

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY ON THURSDAY 11TH MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present: Mrs B Burkhart, Mr N Jowett, Mrs J Landstrom, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman), Dr A Tate and Mr P Wilding (also in attendance as District Councillor)

In Attendance: County Councillor Janet Duncton
Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk)

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed all to the meeting.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

21/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Mr Cooper.

22/21 CODE OF CONDUCT

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

23/21 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

There was no co-option. Mrs Martin-Jenkins said that she is happy to talk to any perspective candidates. There are two vacancies.

24/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

25/21 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda this evening.

26/21 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Janet Duncton reported on the following:

Last month I was awaiting County Council on the 12th February so that Council Tax precept for County would be confirmed. By now you will all know that it has been confirmed and there is a 1.99% increase in Council Tax and the 3% that we are allowed to add for Adult Services making the final total 4.99% increase. The all - round increase comes to an extra 20p per day. We did have several items where our income was down, like street parking and some of the fees we get for other County services. Before we set the budget we had a £44million funding gap that we had to close so you can appreciate what a job it's been with our income and outgoings as we deal with close on £1 billion per annum. Like you our books have to balance, legally.

Fortunately we are still not closing any of our libraries and we are still going forward with what other services we can use the library buildings for. As I have said before Worthing is our first and probably our biggest hub and that is going along nicely so we wait and see which of the libraries will become hubs for many County services in the future.

As you already know Covid19 has been a very costly affair for all of us but the Government has been good at reimbursing us but as ever it has cost more than we have received.

Children's Services is still heading in the right direction. Our Commissioner John Coughlin who is also Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council has recommended to the Ofsted department that we should not be put into a Children's Trust as we are making such forward strides to get the very best for the children of West Sussex. This is good news not only for us and the Children of West Sussex but setting up a Children's Trust is a very costly business. We still have to pay.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue is also now out of any criticism that they had from Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Everything they said needed attention and they also set up a special committee made up of an MP and the Chairman of Kent County Fire and Rescue with others have said that everything of concern is now very satisfactory and they as a committee have disbanded. Whilst talking about WSFR we have just given an approval for a new Fire Station and other facilities included a training hub at a site County own at Broadbridge Heath. Apart from being a state of the art Fire and Rescue centre it will also get income from its training facility from other County F&RS's. At the moment nearly all go to Moreton in Marsh where the Fire Service College is.

Both with District and County I am concerned at the amount of litter we seem to have strewn along all the verge on roads. How on earth you stop people throwing rubbish out of vehicles. I do not know but it really is a filthy habit which is just not on. The District Council has its Council meeting tomorrow and this meeting will finalise the District Council Budget. Talks have been taking place with regard Waste Water Treatment with Southern Water. At the moment it's pretty hard going with no decisions to report. Because these discussions are so often regarding the south of the District. Talking of rubbish. Three of our Waste & Recycling sites are going to require residents booking a time slot but not Billingshurst. Two along the Coast and one in Horsham will have to be time booked and this is because at certain times the queues are so long they block the roads and the Police have asked us to do something about it. Amazing isn't it that so many dispose of their rubbish legally and safely and yet others still think let's tip it anywhere.

Before our next meeting on the 19th March is our final County Council for this session and because there was so much business at the February meeting, all the motions and any extra motions that come in will have to be dealt with at this March meeting. It is of course the last for this session of County Council as elections for County are on the 6th May as you all know. It will be quite a day because the Police & Crime Commissioner elections didn't take place in 2020 so they are on the same day along with some District and Borough elections and indeed some Parish Council election.

Please let me know if there is anything you need me to look into for you either at County or District Council.

Contact County: janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk

District Council: jdunton@chichester.gov.uk

Mobile 07979152898

Mrs Martin-Jenkins reported on a dozen potholes on Jobsons Lane, north of the track to Greenland Farm towards Gospel Green which need urgent attention. 50-75m of the road is breaking apart and dangerous to all road users. Mrs Dunton said she would highlight the issue directly with Highways.

Mrs Dunton left the meeting at 7.40pm

District Councillor Peter Wilding reported on the following:

1. Throughout this year, the Council has been focussed on dealing with the consequences of the COVID Pandemic. The pandemic has both reduced the Council's income and increased some of its costs putting huge strain on the Council's finances. The Council has implemented a COVID Recovery Plan which has identified efficiency savings of approximately £1m a year which will help mitigate the financial impact of COVID, but even with these measures, the Council will still need to draw on some £7.5m of reserves over the next five years in order to balance its budget. The Council staff have been very busy administrating a number of Government grants to support businesses and financially disadvantaged

people during the pandemic. You may recall that CDC was singled out by the Downing Street as being the most efficient council in the country in distributing COVID Support grants.

2. The Council is considering further how it brings forward its Local Plan. This has proven difficult because environmental constraints, in particular the National Park and Chichester Harbour AONB limit the options for where development can go. In addition, the Local Plan must ensure that known infrastructure issues, such as the treatment of waste water, and congestion and delays on the A27 are not made worse by new development. The intention is for Members to consider progress in the summer, and if the transport package is considered likely to be deliverable then we can proceed with finalising the Plan, with the aim of publishing a Proposed Submission Plan for full public consultation in March of 2022 prior to submitting it for Examination. If there are no significant complications with the subsequent Examination it is envisaged the Plan could be adopted in March 2023.
3. The Council has been sending out regular updates on the progress rolling out the COVID vaccination scheme in the Chichester District.
4. The District Council is preparing for the County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner elections which are due to take place on 6th May 2021.

Any queries of a District nature, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Wilding on pwilding@chichester.gov.uk

27/21 FINANCE

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

- a) A statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts as at 4th March 2021
- b) Budget monitoring sheet as at 4th March 2021
- c) Donation requests 2020/21

The Council's current financial position at £25,781, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted.

The members duly approved the payment for Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's January & February Salary & Exps) @ £830.

The members discussed the question of donations (Appendix 2c). It was agreed that the following donations be made and payments for these were approved;

Waverley Citizens Advice Bureau £100
Sussex Air Ambulance £100
Chichester (Petworth) Food Bank £100
Rother Valley Together £100
Petworth Cottage Nursing Home £50
Midhurst Community Bus £100
Tandem £100

The Clerk had carried out a VAT refund claim for the past year @ £374. The precept payment dates for 2021/22 had been confirmed as 16th April and 17th September 2021.

28/21 PLANNING

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3. Mr Wilding commented upon the following applications;

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DISCUSSED SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/21/00214/NMA

Owlswood Tennysons Lane Lurgashall GU27 3AF
Re-location of the proposed new annexe on the site

SDNP/21/00157/LIS and SDNP/21/00156/HOUS
1 The Quell Cottages Quell Lane Lurgashall GU27 3BW
Minor amendment to ground floor internal layout

SDNP/21/00065/HOUS
Dial Green House Dial Green Lane Lurgashall GU28 9HA
Proposed new detached garage, swimming pool, glasshouses, detached store and ancillary landscape works. |

SDNP/21/00207/HOUS
Owlswood Tennysons Lane Lurgashall GU27 3AF
Proposed construction of a detached double garage and store.

The following planning applications were discussed after tonight's main meeting.

SDNP/21/00868/LIS
Barfold Farm Tennysons Lane Lurgashall GU27 3BN
Replacement extension and associated landscaping.

SDNP/20/05664/HOUS
Rose Cottage Hillgrove Lane Lurgashall GU28 9EW
Single storey extension to kitchen area. Installation of ramp or lift to living room.

SDNP/21/01066/HOUS and SDNP/21/01067/LIS
Barfold Farm Tennysons Lane Lurgashall GU27 3BN
Extension to existing basement to create a swimming pool and wellbeing area.

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/20/05706/DCOND
Northurst Farm Dial Green Lane Lurgashall GU28 9HA
Discharge of condition 7 from planning permission SDNP/17/01979/HOUS.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/05516/NMA
Windfallwood Cottage Jobsons Lane Windfall Wood Common Lurgashall GU27 3BX
Non Material Amendment to planning permission SDNP/20/02764/HOUS. Alteration to fenestration of single storey side/rear extension.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/04964/DCOND
Wheelwrights House Hillgrove Lane Lurgashall GU28 9EW
Discharge of condition 9 and 10 from planning permission SDNP/17/06073/HOUS.
Decision: Refused

SDNP/21/00636/DCOND
Sybs Farm Jobsons Lane Windfall Wood Common Lurgashall GU27 3BX
Discharge of condition 3 to permission SDNP/20/02302/LIS.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/21/00214/NMA

Owlswood Tennysons Lane Lurgashall GU27 3AF

Re-location of the proposed new annexe on the site, to be in the approximate location of the existing annexe.

Decision: Refused

SDNP/20/05547/PRE

Blackdown Distillery Jobsons Lane Windfall Wood Common Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9HA

Demolition of commercial/storage buildings, re-development of commercial site and erection of three cottages for use as holiday lets with associated parking and landscaping.

Advice provided

SDNP/20/04554/HOUS

Upper Barn House Dial Green Lane Lurgashall GU28 9EU

Proposed 2 single storey extensions.

Decision: Approved

SDNP/20/01278/LIS

Barfold Farm Tennysons Lane Lurgashall GU27 3BN

Replacement extension on East elevation, internal and external alterations and associated landscaping.

Decision: Refused

SDNP/20/01277/HOUS

Barfold Farm Tennysons Lane Lurgashall GU27 3BN

North & East extensions, with internal and external alterations

Decision: Refused

SDNP/21/00063/DCOND and SDNP/00064/DCOND

Hillgrove House Hillgrove Lane Lurgashall GU28 9EW

Discharge of conditions 3 (samples) and 4 (windows and doors) from Planning Permission

SDNP/20/03130/HOUS and SDNP/20/03131/LIS

Decision: Approved

29/21 HIGHWAYS INCLUDING VILLAGE GREEN, OPERATION WATERSHED AND WINTER MANAGEMENT

There was nothing to report further to the dreadful state of Jobsons Lane highlighted to the County Councillor earlier on in the meeting. Please report all potholes online at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-pothole-online/>

30/21 PLAYGROUND

In Mr Cooper's absence, the Clerk reported that quotes were currently being sought for the painting of the playground equipment.

31/21 ALLOTMENTS

Mrs Landstrom reported two plot holders have declined to renew for this year and the plot for bees never materialized meaning there are now four plots available. Three tenants have taken on additional plots and there is one cultivated plot available. There is also the old communal bonfire plot. All composting and bonfires must now take place on individual plots. An advert has been placed in the Parish newsletter and on Lurgashall Link FB advertising the plot to villagers. If there is no take up, the plot will be offered to the person on the waiting list who lives in Fernhurst.

Mrs Landstrom added that two more taps will be installed so everyone has easy access to water. She has sent an email out to all allotment holders asking for help with future projects and initiatives. Everyone is keen to help out and there is a real community feel. The first gate to the allotments, adjacent to the Village Shop is rotten and needs replacing if the Parish Council considers this necessary. It was agreed that a decision would be made once a quote had been received and the allotment holders had been asked for their thoughts.

32/21 RIGHTS OF WAYS

There were lots of new waymakers on the parish's rights of way and the works identified in the latest WSCC inspection were actively being carried out.

33/21 L.R.A

Dr Tate reported that the L.R.A has been continuing to maintain the field during the pandemic and a charity football match will take place when allowed. Harrowing and rolling of the field is going ahead in preparation. They are awaiting on confirmed dates for the fete storage containers arrival.

34/21 LURGASHALL LINK

Mrs Landstrom reported there had been no further requests for support. There are still 36 volunteers registered to help as and when required. The Lurgashall Link Facebook Group has 113 members and is regularly used. With the pandemic easing, she had asked whether the PCC thought the initiative should continue and whether the Facebook Group should be broadened to not just include specific support for Covid, but also wider village issues. The PCC have agreed it would be good to do so. The Parish Council agreed that the Facebook Group is an excellent platform for discussion but should remain a private group with admin approval required for people joining.

35/21 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

The Annual Parish Meeting 2021 (normally held in April) is cancelled due to Covid.

36/21 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had forwarded on the latest Police report from PCSO Neil Billingham to all members as follows:

Introduction.

Although we are being told "We are nearly there", please can I remind everyone that we are still in Tier 5 (Lockdown) for the time being? Changes are coming, but we need to maintain Tier 5 restrictions, at least for the first few weeks of March.

As we do come out of lockdown and the weather improves, we have seen an increase in the use of Motorbikes at the weekends. This has inevitably led to an increase of bikes being ridden at excess speed. Can I ask, if anyone sees a bike being ridden at excess speed, dangerously or anti-socially, please report it to Sussex Police through Operation Crackdown? One will need to have the time, location and VRM (number plate) of the offending vehicle (bike or car) and go onto our Web Site. Follow the links to Operation Crackdown and complete the form. This will prompt a letter to the registered owner/keeper and repeat offenders will get a visit from our Roads Policing Colleagues.

Incidents of Note.

We continue to receive reports of Covid breaches and are dealing appropriately.

Two reports have been received regarding rural crime. A field with crops in was driven over, causing damage to the crop itself and the soil underneath. Secondly, a farm out building was broken into with several items stolen. Please can I remind everyone to report all rural related crime? Our Rural Crime Team (RCT), is now fully staffed and fully functional, working out of Midhurst Police Station. They will be dealing with all rural related issues, so please keep reporting. Use 101 or 999 as usual to contact the RCT.

PCSO Activity over the next month.

We will be continuing to follow the Covid restrictions guidelines as the (hopefully) change. Our aim, as ever, is to follow the four E's I highlighted last month and we will try to keep people updated as much as we can.

DON'T LET THEM MAKE YOU A VICTIM OF CRIME. IF YOU SEE IT, REPORT IT!

37/21 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

It was agreed to organise a mobile skip for the village in April. Clerk to action.

All members had seen the letter from Liz Stedall requesting continued financial support for the parish newsletter in the forthcoming financial year. It was agreed to maintain the Parish Council's contribution @ £632 in 2021/22. Thanks were given to Liz for all her hard work and commitment as editor of the newsletter.

38/21 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items by Thursday 6th May 2021

39/21 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7.30pm

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm