex has changed from Monday 4th November. The new way of working will give every PCSO responsibility for a defined geographic area and every community in Sussex will have a named PCSO. Lurgashall is in the Petworth area which has two allocated PCSOs – Jess Chambers and one new PCSO, yet to be appointed. This decision complements on-going plans to strengthen local policing and also improve how the public can contact the police. Clerk to invite a PCSO to attend a future meeting.

The Chairman had received a nice thank you letter from the Church for the donation given to help with maintaining the Churchyard. Thank you letters had been received from all other donations approved at the last meeting.

124/19 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no urgent matters.

125/19 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Please let the Clerk know of any items by Thursday 2nd January 2020

126/19 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting on Thursday 9th January 2020

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm