

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present: Mrs B Burkhart, Mr R Cooper, Mrs J Landstrom, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman) and Dr A Tate

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

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and apologised for the change in date.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

1/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr N Jowett and Mrs V Semmens.

2/22 CODE OF CONDUCT

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

3/22 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

There was no co-option. The Chairman announced that Peter Wilding has sadly resigned and she thanked him for everything he has done over his time as a Parish Councillor. There are now two vacancies.

4/22 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13th January 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5/22 MATTERS ARISING

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

6/22 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Councillor Peter Wilding reported on the following:

Council Tax

The District Council is only increasing its element of Council Tax by £5 a year for Band D properties with equivalent increases for other bands. The Chancellor announced on 3 February 2022 that council taxpayers in properties in tax bands A to D will receive a one-off payment of £150 to support households with rising energy bills. It was also confirmed that this rebate will not need to be repaid. We are still awaiting the guidelines from central Government as to how to administer this and we will process these rebates as quickly as we possibly can once we have received the detailed guidance. It should be noted that for residents who currently pay their Council Tax by direct debit it will be quicker for us to process their £150 rebate.

A27 Litter Clearance

The council is responsible for litter picking all public highways in the district. This includes a 15-mile section of the A27. Litter picking has to be completed at night due to the dangers associated with working on such a high-speed road. The task takes fifteen-night shifts to complete and generates some 430 bags of litter and 16 van loads of car parts! It costs about £47,000. The cost and complexity of the task means it can only be completed once a year and we choose to do it at this time when vegetation is at its lowest, thereby exposing as much litter as possible.

Road Safety

CDC is supporting the County Council's initiative for Quiet Lanes and a 20mph speed limit in the centre of Chichester. The SDNP is also looking at having a lower speed limit in rural lanes across the National Park.

Season of Culture

Celebrations will be taking place to recognise 60 years of Chichester Festival Theatre; 40 years of Pallant House Gallery; 30 years of Chichester Cinema at New Park's International Film Festival; 10 years of The Novium Museum and the Festival of Chichester; and even more impressively, 200 years of the Chichester Ship Canal Trust! The launch events will start at the end of March and will be held at 6.30pm on Chichester's Cathedral Green on 29 March, and Cowdray Ruins in Midhurst on 31 March.

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

County Councillor Janet Duncton reported on the following:

- It isn't that we haven't been busy with all our normal duties but the main item as ever has been getting the budget done and this has now been achieved. I thought as that was the case and it's been difficult and not going to get easier, I would give you the headlines. The main news for all residents is that the County's Council Tax increase is set for 2.99%. One percent of this is specifically for Adult Services. The other 1.99% for our other duties. It's always trying to balance what you can do and what could be done differently, what must stay and occasionally what can we increase. Well, the good news is that we have included an extra 21 million over the next 5 years on top of the Highways budget. Highways have got to tackle highways issues like the never-ending potholes situation to improve our road network and I am sure you wouldn't disagree. Not only potholes but general maintenance of the highways etc. By far the largest budget is for Adult Care, especially in our ever-increasing ageing population. Isn't it great that we are all living longer but of course some as they age need more care than others and we must try and cater for this. On top of this there has been over 2 years of pandemic and we have to say the Government have generously reimbursed the majority of our outgoings on Covid. There is of course another side and that is the extra work involved in, for instance working with the NHS to see that those that could be taken out of Hospital have a suitable place to go. We have also had to work with other Counties and the Government to provide accommodation for refugees and un-accompanied young people. We are not in this alone but we are an active partner. One last thing to cope with is of course having to make provision for the increase in National Insurance. This has all been taken into account. Sorry it's all been about the budget but be assured it is a balanced budget which to be legal it must be and it's not going to get easier in coming years. Chichester District Council set its budget next Tuesday.

A quick note for the rest of County business.

Our Children's Services have continued to improve and once again there is no intention to take West Sussex Children's Services into a Trust. We still of course have an OFSTED in some months' time but feeling quite confident. On a happy note, also one of our social workers Vivian Okeze-Tirado won overall Social Worker of the Year and the Social Justice gold award at the national Social Worker of the year awards. I think we should all be proud of her achievements. She attended Council and we presented her with a bouquet and lots of praise. Huge achievement.

