

MINUTES OF THE LURGASHALL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2017

From the Parish Council: Dr P Wilding (Chairman), Mr J Bonnett, Mr R Cooper, Mr J Harden, Mr S Hellett, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins, Mr G Sharp, Dr A Tate

Also present: Two members of the Public

The Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Neil Jowett

DC Nick Thomas

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 14th April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Parish Council met 6 times over the last year and Councillors attendance has generally been very good. The attendance of the County and District Councillors has also been very good especially given the demands on their time and thanks were given for their support to the Parish over the year.

Planning

The Planning Committee has considered 40 applications this year which is a slight increase on the 36 applications last year. The most controversial planning applications were probably those associated with the two barns at Old Hearne Farm and the changes to Beard's Cottage. It is interesting that both these are still unresolved. There seems to be a couple of trends in Planning: (i) stricter scrutiny of applications for swimming pools, tennis courts and equestrian facilities in the National Park and (ii) stricter treatment of changes to listed buildings.

Finance

The Finance Committee met on 23rd November to set the Budget for the coming year and after presenting their recommendations to the Full Council in January it was agreed that the Precept should be increased by £1500 taking it from £14,500 to £16,000, an increase of just over 10%. The increase in the precept, worked out as 13p per household per week. The extra money would provide for a skip for the use of the Parish each year and a donation of £1000 to Northchapel Primary School.

Village Green

One of the high points this year has been the renovation of the Cricket Pavilion. The roof has been repaired; part of the front wall rebuilt, all the doors and windows (with the exception of one small window) replaced and painted and the wiring has been overhauled. The remaining items including updating the kitchen will be completed as funds become available. Particular thanks were given to Ray for overseeing this work. After many months of delay, a new Finger Post has been erected on the small triangle of ground next to the Chestnut tree. The post matches the other finger posts in the Parish. The triangle has been turfed by the contractors working on the Malt House. Thanks had been passed to the residents of the Malt House for enabling this. The amount of cars parking on the Green continues to be a problem, but the work done to strengthen the surface in the south east corner seems to be alleviating the parking pressure on other parts of the Green. BT Open reach are about to start work on bringing superfast broadband to Lurgashall and we will need to deal with the pile of earth which is close to the proposed site of the Broadband Cabinet to ensure there are no excuses for delays.

Allotments

Another high point has been tidying up of the allotments. Large quantities of bricks, rubble, wire and plastic have been disposed of. Wood and vegetation has been burnt and the soil in unused allotments has been levelled with a digger and weeds have been treated with weed killer. This should make the unused allotments more attractive to potential allotment holders and, if unused, they will be much easier to maintain. Currently 9 people are using 10 out of 25 plots. In addition the trees between the allotments and the Village Shop have been cut back to a height of about 2 metres

Village Hall

The Village Hall had a full programme of events this year: film nights, lunches, teas, music and talks. Planning permission for an extension to the hall has been given and fundraising for this is underway. The Village Hall now has a projector and Wi-Fi connectivity to Broadband. It had been hoped that the Chichester Diocese could have been persuaded to transfer the Village Hall lease to the Parish Council but this has not progressed at all during the year.

Village Bus

The Compass 96 Bus Service is being reduced from a twice weekly to a once weekly service. The Tuesday service is being discontinued. The Midhurst Community Bus has agreed to amend its Tuesday timetable as of 1st May 2017 to now include Lurgashall. Thanks to Joe for all his hard work in getting a replacement service arranged on Tuesdays.

Winter Management

We have had a mild and dry winter which has meant that there was no demand for the salt or for a local contractor to clear of snow. There was a short period of rain which caused some local flooding. Lurgashall and Lodsworth Parish Council jointly applied for a grant from the County Council under Operation Watershed to employ a specialist firm to look in to the flooding problems at Lickfold. An initial deliverable of data was received in March, which was indecipherable but the final report will be presented at The Lodsworth Annual Parish Meeting on 15th May. Lurgashall Parish Councillors are encouraged to attend this.

Playground

The Playground had its annual ROSPA inspection and they once again rated us as medium risk mainly because of the age of our perfectly good equipment, but commented that we had a well maintained Playground.

We have had our usual 2 visits from the skip in May and September and they have continued to be well used.

The Clerk will present a Financial Report later. The forecast budget for the last year produced by the Finance Committee aided by the Clerk turned out to be very accurate.

Finally Dr Wilding thanked all the members of the council for their contributions over the last year especially the Chairpersons of the various Committees Anthea (Finance) Peter (Planning) and Ray (Village Green, Highways and Winter Management). Thanks also to Gary for all the work he has put in to the Allotments and the Village Green and, of course, Helen who keeps everything running smoothly. Once again thank you all for your support during the year.

Mr Cooper thanked the Chairman for his hard work over the past year. Mrs Martin-Jenkins also thanked the Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

The Parish Council's 2016/17 financial year started with an opening balance of £21,587. During the year, the Parish Council received an income of £22,316. This consisted of the precept at £14,500, allotment rents, a £250 grant for the Queen's 90th birthday celebration held in June, a grant of £1,405 from CDC as part of the New Homes Bonus Scheme, £650 transparency grant from SSALC and a £4,000 donation from the fete for the Cricket Pavilion refurbishment. Plus £350 from the Noah's Ark for the parking improvements.

The Parish Council has spent £16,294 during the past financial year. In addition to its normal costs of maintaining the Village Green, the Allotments, and the Play Area, Clerk's Salary, General Admin, grants and donations of £2,685 for the year, it has also spent money on a new fingerpost and improvements to the parking on the Village Green.

This leaves a closing balance as at 31st March 2017 of £27,609. This includes £5,000 of Operation watershed money from 2015 for the Lickfold Bridge project, £4,000 earmarked fete money for the Cricket Pavilion and £850 for the Parish Council to purchase its own laptop and printer. If anyone is interested in the outcome of the Lickfold Bridge survey, CBEC the company who carried out the survey will be giving a talk at Lodsworth's Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 15th May at 7.30pm at Lodsworth Village Hall which anyone is welcome to attend.

This leaves the Parish Council accounts in a healthy but not excessive state at year end which should keep both the internal and external auditors happy. The internal auditor, Mr James Tree is due to look at the accounts over the next couple of weeks and then the figures together with the annual return will be completed and returned to the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn by the middle of June. All documents which need to be published in line with the local government transparency code will be available to view on the website and the noticeboard from 1st July 2017.

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL 2016/17		
2015/16	INCOME & EXPENDITURE	2016/17
£		£
28,519	FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	21,587
£	INCOME	£
13,500	PRECEPT	14,500
7	BANK INTEREST	6
110	ALLOTMENTS	187
4,980	GRANTS	6,305
2,546	VAT RECOVERED	537
5	MISCELLANEOUS	781
21,149	TOTAL INCOME	22,316
49,668		43,903
	GRANTS RECEIVED 2015/16	
	<i>Operation Watershed funding £4.,980</i>	
	GRANTS RECEIVED 2016/17	
	<i>New Homes Bonus £1,405</i>	
	<i>CDC Queen's 90th Birthday grant £250</i>	
	<i>Fete contribution to Cricket Pavilion £4,000</i>	
	<i>SSALC transparency fund grant £650</i>	
2015/16	EXPENDITURE	2016/17
£		£
5,182	GENERAL ADMIN * (Note 2)	5,181
380	NEWSLETTER	390
300	CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE	300
155	LITTER BIN EMPTYING	197
5,084	VILLAGE GREEN AND SURROUNDINGS * (Note 3)	5,139
507	ALLOTMENTS	680
798	PLAYGROUND	682
10,425	HIGHWAYS inc OPERATION WATERSHED	0
2,385	GRANTS AND DONATIONS * (Note 1)	2,685
2,688	VAT PAID	791
177	ELECTION COSTS	0
0	MISCELLANEOUS	250
28,081	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	16,294
21,587	TOTAL FUNDS AT YEAR END	27,609
Note 1:	GRANTS AND DONATIONS	£
	VILLAGE HALL	1000
	PCC	375
	CRICKET CLUB	560
	L.R.A	250
	S137	
	CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (WAVERLEY)	100
	HASLEMERE FIRST RESPONDERS 2015/16 AND 2016/17	100
	KENT SURREY SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE	100
	ROTHER VALLEY TOGETHER	50
	PETWORTH COTTAGE NURSING HOME	50
	CHICHESTER DISTRICT FOODBANK (PETWORTH)	100
	TOTAL GRANTS AND DONATIONS	2,685
Note 2:	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	£
	CLERKS SALARY	3,613
	WEST SUSSEX ALC LTD (ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION)	179
	INSURANCE	621
	AUDIT	250
	GENERAL EXPENSES	453
	TRAINING	65
	TOTAL	5,181
Note 3:	VILLAGE GREEN AND SURROUNDS	£
	FINGERBOARD/POST	2,225
	GRASS CUTTING	1,444
	VILLAGE GREEN PARKING EXTENSION	1,200
	TREEWORX	250
	GRIT BIN SITE RENTAL	20
	TOTAL	5,139

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

There was no District Councillor report.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

There was no County Councillor report.

PARISHIONERS FORUM

Mrs Martin-Jenkins reported that Northchapel Community Primary School had received notification that their bid for county funding (£40,000) has been successful for the project on the outside area, along with a further successful bid to a charitable trust (£10,000). These together with a £10,000 lottery grant and donations from Northchapel Parish Council, Lurgashall Parish Council and the PTA means they are now well on the way to getting the outside area completed. The next step is linking with a county project manager to arrange tenders and appoint contractors. All agreed this was excellent news as it is the village school.

Dr Tate reported the L.R.A AGM is next week on Thursday 27th April where the state of the field and the plans for its future would be discussed.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm and welcomed all to stay for refreshments.

Lurgashall Parish Council AGM is on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.30pm