LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 10 January 2008

Present: Mr R E J Cooper (Chairman), Mrs J Boxall, Mr K M Caird, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins, Mr G D J R Sharp, Dr A H J Tate, Dr P J H Wilding and Mr P J Széll (Clerk).

Also present: Mr C Duncton and two members of the public.

1/08 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr N P Jowett and Dr P Mackey. The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr M H Oakland had sent him a letter resigning from the Council on health grounds. He was grateful to Mr Oakland for his great contribution to the Parish over the years and was pleased to hear that he planned to continue as SDJC's warden for the Parish. The Clerk was asked to take the necessary steps to publicise the vacancy.

2/08 – CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

3/08 - MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4/08 – MATTERS ARISING
1. Waste skip. A skip, plus qualified supervisor, had been hired for Saturday 26 April 2008 from 10.00 am to 12 noon at the Village Hall car park.
2. Village shops and buses. A note had been placed in December's *Parish Newsletter* emphasising the importance of supporting village shops and rural bus services: unless used, they would be lost. Members were informed that it now seemed the Village Post Office would not be on the list of those to be closed.

5/08 – OPEN FORUM
No matters were raised.

6/08 – COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
Mr Duncton spoke briefly about (a) flooding and the roads around the Village Green, (b) the likely impact of the planned Post Office closures on neighbouring parishes and (c) the discussion on education at the December meeting of the CLC.

In Dr Mackey's absence, the Clerk read his report to the meeting (see Annex A).

7/08 – FINANCE
1. Current financial statement. The Clerk distributed and explained:
   (a) a statement of 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) figures setting out the Council's income and expenditure against its 2007-08 budget.

The Council approved payment of all the cheques listed in Annex B, below.
2. Budget 2008-09. Members considered the draft budget prepared by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 26 November 2007 (see Annex C, below) and, on a proposal by Mrs Martin-Jenkins that was seconded by Dr Tate, the Council agreed by consensus to adopt it as its budget for the coming financial year.

3. Precept for 2008-09. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Council decided by consensus that the Parish's precept for 2008-09 should be £8200 (ie the same as in 2007-08).

8/08 – PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS

(a) **Planning**

1. Applications. Dr Wilding reported that ten planning applications had been notified to the Council since its last meeting – the applications concerning Dial House, Dickhurst Stables and Garden Cottage (No. 2) referred to in paragraph 2, below, and the seven listed in this paragraph. The application concerning Signpost Cottage had not yet been considered by the Committee. Regarding the remaining seven applications, the Committee had no major comments on the developments themselves but it was concerned about the modifications proposed to the existing access to Lower Roundhurst Farm from Jobson's Lane and was likely to object to them.

LG/07/05512/DOM: The Hole, Blind Lane

Modification to permitted part single and part two storey rear extension to extend first floor bedroom by 0.44m (amendment to planning permission LG/07/00579/DOM)

LG/07/05513/LBC: The Hole, Blind Lane

Modification to permitted part single and part two storey rear extension (amendment to listed building consent LG/07/00578/LBC)

LG/07/05553/DOM: Becketts Farm, Roundhurst Lane

2 storey extension, plus general re-furbishment of exterior of property

LG/07/05852/FUL: Old Hearne Farm, Jays Lane

A mixed agricultural and equestrian development consisting of a stock building, 10 loose boxes, tractor barn, 2 storage barns and ancillary feed store, office and mess room

LG/07/05961/FUL: Lower Roundhurst Farm, Tennysons Lane

Alteration to grade II listed timber barn and development of adjacent redundant farm buildings to provide self contained bed and breakfast accommodation, with 7 double rooms, breakfast room, reception and service areas

LG/07/05962/LBC: Lower Roundhurst Farm, Tennysons Lane

Alteration to grade II listed timber barn and development of adjacent redundant farm buildings to provide self contained bed and breakfast accommodation, with 7 double rooms, breakfast room, reception and service areas

LG/07/05907/LBC: Signpost Cottage, Village Green

Proposed extension and alterations

2. Decisions. Ten decisions had been received from Chichester DC since the last meeting. In addition two applications had been withdrawn:

LG/07/04561/PNO: Lower Roundhurst Farm, Tennysons Lane

Polytunnel PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

LG/07/04239/FUL: Greenfields, Lurgashall
Demolition and removal of existing dwelling and ancillary buildings and construction of replacement dwelling and associated landscaping PERMIT

LG/07/04832/DOM: Leigh Barton, Blind Lane
Proposed two storey side extension and internal alterations PERMIT

LG/07/04036/DOM: Garden Cottage, Quell Lane (No.1)
Renewal of unimplemented permission LG/02/02819/DOM. Provide garden room and boot room on the ground floor. Dressing room off existing bedroom and extend existing bedroom 5 with adjoining bathroom on first floor WITHDRAWN

LG/07/05060/DOM: New Cottage, Park Farm
Proposed first floor extension and garden room PERMIT

LG/07/04974/DOM: Owlswood, Tennysons Lane
Proposed single storey front extension and two storey side extension PERMIT

LG/07/04695/DOM: Southwater, Lickfold
Installation of new gated entrance to replace existing timber posts and 5bar gate PERMIT

LG/07/05109/LBC: The Cottage, Windfallwood Common
Alteration to the existing internal timber frame wall to form an access between the two halves of the cottage at first floor level PERMIT

LG/07/05087/FUL: Boxalland Cottage, Petworth Road, Haslemere
New drive to provide safer access to Boxalland Lane from Boxalland Cottage PERMIT

LG/07/05505/DOM: Dial House, Dial Green Lane
Single storey timber and double glazed conservatory PERMIT

LG/07/05712/DOM: Garden Cottage, Quell Lane (No.2)
Erection of a single storey rear extension and open porch WITHDRAWN

LG/07/05474/DOM: Dickhurst Stables, Petworth Road
Revised resubmission of an earlier application LG/07/03079/DOM. Proposed dormer windows PERMIT

3. Other planning related matters.

(i) Planning Committee procedure. The Committee reported that it had reviewed its procedures for dealing with planning applications and was in agreement that each new application needed to be considered at a meeting of the Committee that was open to the public. However, modifications to applications - whether permitted, refused or not yet decided by the District Council - that had already been considered by the Planning Committee could, if all members of the Committee agreed they were only minor in nature, be dealt with by e-mail or telephone.

(ii) Woodcraft Park Farm. The Woodcraft Folk had notified the District and Parish Councils of its staffing ratios for the supervision of children and the dates planned for its camps at Park Farm in 2008. It seemed, however, that the organisation had yet to present the Green Travel Plan required by its planning consent.

(b) **Highways**

1. Potholes. Many of the potholes in Jobson's Lane criticised at the November meeting had now been dealt with. The meeting thanked Mr Duncton for his active support on this matter whilst stressing that there remained a number of potholes around the parish that needed repair.

2. 46 Greengates. WSCC's Highways Department had written asking the householder to remove the white boulders that had reappeared on the grass verge outside the house.

3. Fly tipping. The Council was grateful to Mr David Martin-Jenkins for collecting over the New Year piles of fly tipped items and other rubbish from land alongside the northern stretch of Jobson's Lane and arranging for their removal by the District Council.

9/08 – RECREATION

1. Recreation Committee report. Mr Caird reported on the Recreation Committee meeting held on 13 December and updated it as necessary. Members added various comments. The Council took note of the report as updated and endorsed various decisions arising from it, as indicated in the following summary:

(a) Footpaths and bridleways. It was reported that the SDJC had allocated a sum (believed to be about £3000) to enable work on repairing Bullocks Lane to start in the coming weeks.

(b) Playground. The Council had received Garden Escapes' quotation for maintenance work on the playground (as well as the allotments and pond) in 2008 and asked the Recreation Committee to consider it at its next meeting.

(c) Allotments. Members decided to keep the charge for a full-sized (ie 5 rod) plot in 2008 at £10 and for a smaller (ie 2½ rod) plot at £5. Garden Escapes had provided a quotation for a major, one-off cut back of the west side of the hedge between the football field and allotments. It was decided that a second estimate should be obtained and the quotations assessed by the Recreation Committee at its next meeting.

(d) Village Green.

- *Ditches*. Two quotations had been obtained for clearing the ditches (i) in front of the Malt House and (ii) adjacent to the Old Rectory from the pond southwards to the corner opposite Jubilee Cottage. The Recreation Committee was requested to compare them and to select, up to a maximum of £385, the one that better met the Council's requirements.
- *Roadways*. Mr Caird and the Chairman met a representative of WSCC's Highways Department in November. He had indicated the Department was prepared to carry out remedial work at the north-east corner of the Green to help storm water to flow into the drain and thus reduce spillage onto the Green itself in periods of heavy rain. No time scale was given. The Department did not consider other highways work around the Green could be justified.
- *Trees.* There had been a public meeting on the Village Green on Saturday 5 January at which Mr Neil Humphris (Leconfield's Head Forester) had discussed the condition of all the major trees around the Green, including the diseased horse chestnut tree on the triangle. The outcome was that Leconfield agreed to permit a replacement bench to be placed around the diseased chestnut on the strict understanding that, if the tree's condition deteriorated to a point where it became an unreasonable risk, the Parish Council would remove the bench right away. Also discussed were:

  (i) the ash tree outside Hazards (to come down as soon as Leconfield's tree surgeon was available);

  (ii) the horse chestnut outside the Malt House (seriously diseased; Leconfield would - subject to planning consent - fell it and replace it with another species of tree after the Parish Council had improved the drainage of the surrounding land);

(iii) the old horse chestnut (now "over mature" and braced with cables; Leconfield and the Parish Council were keen to keep it as long as it remained reasonably safe); and
(iv) proposed new tree in south-east corner of Green (many present were attracted by the suggestion but further consultation would be needed).

The Council expressed support for all the actions listed above and agreed that they should form the basis of a long-term policy on trees around the Village Green.

- *Pond.* Dr Wilding had mended the "dam" at the pond's lower end so the water was now properly contained. The contractors would carry out the pond's annual cleaning by the end of January.
- *Benches.* The benches around the Green needed some routine maintenance; a few needed repair or, possibly even, removal. Mr Jim Court had agreed to do the maintenance and repairs.
- *Damage to telephone kiosk.* The Clerk had continued to press BT about the failure to repair the vandalised door of the call box on the Village Green. BT had written on 10 January assuring him that the box was "not a danger to the public" whilst announcing that new hinges had been ordered for the Village box (and the one at Gospel Green) and that they should be fitted shortly.
- *Parking.* There had been no progress in recent months. Though matters were not as bad as last winter, careless parking continued to cause damage to the verges around the Green.

(e) Football field. A grant from the Fete Committee had enabled the recently-revived Football Club committee to get the field mown, the hedges repaired and the 2008 rental paid. The Chairman thanked Mr Caird for all his hard work with regard to the football field.

10/08 – BOTTLE BANK. The Council noted that regular use had been made of the bottle bank in the ten months since its arrival in the Village Hall car park and that no complaints about noise or the bank's appearance had been received. The containers had been emptied fortnightly and there had been an extra collection at the New Year after a period of particularly heavy use. In the nine months from March to November, a total of 17½ containers of glass had been collected from the bank, with green glass accounting for nearly 10 containers. The Council concluded that the facility's trial period had been a success, that the provision of the containers enabled the Parish to make a useful contribution to environmental protection and that the bank should remain and continue to function on the existing basis.

11/08 – CORRESPONDENCE
There was none to report.

12/08 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS
No matters were raised.

13/08 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on 13 March 2008 at 7.30 pm.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

PJS: 13/1/08