The Queens Jubilee draws nearer and most parishes have made announcements with their plans. I do hope I will be able to attend some of them but for those I don't get to I hope your plans are going well and please keep me informed so that I can visit at least some of my parishes. I am sure you can appreciate that with 11 Parishes in my division it's not possible to be everywhere. If you need help at either County or Chichester District level

my county e-mail is janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk or jdunton@chichester.gov.uk. My mobile is 07979152898

The Clerk asked Mrs Dunton for an update on Jobsons Lane. She reported that WSCC Highways had filled in 25 potholes last week. Mrs Martin-Jenkins said that there are still craters on the road and there had only been an accident last week where a cyclist had fallen due to the uneven road surface, he then lay unconscious and once found, had to wait 2hrs for an ambulance. It needs resurfacing. The state of Jobsons Lane is the one subject everyone in the parish is talking about. It has been a huge problem for 2 years now and a resolution needs to be found. The road is the main artery to the village and the Parish Council and residents are fed up being ignored. Mrs Dunton said she would write to Members Highways once again and suggested the Clerk contact Mike Dare, the Assistant Highways Manager and request a meeting. The Clerk to action and to report the dangerous state of the road via LoveCleanStreets once again.

Mrs Dunton left the meeting at 8.30pm

7/22 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 10th March 2022
- b) Budget monitoring sheet as at 10th March 2022
- c) Donation requests 2021/22

The Council's current financial position at £25,193, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted. The members duly approved the payment for Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's January & February Salary & Exps) @ £815, The Leconfield Estates (Allotment water) @ £11, Mr Allan Marsh (Allotment tap repairs) @ £95, Mr Gary Sharp (Refurbishment of fingerboards) @ £450 and Mrs Liz Stedall (Newsletter 2022/23) @ £620.

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
West Sussex Mind £50
Sylvia Beaufoy Centre £100

The Clerk had carried out a VAT refund claim for the past year @ £577

Having attended a Fete meeting, Mrs Martin-Jenkins asked whether the Parish Council would consider an interest-free loan (£3,000-5,000) to Lurgashall Fete to help with capital for this year so individuals don't have to use personal money. It was agreed this would be a good community thing to do as either a loan or donation dependant on the amount. Mrs Martin-Jenkins to confirm what amount is required. The Clerk is waiting to hear from SSALC whether the Parish Council is legally allowed to do this.

8/22 PLANNING

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3. Mrs Martin-Jenkins commented upon the following applications;

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DISCUSSED SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/21/06062/HOUS

Location: Old School House, Roundhurst

Proposal: Single timber-boarded garage and log store

SDNP/21/06156/CND

Location: Barfold Farm, Roundhurst

Proposal: Replacement extension & associated landscaping – variation of SDNP/21/00868/LIS for overall reduction of size

SDNP/22/00098/FUL

Location: Land to The North of Blind Lane Blind Lane Lurgashall West Sussex

Proposal: Retrospective planning permission on 1 no. part-built barn (west of field) and 1 no. new barn (north east of field).

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/19/04489/FTP

Hobstevens Farm, Jobsons Lane, Lurgashall

Diversion of footpath 2030

Decision: Order confirmed

SDNP/21/05382/HOUS

The Quell, Quell Lane, Lurgashall

Alterations to fenestration including new areas of glazing and new areas of timber cladding to match existing building. Solar PV panels to roof. Extension to existing outdoor seating area. Demolition of existing pool house and construction of replacement pool house rationalizing pool layout. Associated hard and soft landscaping works around pool and pool house.

Decision: Approved

SDNP/21/06062/HOUS

Location: Old School House, Roundhurst

Proposal: Single timber-boarded garage and log store

Decision: Approved

9/22 HIGHWAYS INCLUDING VILLAGE GREEN, OPERATION WATERSHED AND WINTER MANAGEMENT

Mr Cooper reported that a number of heavy vehicles have been coming through the village lately and churned up the Village Green. The Green will be rolled shortly and the new season's cutting contract will begin.

Dr Tate reported the light had gone out in the phone box; he had checked the bulb which was fine so he will now check the fuse. Gary Sharp had refurbished two fingerboards in the parish @ £450. The Clerk to write and thank him formally.

10/22 PLAYGROUND

Mr Cooper reported the playground gate spring was broken once again so he would get Warren Green to look at it. The ROPSA annual inspection is due to be carried out in June.

11/22 ALLOTMENTS

Mrs Landstrom reported that she had managed to rent the vacant half plot to a villager. Invoices for the new season 2022/23 will be sent out in April.

