

## LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 8 March 2007**

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

Also present were Dr P Mackey and one member of the public.

#### 18/07 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr P J H Wilding and Mr P W J Moffatt. The Council requested the Clerk to send its best wishes to Mr Moffatt for a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

#### 19/07 – CODE OF CONDUCT

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

#### 20/07 - MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### 21/07 – MATTERS ARISING

Football field. Regarding the Council's efforts to set up a meeting with representatives of the Football Club, a reply to the Clerk's letter of 29 November 2006 was still awaited. Mr Caird reported that the Club's Treasurer (Mr Sean Taylor) had told him that he had not been able yet to make contact with key persons involved. Mr Caird said he would now seek to make progress by approaching other members of the Club.

#### 22/07 – OPEN FORUM

A member of the public expressed her dismay at the considerable damage being done to parts of the Village Green by the numerous cars visiting the Noah's Ark. Drastic action was needed or the village's beautiful green and cricket ground would be ruined. She suggested that consideration be given to erecting oak posts (but not kerb stones) around the verges, designating of an appropriately-surfaced area beside the green as a car park and/or using the area behind the pub for parking to relieve some of the pressure. The Chairman noted the concerns expressed and noted that she and the Clerk had received a number of telephone calls in recent weeks voicing very similar concerns. She had spoken to the new tenants of the Noah's Ark. They too were concerned about the condition of the area around the pub, though having recently fenced the area behind it as a garden they were not inclined to allow it to be used for parking. Use of the football field as a car park was, the Chairman had stressed, not an option. The state of the Green would be taken up further under agenda item 30/07 (below).

#### 23/07 – COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

A copy of Dr Mackey's report to the meeting is at Annex A.

#### 24/07 – FINANCE

1. Current financial statement. The Clerk distributed Annex B (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 B.

2. Appeals for donations. Members decided to make the following donations, totalling £100:

West Sussex Association for the Blind (4SIGHT)	- £20
Chichester and District Citizens Advice Bureau	- £20
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Ltd	- £20
Sussex County Playing Fields Association	- £15
Victim Support, Sussex	- £25

25/07 – PLANNING

1. **Applications**

Eight planning applications had been received since the Council's last meeting – the applications concerning Kings Copse and 2 Blackdown Cottages which are referred to paragraph 2 and the six listed below. The application concerning Woodcraft Park Farm had yet to be considered; it would be addressed at the Planning Committee meeting on 12 March. Regarding the other applications, the Planning Committee had comments and objections on only one of them – the application relating to Kings Copse, Hillgrove. A copy of the Committee's comments regarding that application (letter to the District Council, dated 5 February, 2007) was circulated to those present at the meeting:

LG/06/04436/DOM: JUBILEE COTTAGE, LURGASHALL

Two storey rear extension

LG/07/00212/DOM: LOWER ROUNDHURST FARM, TENNYSON'S LANE

Demolition and rebuild garage in different location. New driveway to the house.  
Oil tank to be replaced by two bunded new ones

LG/07/00440/FUL: LAND SOUTH OF PARKHURST HOUSE, JOBSON'S LANE

Application for planning permission for works to recreate a pond on land adjacent to Parkhurst House, and associated earthworks to form an earth bund to the eastern pond boundary. Proposed formation of silting pool

LG/07/00578/LBC: THE HOLE, BLIND LANE

Part single and part two storey rear extension

LG/07/00579/DOM: THE HOLE, BLIND LANE

Part single storey and part two storey rear extension

LG/07/00631/COU: WOODCRAFT PARK FARM

3 no. fields to be used for camping for a maximum of 72 days per year

2. **Decisions**

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

LG/06/05218/DOM :PARKHURST HOUSE, JOBSON'S LANE

Proposed demolition of existing brick ancillary store and replacement 3 no. bay garage  
and rear stores PERMIT

LG/06/05298/FUL: DICKHURST HOUSE, PETWORTH ROAD

Existing house to be divided into 2 no. units. Demolition of outbuildings and reconstruction of ground and first floor. New rear entry door. New gable roof over existing door  
WITHDRAWN

LG/06/05317/LBC: DICKHURST HOUSE, PETWORTH ROAD

Existing house divided into two residential units, existing bedrooms altered to provide bathrooms/bedrooms, external shed/store demolished and reconstructed with new 2 no. bedrooms at first floor. New rear entry door. New gable roof over existing door. New terrace wall and garden/lawn planting.  
WITHDRAWN

LG/06/05660/DOM: 2 BLACKDOWN HILL COTTAGES, FERNDEN LANE

Two storey rear extension and provision of new pitched roof to existing outbuildings  
PERMIT

LG/06/05687/FUL: KINGS COPSE, HILLGROVE

New dwelling and garage to replace existing mobile home (revision to planning permission LG/04/03950/FUL)  
WITHDRAWN

26/07 – HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

1. Damage to verges. The recent heavy rain meant that the Parish's roads had remained a problem over the past two months. In particular, a lot of damage had been done by heavy good vehicles to verges.
2. Lickfold Bridge. The Council noted that the east side of the bridge, which was demolished by a car in January, had yet to be repaired and also that the raised footbridge still had no steps at its northern end. The Clerk should continue to press the Highways Department on these matters.
3. Parish signposts. In view of the continuing bad weather and mud on the roads, cleaning and repair of the Parish's six black and white signposts had been temporarily shelved, but it was hoped that with the onset of spring the tasks would soon be carried out.

27/07 - ALLOTMENTS

1. Annual fees. The Clerk reported that one plot holder had decided to give up his allotment. All the other 2006 plot holders, except one, had already paid their fees for 2007.
2. Availability of plots. As instructed, the Clerk had advertised the availability of plots in the February issue of the *Parish Newsletter*. There were, however, no takers. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should speak to the Clerk of Northchapel PC about the possibility of publicising the vacancies in, for example, its Parish magazine.
3. Maintenance. See minute 28/07, paragraph 1, below.

28/07 – PLAYGROUND

1. Maintenance. The Clerk reported that at a meeting on 29 January 2007, the General Purposes Committee (GPC) had considered a quotation from Garden Escapes of Northchapel for maintaining the playground, the unlet parts of the allotments and the village pond for the coming year. The Committee concluded that it was important for the three sites to be well and regularly tended, that there were clear economic advantages in a single specialist contractor doing all the work and that Garden Escapes should be invited to take on the work for 2007 at a maximum cost of £850, an increase of £50 on the total allocated for this work in the coming year's budget – see minute 7/07, paragraph 2. The Council agreed to meet this extra sum from its reserves. It also agreed that Garden Escapes' quotation for levelling the ground at the entrance to the play area and under the puppy springer, as recommended by RoSPA, for a one-off cost of £100 should be accepted. The meeting expressed its gratitude to Mr Baker for his supervision of, and work on,

the allotments over the years. It was also very grateful for Mr Terry Redding's valuable work in mowing the play area in 2005 and 2006. It asked the Clerk to write to Mr Redding accordingly.

2. RoSPA report. The Clerk reported that, at the GPC meeting on 29 January, the Committee had considered a quotation from RSS Playmakers of Wraysbury for remedial work recommended by RoSPA to equipment in the play area and had decided to accept it. The cost quoted was £471.57p (+VAT): see minute 12/07, paragraph 2. RSS had carried out the work in early February.

#### 29/07 – BOTTLE BANK

The CDC's bank had been delivered on 30 January for its trial period. The three containers were larger than the Parish Council had requested (1100 litres capacity each rather than 350 litres) but CDC unilaterally decided that the larger containers would be preferable, at least until it became clear how much glass was being deposited. The Council's insurers had confirmed that the bank was covered by its public liability insurance provided the site was regularly checked. Mr Cooper reported that he had been checking the site each day. Initial indications, he said, were that good use was being made of the bottle bank (especially the green glass container) and that its presence in the car park was not causing visual or noise concerns. In light of this, the Council concluded that the trial should be extended till November (rather than May as originally planned) at which point it should be possible to decide with confidence on the bottle bank's long term future.

#### 30/07 – VILLAGE GREEN

1. Damage to verges. After considering the concerns expressed under agenda item 22/07, above, the Council agreed to set up a working party, composed of Mr Cooper, Dr Tate and Mr Caird, to assess (a) the extent of the problem caused by increased parking around the Village Green as a result of the success of the Noah's Ark, (b) the options for tackling the problem and the various bodies that should be involved (eg the brewery) and (c) the likely costs involved. The working party should start work as soon as possible and report back to the May meeting of the Council.

2. Chestnut tree. Planning for a new circular seat around the chestnut tree in the eastern side of the Green had, the Clerk reported, been put on hold because the Leconfield Estate experts had noticed that it was suffering quite badly from a fungal disease that is currently plaguing many chestnuts across the south of England. The Council agreed to return to the question of a replacement seat when the long term future of the tree was clearer. Members expressed their sincere thanks to Mr Court for taking down the old seat so promptly.

3. Broken bollards. The County Council had agreed in mid-January to replace the broken bollards near the Noah's Ark as soon as possible, but the work had yet to be carried out.

4. Ash tree near Hazards. Leconfield and Cowdray Estates experts had both examined the tree. Each felt that, whilst the tree was not yet in a dangerous condition, it was not healthy and it should be felled fairly soon. There was uncertainty as to who owns the strip of manorial waste on which the tree stands. Leconfield said it was Cowdray's; Cowdray accepted that it owned the land in 1937 land but thought it had been sold on since then. The Cowdray expert said he would liaise with Leconfield to see if they could agree to fell the tree, and meet the cost, between the two estates as a goodwill gesture. It was agreed the Clerk should continue to press the two estates on this matter.

5. Pond - maintenance. See minute 28/07, paragraph 1, above.

#### 31/07 – PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Chairman reminded members of the forthcoming elections. Mr Court, Mr Baker and Mr Wright announced that they would not be seeking re-election. The Chairman thanked all three for the years of very valuable service they had given to the Council. Members were asked to give thought as to who might stand as replacements and encourage them to do so. The Clerk distributed nominations papers to those members present who intended to stand for re-election.

32/07 - CORRESPONDENCE

The following were among the communications received since the last Council meeting:

1. Village shops and Post Office Survey. Action in Rural Sussex was enquiring about the likelihood of the community taking on retail and post office facilities if existing shops closed.
2. Emergency Planning. CDC was recommending parishes to draw up Parish Emergency Plans. Preparation would be complex and labour-intensive; not easy for a small Parish like Lurgashall.
3. Blackdown. The National Trust had sent all Council members copies of its application for consent to fence a large part of Blackdown so that it could be appropriately grazed.
4. NW Frontier Community Forum. The Forum's next joint meeting with the Rother Valley Forum would be on 14 March 2007 at the Grange Centre, Midhurst.
5. Village of the Year Competition. The Chairman had received a personal letter from the Chairman of WSCC encouraging the parish to consider entering the 2007 competition.

33/07 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. CPRE. Dr Tate asked that consideration be given over the coming months to the Parish Council rejoining the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.
2. Skip. Members were reminded that a waste skip would be provided for parishioners at the Village Hall car park on Saturday, 28 April 2007 between 10.00 am and noon.

34/07 - DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings will be as follows:

- Annual Parish Meeting on 12 April 2007; and
- Annual Meeting of the Council on 10 May 2007.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

+++

*PJS: 13/03/07*