LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 13 November 2008

Present: Mr R E J Cooper (Chairman), 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.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.35 pm.

72/08 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr J S Bonnett and Mr N P Jowett. The Chairman informed the meeting that Mrs J Boxall had sent the Clerk a letter resigning from the Council because she felt she was no longer able to devote sufficient time and effort to the role of councillor. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mrs Boxall for her contribution to the Council over the past year. The Clerk was asked to take the necessary steps to publicise the vacancy.

73/08 – CODE OF CONDUCT

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

74/08 – MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

75/08 – MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

76/08 – OPEN FORUM

No matters were raised.

77/08 - COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

1. Among the matters discussed by Mr Duncton in his report were: (a) the proposal to amalgamate Worthing and St Richard's Hospitals and keep them both as major general hospitals; (b) the achievement of Lurgashall's Action on the Green in winning the 2008 Small Sparks Project of the Year Gold Award; (c) the recent commissioning by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) of an energy-from-waste plant at Warnham to deal with the county's non-recyclable waste; (d) opportunities for increasing parish contacts with the Police; and (e) the generally poor attendance by parishes at WSCC's County Local Committee meetings.

2. The Council took note that Mr P Mackey was not present at the meeting and that he had neither tendered apologies for absence nor submitted a written report for members' consideration.

78/08 - FINANCE

1. Current financial statement. The Clerk distributed:
   (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 budget for the current financial year.

The Council approved payment of all the cheques listed in Annex A, below.

2. Lodsworth Heartstarters. The £250 donated to Lodsworth Heartstarters in May 2006 (see minute 46/06, para.6) towards the cost of an additional defibrillator had been refunded to the Parish Council since Lodsworth had, upon reflection, scaled back their emergency service to just one defibrillator.

3. Village Hall. Mrs Martin-Jenkins, in her role as Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee, had written expressing the Committee's gratitude for the Council's grant of £1000 towards the Hall's running costs.

4. Finance Committee. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet on Wednesday 26 November at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall to prepare a draft 2009-10 budget for consideration by the Council at its January meeting.

79/08 – PLANNING

1. Applications. Dr Wilding reported that seven planning applications had been notified to the Council since the last meeting – ie the applications concerning Pavilion, Plash Barn Farm (2) and Herne House referred to in paragraph 2, below, and the three listed in this paragraph. The application concerning Southwater had not yet been considered by the Planning Committee. The Committee had no comments, concerns or objections with regard to any of the other six applications.

LG/08/04079/FUL: Pavilion, Jays Lane
Construction of new dwelling following demolition of existing

LG/08/04134/TCA: The Old Rectory, Blind Lane
Notification of intention to reduce height (lopping top branches) back to the level of previous pruning on 1 no. Oak tree

LG/08/04325/FUL: Southwater, Lickfold
Erection of tennis court

2. Decisions. Nine decisions had been received from Chichester DC (CDC) since the last meeting:

LG/08/02776/FUL: Blackdown Park Farm, Fernden Lane
Works to existing building to provide enhanced ancillary accommodation at first floor level
PERMIT

LG/08/01626/DOM: 163 Bishops Holt
Single storey glazed rear extension PERMIT

LG/08/03021/LBC: 163 Bishops Holt
Proposed single storey glazed rear extension PERMIT

LG/08/03192/DOM: Pavilion, Jays Lane
Construction of a new garage following demolition of garage and summer house
PERMIT

LG/08/02665/FUL: Jays Farm, Jays Lane
Horse walker PERMIT

LG/08/03393/PNO: Land at Barfold Farm, Tennysons Lane
1 no. agricultural barn — PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

LG/08/03251/LBC: Plash Barn Farm, off Jobsons Lane
Insertion of a window in the ground floor bedroom (west elevation) — REFUSE

LG/08/03269/LBC: Plash Barn Farm, off Jobsons Lane
Installation of a satellite dish on the south elevation — REFUSE

LG/08/03459/DOM: Herne House, Petworth Road
Replacement of first floor glazed structure with a traditionally designed alternative
PERMIT

80/08 – BT TELEPHONE BOX AT GOSPEL GREEN

1. The Clerk recalled that CDC had recently consulted the Parish Council about BT's proposal to remove the K6 payphone at Gospel Green (and 30 other boxes in the Chichester area) as part of a scheme to dispose of hundreds of uneconomic kiosks nationwide. Encouraged by the Parish Council, CDC had written to BT giving reasons why the Gospel Green box should remain and, to underline the point, the Parish Council had written to BT expressing similar views (see minute 55/08, para.1). BT's decisions regarding its proposal were still awaited but it had now come forward with a new scheme under which local authorities could adopt or sponsor kiosks which they wished to see retained for heritage or other purposes.
2. Adoption would entail a local authority purchasing ownership of a red kiosk for a nominal £1. BT would simply remove the telephone service from it and leave the council to deal henceforth with all matters relating to the box – maintenance, cleaning, painting, repairs, insurance, etc. Sponsorship, on the other hand, would leave the box in BT's ownership but require the local authority to contribute towards the cost of maintaining the telephone service. The cost currently would be about £500 (+VAT) pa.
3. BT had cannily asked local authorities to indicate in writing by 1 November 2008 whether they were interested in adopting or sponsoring a particular kiosk. Without such registration of interest, there could, it said, be no guarantee that the call box would not be removed. The Clerk pointed out, however, that by registering an interest, BT would know ahead of deciding on its original removal proposal which Councils were attracted by the prospect of adapting or sponsoring particular kiosks and so make it probable that BT would decide not to continue maintaining them.
4. The main issues for the Council's consideration were: (i) whether to register an interest in either adopting or sponsoring the call box at Gospel Green (the K6 kiosk on the Village Green, being a Grade II listed building, falls outside BT's adoption/sponsorship scheme); and (ii) whether, despite the 1 November deadline, to await the outcome of BT's on-going consultation exercise before deciding how to proceed.
5. After a brief discussion, the Council decided to await the outcome of BT's consultation and then discuss what action, if any, to take under the adoption/sponsorship scheme.

81/08 - HIGHWAYS

1. Jobsons Lane - repairs. Members took note that throughout November WSCC's Highways Department was patching the roadway and lopping branches along the length of Jobsons Lane.
2. Jobsons Lane – wet weather. The recent poor weather had resulted in two trees falling onto, and partially blocking, the highway just south of Dial Green and flooding at a blind bend in the same

area because of a blocked culvert. The Clerk and Mr Duncton had contacted the Highways Department about these problems and they had all now been resolved.
3. Signposts. Members and Mr Duncton expressed their appreciation to Mr Sharp for the excellent quality of the repairs and repainting he was carrying out on a number of the Parish's black and white signposts.

82/08 – RECREATION
Mr Caird presented the report of the Recreation Committee meeting held on 9 October, updating 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. Mr Michael Oakland had reported that he would continue to monitor the condition of Bullock Lane and alert SDJC when further work was needed.
(b) Playground. Members continued to feel that the care and maintenance of the play area was in good order. (Mrs Jackie Boxall's role as supervisor of the playground would, the Council agreed, be taken over for the time being by the Chairman.) Repainting of the play area's metal equipment had yet to be finished; the aim must now be for the task to be completed early in spring 2009.
(c) Allotments. 19 of the 24 plots currently available had been taken – the highest level for nearly a decade. Replacement of the fence along the access path to the allotments was due to carried out by mid-November. When this work was completed, the Council would arrange for the extensive undergrowth on the village shop side of the path and behind the shop to be cleared to make access easier for allotments holders.
(d) Village Green.

- *Parking.* Mr Caird and the Chairman had met Ms Tracey Webb (WSCC Highways Department) on 7 October to discuss ways of reducing the adverse impact of car parking in the vicinity of the pub and church. The main possibilities considered were: (i) WSCC installing setts (or similar) along the edge of the grass on the pond side of the road to show where the highway started and possibly also on the pub side of the road; and (ii) WSCC or the Parish Council painting narrow white lines (as at the Village Hall car park) to encourage tidy parking. Ms Webb had said she was sympathetic to the plan and agreed to consider addressing it in the Highways Department's work programme for 2009-10. Predictably, however, she had added that her Department's budget next year was likely to be very tight. On another aspect of the parking issue, discussions were continuing with Mr Luigi Andreozzi about the grant of a right of way over the first 50 metres of Park Lane to enable a small car park to be created in part of what was currently the pub's back garden. Members welcomed the progress that was being made on these difficult matters and invited Mr Caird and the Chairman to continue their efforts;
- *Bus shelter*. It was noted that the bus shelter needed creosoting and some of its tiles needed to be replaced. Mr Sharp reported that Mr Jim Court said he could not help out on this occasion. The Recreation Committee would consider how to proceed at its December meeting

(e) Risk assessment. Members considered and approved the Recreation Committee's conclusions as set out in Annex B. They noted that the document was similar to those adopted in previous years. The only significant amendment this year was in connection with the fence around the village pond regarding which the Council agreed with the Recreation Committee's recommendation that the fence itself represented a risk to children and that it should be replaced by different form of barrier such as a box hedge and/or bushes.
(f) Football field. It was reported that, as good progress was now being made with regard to retaining the football field for recreational purposes, the time had come to take the subject off the Parish Council's agenda. The objective of the Council acting as a catalyst to revitalise the Football Club's management committee, in particular by expanding its membership, had now been achieved. The Chairman expressed the Council's thanks to Mr Caird for the speed and thoroughness with which he had advanced matters concerning the football field. Members noted that work on relaying the hedge along the road frontage of the football field was now under way and expressed their

gratitude to SDJC which was running the exercise.

83/08 – CORRESPONDENCE

The following were among the communications recently received by the Council:

Forthcoming meetings. The next meeting of CDC's *North West Frontier Community Forum* will on Wednesday, 21 January 2008 at the Grange, Midhurst. (Other Forum meetings in 2009 had been provisionally set for 22 April, 22 July and 21 October (all at the Grange)). CDC's *Annual Meeting* for its 32 parishes will take place on Tuesday, 3 February 2009 at the Council House, Chichester, starting at 6.00pm. (Two representatives per parish are invited to attend.)

84/08 -.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Waste skip. The skip hired for 27 September had been well used. The Council asked the Clerk to arrange another waste container for late April/early May next year. Mr Duncton commented that, whilst he recognised that the Parish's twice-yearly skips were very popular with parishioners and were invariably heavily used, WSCC might not be in a position to continue providing them indefinitely. The problem was that, with the exception of hazardous waste and refrigerators, there was no control over what type of waste was placed in the containers with the consequence that everything – whether recyclable or not - went to landfill. This was not environmentally or – given the European Union's tough rules on the matter – financially sustainable. In due course, WSCC might suggest that parishioners take their waste to waste points perhaps a few miles away where the waste could be deposited according to its type. In a brief discussion, members stressed the convenience of waste containers coming right into the village and suggested that WSCC consider using skips containing compartments for different categories of waste.

2. Co-operation with neighbouring parishes. Mr Caird said that some people attending the Action on the Green in September had noted the involvement of families from Northchapel and commented on the desirability of increasing alliances and informal relations between the two villages. There were already a good number of such linkages through the Primary School, the cricket and football clubs and the churches (which could well have a rector in common shortly). Further ties would, however, be useful though what they should be or how to establish them was not immediately clear.

3. South Downs National Park. Dr Wilding asked if there was a date yet for announcing the outcome of the re-opened inquiry into the proposed new national park. The answer was no.

85/08 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council would take place on 8 January 2009 at 7.30 pm.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

PJS:18/11/08