12/22 RIGHTS OF WAYS

The Clerk reported that Public Bridleway 2017 is temporarily closed due to a dangerous overhanging tree.

13/22 L.R.A

Dr Tate reported the date of the L.R A's AGM will be advertised in the next issue of the newsletter.

14/22 NEWSLETTER

The Clerk had forwarded the year-end accounts for the newsletter which she had received from the editor, Liz Stedall. Members agreed to continue its financial support @ £620 for 2022/23. Thanks were given to Liz for all her hard work and commitment.

15/22 UKRAINE SUPPORT

Mr Jowett is keen for the Parish Council to call a meeting to discuss this as a village. Everyone wants to support and help the Ukrainian refugees. At this stage, members felt the Parish Council should gather all the information as it comes in and disseminate to parishioners through the Lurgashall Link Facebook page. CDC and WSCC are currently waiting on Government advice but there is a website for those interested in helping support. www.gov.uk/government/news/ukraine-what-you-can-do-to-help

The Parish Council is not legally allowed to donate money to the DEC Humanitarian Appeal however it can support local charities if required. Currently local charities are becoming overwhelmed by donations of items and it is not easy to then transport them. Mrs Landstrom said a lot was being done locally in both Midhurst and Petworth and suggested supporting local community need.

Mr Jowett had suggested using the Village Hall car park to provide static accommodation. Mr Cooper had raised the idea at the Village Hall Committee meeting and unfortunately as there are no bathing facilities, this is a non-starter. However, it could be used as a meeting up venue for families who are housed in the village. It is hoped refugees will be accommodated within existing homes for a minimum of six months. Please see link if you are interested www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine

It was agreed to have Ukrainian Support as an agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting so it could be discussed further when more information will hopefully be available.

Peter Wilding left the meeting at 8.50pm

16/22 QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Mr Cooper reported there was a Jubilee meeting last night with local organisations. The celebrations will start on the Wednesday with Film Night showing "The Royal Night Out" presented by Douglas Rae. Saturday is the Lurgashall Fete. There will be a special Church service on Sunday morning with refreshments. Then a village picnic on the Green at 2pm with entertainment and music. The big tea tent will be left up from the fete in case of bad weather.

A tree has been planted in the Jubilee Field, kindly donated by The Leconfield Estates. The Parish Council is hoping to provide a hardwood bench adjacent to the tree with a commemorative plaque. The Clerk to apply to Chichester District Council for a £250 grant to help fund this.

17/22 MOBILE SKIP

The mobile skip will return to the Village Hall Car Park on Saturday 23rd April at 10am

18/22 QUEENIE HALL MEMORIAL

The Parish Council is fully supportive of the memorial garden and bench idea suggested by the Village Hall Management Committee.

19/22 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The date for the Annual Parish Meeting is Tuesday 5th April at 7.30pm. It is hoped representatives from each of the local organisations will come along and give a brief update.

20/22 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had forwarded on February's Police report from PCSO Neil Billingham to all members as follows:
Introduction.

As we head into spring, can I ask that all dog owners be aware of any lambing going on in their area. At this time of year, heavily pregnant ewes react very badly to lose dogs. They can injure themselves trying to get away or even abort their lambs. Please ensure dogs are kept on leads in the countryside, especially if there are sheep in nearby fields.

Incidents of Note.

It appears that several of our local dialling codes are being heavily targeted by scammers at the moment. The most common is one claiming to be from a bank's fraud department, with a request to either withdraw and post cash or transfer money into a designated account for "safe keeping". A similar one involves someone claiming to be from a neighbouring Police force. Neither the banks, nor the Police will ever ask anyone to transfer money, so please do not take action on this other than to hang up and report it. If there any local groups that meet on a regular basis (or about to return to them following Covid), my colleague PCSO Moorey is happy to attend and give a full scam talk around this. Please let me know and I will pass details on.

Calls this month in the areas mainly related to trees down and alarms going off in the storms.

PCSO Activity over the next month.

As the weather improves, we will be looking to increase patrols and relaunch Operation Downsway, targeting anti-social motorbike riding across the area.

You can report crime and incidents online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>

DON'T LET THEM MAKE YOU A VICTIM OF CRIME. IF YOU SEE IT, REPORT IT on 101!

21/22 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no urgent matters.

22/22 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items by Thursday 5th May

23/22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Thursday 12th May 2022

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm