LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 9 November 2006

Present: Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman), Mr R T W Baker, Mr R E J Cooper, Mr G D J R Sharp Dr A H J Tate, Mr J P Wright and Mr P J Széll (Clerk).

Also present was Mr P W J Moffatt.

93/06 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr J R Court and Dr P Mackey.

94/06 – CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

95/06 - MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

96/06 – MATTERS ARISING
1. Waste skip. The skip provided on Saturday, 30 September had been well used and it was agreed the Clerk should arrange another skip for late April/early May next year.
2. Memorial book. Mr Michael Oakland had written acknowledging with gratitude the Parish Council's offer of £250 towards the cost of publishing his book. The County Council had informed the Clerk that it would be supporting the publication with a grant of £500. In addition, the Fete Committee had recently agreed to make a grant of £1000 towards the publication.
3. Village Hall. Mrs Sue Lambot had written acknowledging with gratitude the Council's grant of £1000 towards the cost of running the Village Hall.

97/06 – PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY
The Chairman reported that, as agreed in September, she had approached Mr Malcolm Caird to see if he would be interested in being co-opted to the Council to fill the vacancy left by Mrs Louise Sharp's resignation. Mr Caird had told her he would be happy to join the Council if Members so decided. The Council proceeded to co-opt Mr Caird by consensus and, as he was present, the Chairman welcomed him to the Council and invited him to take his seat.

98/06 – OPEN FORUM
No matters were raised.

99/06 – COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
Mr Moffatt presented his report (see Annex A) and answered questions on it. Dr Mackey's report (see Annex B) was read out by the Clerk. Dr Tate reported briefly on the CPRE seminar on recent developments in the planning system which he attended on 14 September 2006.

100/06 – FINANCE
Current financial statement. The Clerk distributed Annex C (attached) which set out:
(a) the position of the Council's bank accounts, incorporating details of cheques that needed to be issued and for which approval was sought; and
(b) the Council's income and expenditure against its budget for the current financial year.

The Council approved payment of all the cheques listed in Annex C.

101/06 – PLANNING

1. **Applications**

Three planning applications had been received since the Parish Council's last meeting. The first two listed below had already been considered by the Planning Committee. It had no comments or objections on the first. The Clerk summarised the Planning Committee's comments with regard to the second (letter to the District Council (CDC), dated 20 October 2006). The third application referred to below had yet to be considered by the Committee.

LG/06/04187/LBC: THE COTTAGE, WINDFALLWOOD COMMON

Relocation of staircase to facilitate creation of new bathroom to first floor

LG/06/04432/FUL: LEVERTON, FERNDEN LANE

Replacement single residential dwelling

LG/06/04361/FUL: JAYS FARM, JAYS LANE

Change of use and alteration of existing 2 storey barn and associated single storey outbuildings into residential unit with annex. Replacement of existing dilapidated milking shed with 3 bay garaging/stores - covered way to link garage to main house

2. **Decisions**

Four decisions had been received from Chichester DC since the last meeting:

LG/06/02738/OUT: PAVILION, JAYS LANE

Demolition of single dwelling and erection of single replacement dwelling PERMIT

LG/06/02726/DOM: LAVANT HILL COTTAGE, HILLGROVE LANE

Small extensions at side and rear and new porch at front PERMIT

LG/06/03823/FUL: HIGH HAMPSTEAD FARM, HIGH HAMPSTEAD LANE

Conversion of existing agricultural barns from mixed use to single dwelling and office/workshop REFUSE

LG/06/02400/ELD: BLACKDOWN PARK FARM, FERNDEN LANE

Retention of dwelling house PERMIT

102/06 – HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. Rights of Way. The Clerk reported that the County Council was inviting comments from organisations and individuals on its draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan for 2007-17 and he outlined its content which comprehensively surveyed (a) the current situation within West Sussex on footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic, (b) the wishes and concerns of walkers, riders, cyclists and other users and (c) the 11 Actions the County proposed to apply, subject to available funding and resources. The Council authorised the Clerk to respond positively to the county's questionnaire on its behalf.

2. Highway and footpath signs. The Chairman reported that the SDJC had apologised for the slow rate of repair/reinstatement of the broken footpath and bridleway signs in the parish. Members noted that the spate of damage to local signs over the summer seemed to have subsided.

3. Bridlepaths. The Chairman informed Members that, due to lack of funds, no further work would be done by SDJC on Bullocks Lane during the current financial year.

4. Jays Lane. The Clerk informed Members that, after various visits by officials from Natural England (formerly part of DEFRA) and CDC to properties in the vicinity of Jays Lane that had been invaded by wild boar, additional control measures had been put in place and the problem

seemed to have diminished. The Council noted, however, that it remained important for everyone to be careful whilst driving, riding or walking in the north-western part of the Parish.

5. Miscellaneous. Members drew attention to (a) the serious flooding on some days at a number of places on Jobsons Lane, (b) the absence of steps leading to road level at the north end of the raised pavement at Lickfold Bridge and (c) the blocked drain at the junction of Jobsons Lane and the track leading to Greenlands Farm. The meeting requested the Clerk to raise these points as necessary with WSCC's Highways Department.

103/06 – ALLOTMENTS

Open space study. The Clerk informed Members that he had completed a questionnaire for Strategic Leisure Ltd (management consultants currently conducting an audit of local sport, recreation and open space provision for CDC). The questionnaire, which was purely factual, sought information on the number and size of allotment plots administered by the Parish Council as well as on the fees charged and site facilities and services provided.

104/06 – PLAYGROUND

1 New fence. The new fence had been erected at the start of October. Members agreed that it was a big improvement on its predecessor in terms of both safety and appearance. Cornhill Allianz was already providing insurance cover for the new fence and had informed the Clerk that it would make no charge for this service for the remainder of the insurance year.

2. RoSPA report. Dr Wilding presented the report and recommendations of the Risk Assessment Committee's (RAC) meeting convened on 19 October to consider the quotation from Playsafe Playgrounds Ltd (PPL) for carrying out remedial work at the playground as recommended by RoSPA and the options for replacing the playground litter bin in line with RoSPA's comments (see Annex D). The Clerk added that he had sought a revised estimate from PPL to reflect the RAC's wish to reduce the cost of the project but had been informed in writing that PPL declined to requote for the repair work. He also reported that he had just been contacted by CDC's litter collection department with a proposal to the effect that CDC would provide a new bin for the playground in return for the Parish Council agreeing to substitute a single bin outside the village shop (or by the bus shelter) for the two bins currently by the village shop and in front of Pear Tree Cottage, the cost of fixing to the ground to be met by the Parish.

Having considered the RAC's recommendations and the additional information provided by the Clerk, the Council decided (a) that the Clerk should seek a quotation from another specialist playground firm for remedial turned down by PPL and (b) that it was important to retain two litter bins on the south side of the Green and that, therefore, the RAC's advice to accept the CDC's quotation for a new bin for playground should be accepted.

105/06 – BOTTLE BANK

The Chairman and Clerk informed Members about the responses to the questionnaire circulated to households within 100 metres of the Village Hall car park concerning the proposal to have a bottle bank in the Village Hall car park. 17 of the 34 houses canvassed had replied. Of these, 11 supported the proposal and 6 were against. Two others gave their views by telephone – one for and one against. Of the 11 who wrote in favour of a bottle bank, 8 merely ticked the "Yes" proposition; 3 added brief comments (one of them listing various concerns). All 6 who wrote opposing the proposal spelt out detailed concerns including the likelihood of vandalism, litter and noise, doubts whether there was a real need for a bottle bank in the village and suggestions for other sites in the village that should be considered. Mr Cooper added that those he had spoken to were for the most part very supportive of having a bottle bank at the car park.

There was a lengthy discussion of the various views reported. Members noted that comparatively few who had responded had been against the proposal. The large majority were in favour or, through their silence, should be viewed as not opposed to the proposal. There were compelling environmental reasons for Lurgashall to play its full part in maximising the recycling of glass. This said, the Council concluded that in view of the concerns expressed about the potential for vandalism, litter and noise and how much use would actually be made of the bank, the CDC should be asked to install one for a trial period of three months. Subject to the Village Hall Management Committee's agreement, the bins (which should be staked to the ground) would be located at the west side of the car park. At its March 2007 meeting, the Council would consider, in the light of this experience, whether to prolong the trial, make the bottle bank permanent or halt it altogether. The Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements with CDC.

106/06 – FOOTBALL FIELD

The Chairman reported that the Diocese had responded to her letter registering the Parish Council's concern about the future of the football field and expressing interest in leasing it should the Football Club fail to restart. The Diocese had merely confirmed that the Football Club was the current lessee. After some discussion, the Council concluded that before deciding on next steps two or three Council representatives should have a meeting with the Secretary and Treasurer of the Football Club. The Clerk was asked to write to the Secretary proposing such a meeting.

107/06 - CORRESPONDENCE

The following was among the communications received since the September meeting:

St Richard's Hospital. Mr Andrew Tyrie, MP had written expressing thanks for the Parish's letter in support of the Save St Richard's Campaign.

108/06 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Village Green – broken seat. The Clerk drew attention to the poor condition of the wooden seat around the chestnut tree on the west of the Green. The meeting agreed the Budget Committee and RAC should consider this matter in December and make recommendations as necessary.

109/06 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will take place on 11 January 2007.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

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PJS: 11/11/06