LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT LURGASHALL VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present: Mrs Brett Burkhart (also in attendance as District Councillor), Mrs Jane Landstrom, Mrs Anthea Martin-Jenkins (Chairman), Mr Adrian Stainton, Dr Andrew Tate and Mr Peter Wilding

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 four members of the public in attendance.

Public Question time
Two members of the public spoke about the need for a speed reduction on Quell Lane and Fernden Lane as there are huge problems with drivers following Sat Nav's as it is seen as a faster route due to its 60mph speed limit. They are single track roads which are a constant danger for residents, dog walkers and horse riders with vehicles travelling at high speeds with constant near misses and many accidents. 60mph is simply crazy!

County Councillor Janet Duncton said a TRO application would need to be submitted to WSCC Highways for a speed reduction. She warned it was not a quick process. The two members of public are going to Fernhurst Parish Council too as part of the road is in its parish as the road is 3 miles long.

The Clerk to contact County Councillor Tom Richardson to find out whether there are any SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) which can be shared with villages and local communities to use as a deterrent to reduce speeds.

Two members of the public left the meeting at 7.45pm

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

94/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Neil Jowett and Andrew Loughan and District Councillor Ellie Newbery

95/24 CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

96/24 CO-OPTION OF COUNCLLOR
There was no co-option.

97/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

98/24 MATTERS ARISING

Mrs Martin-Jenkins thanked all the Parish Councillors for their help with the Community tidy up. Most areas of the parish were covered which was fantastic. She also thanked a member of public in attendance at tonight's meeting for being so willing and volunteering too.

The mobile skip in October was very well-used yet again.

99/24 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Janet Duncton reported on the following:

- Budget for 25/26. We had another workshop on the 25th October not so much to put our ideas forward but to listen and hopefully learn from the heads of departments and the Cabinet member for Finance and the Council Leader. These are informative sessions for Councillors and on the whole very little that is for passing to the residents at the moment. I've said it before and it's even more relevant at the moment it does not get any easier trying to make a balanced budget and keep the Services going many of which you know are statutory and we have to produce in one way and another. Well at the end of the session it does seem that the coming year we have or will have succeeded in balancing the books too and not cutting services but and it's a big but as yet we as back benchers don't know the cost of the new Employers NI contributions and what we do know is that it will cost us millions and we await to hear if Government money will come along to cover the extra expense. As ever we are all kept in suspense until, usually just before the Christmas break. We shall see.
- On happier notes if I haven't said before I will now, our Children's Services go from strength to strength and when we have the final OFSTED, I will let you know but it will probably be in the press before I write. It's looking good and as all Councillors are Corporate Parents it's very important to us that we succeed in looking after the young people of West Sussex as best we can.
- I think I told you last month that our Fire Service had a very good HMI report where one of the only things we are behind on is recruiting our retained Fire & Rescue Staff. If you know any young(ish) people who would be interested of any diverse range of people women as well as men please point them in the direction of the Fire & Rescue website.
- Trading Standards have been as busy as ever and in past reports I have told you how well they are doing with illicit products including illegal cigarettes and bringing the cases to Court. Also of course some who have been taking money for work that they should have done especially on people's houses and not done the work or in some cases done it badly and taken large amounts of money. Trading Standards do catch up with them eventually.
- Most parishes now have a Winter Plan in place should we get adverse weather conditions which you never know so I am hoping that if bad weather including snow and ice occurs, we are as prepared as we can be. You just cannot predict what may come along but where as ready as can be. • SEND education has been a major issue in recent years and we are doing all we can including building new premises to cope with the numbers. There is another piece of fear that may or may not happen and that is if parents whose children were going into Private education and now with the VAT feel they can't do it and want places in State School we could, if this happens find ourselves with a shortage of places and this could especially affect SEND children. However, that's jumping the gun somewhat as it hasn't happened as yet so it's watch this space.
- At the other end of the age range West Sussex has one of the larger sections of self-paying residents in care homes. Of course, this concern is that when their money runs short, they will then have to turn to County for their care. In the meantime, we are helping all we can to enable what the majority want and that is to stay in their own homes.
- You know from previous comments that the Fire & Rescue Service do a great many visits to peoples home giving advice on how to keep safe in their homes etc. There is more that can help to keep people in their own homes and it is best to contact the Adults Service department at County to see what help they can get.

- The SDNP Local Plan Review: Draft Site Allocations and Land Availability Assessment is due to be ready for consultation in January 2025.

Please let me know if there are some issues you want me to investigate and as ever you can contact me via janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk or my mobile 07979152898.

Mrs Martin-Jenkins asked that District Councillor Janet Duncton keep an eye on the planning application for Weyspring Park Nursing Home which is right on the border with Fernhurst as it has been called in by SDNP and will be discussed at a future planning committee.

Janet Duncton left the meeting at 8pm

District Councillor Brett Burkhart reported on the following:

The Budget

The Budget provides for some real terms growth in funding for Local Government (3.2% of Core Spending Power). There is also more cash for homelessness prevention, Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments. As well as a further year of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, albeit at a reduced cost which we had expected to come to an end. However, the devil is in the detail. While the government department's budget allocation is increasing, it is not clear as to how the cash will be distributed. While Core Spending Power is up by 3.2% in real terms, that is an average for the sector, as a whole. It is very likely that district authorities like ours will fare less well than those authorities with social care responsibilities. We shall have to wait until the draft settlement in mid-December to find out what the impact will be for Chichester DC. One element from the budget that we do know with some clarity is that the impact of changing both the percentage rate of Employers National Insurance, and the threshold from which it applies, **will cost CDC over £500,000** more per year. In addition, the discounts on Right to Buys will decrease and revert to pre-2012 levels, with a consequence of reducing the number of sales. It is proposed that 100% of receipts are retained by Councils, although there is still no detail on how this will impact Registered Providers that have taken over Council stock. Currently, Hyde share the receipts with us. There will be a consultation in due course.

Reserves

We are now able to scrutinise to some degree the spending of reserves, CDC had £28m available at the start of last year, it appears that has reduced to £24m, prompting questions at Council about the use of reserves. Most recently, this includes another £120,000 for a new '**Regeneration Manager'** post for the city. In 2019, a plan was in place to regenerate the Southern Gateway of the City, with a developer appointed, but Covid made the scheme unviable at the time. There appears to be little difference in the current proposals except they will cost an additional £120k for the new post.

Pension Credit Eligibility

Pensioners in the district are encouraged to check whether they are eligible for Pension Credit. If they are, then this means they will still receive the Winter Fuel Payment. The deadline to apply for Pension Credit is 21 December. If you need help and advice please contact our Supporting You Team on 01243 534860.
Apply here for Pension Credit.

Planning

The Chichester Local Plan 2021-2039, 7 years in the making, has met lawful requirements and is now at examination. Public hearings are taking place the last of which will take place on November 13th.
The top-down approach of forced allocation of housing numbers on Local Planning Authorities by the NPPF, was being amended by the last Government who had realised the folly. This approach has now been embraced and intensified by the new Labour Government, resulting in likely massive increases in allocations for rural areas. The district suffers from planning applications by developers who part complete new build, stopping

when they cannot sell property for their set price. They then move on to their next target, (another green field), where again they will build to the point they cannot sell before again moving on. This means that, as the Local Planning Authority, we cannot demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply and makes a control-led development plan impossible to implement. In other words, we have uncontrolled planning, which is a developer's dream. Let us hope the Local Plan examination agrees with us that the 575 allocated houses per annum is appropriate as opposed to the 1206 per annum proposed by the new Government. It is still unclear what implications there might be for the National Parks, but Green Belts are certainly targets. CDC has set up a website at https://www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanexamination charting the progress of the examination of the Local Plan.

Christmas Trees
Chichester District Council has teamed up with St Wilfrid's Hospice once again this year to promote their Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme. If you sign up to the scheme, St Wilfrid's volunteers will collect your real Christmas tree and recycle it for you in January 2025, in a return for a donation to the hospice. Collection dates will be 10-13 January 2025 and bookings close on 6 January. Postcodes that they are covering are: PO18, PO19, PO20, PO21, PO22, PO10, GU29, GU28, BN18, and the suggested donation is £15 per tree. You can find out more at: www.stwh.co.uk

Meeting your District Councillors
Brett can be contacted on email bburkhart@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07876594168
Ellie can be contacted on email enewbery@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 01428 656 941

100/24 FINANCE
The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3a and b which included:

a) A statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts as at 7th November 2024 incorporating details of payments which needed to be made, and for which approval was sought.
b) Budget Monitoring sheet as at 7th November 2024.

The Council's current financial position at £43,494, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted. The second and final instalment of the precept 2024/25 had been received @ £12,500.

Two payments were approved: Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's September & October Salary plus expenses) @ £889 and Mr David Cole (Maintenance of White's Green 2024) @ £250.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 28th November where the precept for 2025/25 would be discussed.

101/24 PLANNING
The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 4. Mrs Martin-Jenkins reported on the following:

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DISCUSSED SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/24/01667/HOUS
23 Greengates, Lurgashall GU28 9ES
Change of loft space to habitable accommodation with rear dormer, internal and external alteration

SDNP/24/03828/HOUS
Millicent, Hillgrove Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9EP
Partial conversion and extension to form guest/staff accommodation

SDNP/24/03789/HOUS
Millicent, Hillgrove Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9EP

Underground basement parking area

SDNP/24/03808/LIS
Wheelwrights, Hillgrove Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9EW
Partial replacement of roof tiles, replacement of existing plastic guttering with metal and repair two chimneys

SDNP/24/04299/LDE
Old Hearne Farm, Jays Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BL
Certificate of Exiting Lawful Development for the existing commercial use of the livery yard at the equestrian planning unit at Old Hearne Farm for over 10 years

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/24/02271/HOUS and SDNP/24/02272/LIS
Cotchet Farmhouse Cotchet Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU27 3BS
New window and door openings and alterations to roof of the garage/workshop building. New internal access to bat roof (alternative to permission SDNP/23/05163/LIS)
Decision: Approved

SDNP/23/01408/FUL
Road Access adjacent to Junction of Quell Lane and Fernden Lane Lurgashall West Sussex
Erection of replacement gates
Decision: Refused

SDNP/24/03645/TCA
Hazards High Hamstead Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9ET
Notification of intention to reduce height by 3m on 1 no. Silver Birch tree (T1) and 2 no. Conifer trees (T2 and T3) and reduce height by 2m on 1 no. Conifer tree (T4)
Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/23/04513/LDE
Sybs Farm Jobsons Lane Windfall Wood Common Lurgashall West Sussex GU27 3BX
Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use under Section 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to station a mobile home within the curtilage
Decision: Refused

102/24 HIGHWAYS INCLUDING WINTER MANAGEMENT
Members all agreed that a TRO application for a speed reduction/HGV restriction should be considered for Fernden Lane and Quell Lane.

The Clerk to submit suitable wording into the newsletter about the public use of grit from the parish grit bins. This should be on the public highways only and is not for use on private land or driveways.

103/24 VILLAGE GREEN
Mrs Martin-Jenkins had been contacted by a lady requesting to plant a memorial tree around the Village Green. She had passed the request onto the L.R.A

104/24 PLAYGROUND
There was no playground report.

105/24 ALLOTMENTS

Mrs Landstrom reported the hedge cutting at the allotments would not be carried out this year but it will be done earlier next year.

106/24 RIGHTS OF WAYS
The WSCC ranger will be carrying out the inspection in Lurgashall this month. Following the inspection, routine maintenance work for which WSCC is responsible, will be prioritised for delivery by its contractor.

107/24 L.R.A
Dr Tate had nothing to report.

108/24 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025
The APM will be held on Thursday 3rd April at 7.30pm. Andrew Griffith MP will be in attendance.

109/24 CORRESPONDENCE
The Clerk stated the next All Parishes meeting is via Zoom on 3rd February 2025 at 5pm. She had emailed round a Riparian survey which Dr Tate had kindly completed on behalf of the Parish Council.

110/24 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION
There were no urgent matters.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for its donation to Lurgashall PCC to help with the churchyard maintenance.

111/24 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA
Please let the Clerk know of any additional items by Thursday 2nd January 2025

112/24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
The next meeting is on Thursday 9th January 2025 at 7.30pm

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm