LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 8 March 2012

Present Mr R E J Cooper (Chairman), Mr J S Bonnett, Mr J W Harden, Mr G J Hayhurst, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins, Mr G D J R Sharp, Mrs R D Wood, Dr P J H Wilding and Mr M H Oakland (Clerk).

Also present Mr C P Duncton, Mrs P A Hardwick and three members of the public.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm.

19/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies had been received from Mr N P Jowettt.

20/12 CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

21/12 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

22/12 MATTERS ARISING
a) Referring to the Open Forum of the last meeting (5/12) the Chairman said that he had arranged with the Youth Officer to have the "Purple Bus" come to Lurgashall on Thursday evenings between 7-9pm during the months of April-July this year.
b) Referring to Matters Arising of the last meeting (4/12) the Chairman said that he had arranged for a representative from Tillington "TLC" group to come and speak in Lurgashall on 12 April 2012.
A note in respect of both the above will be placed in the Newsletter.
c) Referring to the Cricket Club Mower Fund (see 7/12), the Clerk had written to the secretary of the Cricket Club indicating the Council's wishes to continue contributions at 50% of the previous level. The club had acknowledged the letter but a response to the proposal was still awaited.

23/12 OPEN FORUM
a) A question was directed to Mr Bonnett in which clarification was sought in respect of his standing in local elections. It was explained that two entirely different elections were involved. One was for the Parish Council and the second for the position of District Councillor.

DRAFT

b) Clarification was sought from Mr Duncton in respect of speed limits. Mr Duncton said that it was not possible to introduce a "temporary" limit in the village, and he then outlined the formal procedure required to introduce a permanent limit.
c) Despite the CDC refusal to grant planning permission for the creation of a new driveway at "Abesters", and an Enforcement Notice to restore the land to it's previous condition, a member of the public said that further trees had been cut down and there appeared to be no move to comply with the notice. Mrs Hardwick undertook to speak to the Enforcement Officer and to report back to the Parish Council.
d) The matter of a blue Ford Escort car was raised because it was said that it had been parked in Greengates for approximately three and a half years. Concern was expressed that it could become an environmental hazard and that it is very unsightly. It was added that it seems to be registered in Jersey (when it should be re-registered in the U.K.), it is taking up valuable parking space, and it may not be taxed or insured. The Chairman said that he had already mentioned it to the police some time ago and would do so again.

24/12 COUNCILLORS REPORTS
Mr Duncton covered several issues.
He said that despite the County Council having to make large spending cuts in the coming four years, it had frozen the public tax this year at the same level as for 2011. Referring to Broadband, he urged members to visit the "Have your say" section of the WSCC web-site in order to express the need for improved Broadband in the area. He is aware that Lurgashall may consider the introduction of "gates" to the village in order to encourage motorists to drive more slowly, but he said that the National Park authority is looking into the question of standardising these within the area of the park.
In response to a point made by Mrs Martin-Jenkins, Mr Duncton said that he was aware of the pollution created by an old vehicle currently in use as the school bus. He has already raised the issue, which he felt was caused by the owners wishing to run the bus to the end of it's workable life. He will mention again.
Mrs Hardwick reported that the CDC has appointed a new Chief Executive, Diane Sheperd. She was also able to report that CDC had frozen the level of council tax at last year's level and mentioned that several parishes had sought large increases in their precept, adding that because of a small increase in the tax base, Lurgashall's freeze results in a slight decrease per household. She also mentioned two planning issues relating to The Lodge and Hillgrove Stud.

25/12 FINANCE
Current Fiancial Statement
The Clerk distributed annex "A" which included;
a) a statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts, incorporating details of cheques which needed to be issued and for which approval was sought, and
b) figures setting out the Council's income and expenditure to date against the current budget.

The members duly approved the paymnent of all cheques listed.

DRAFT

Newsletter.
Apart from the payment in respect of the Editor's salary, the Council currently contributes £340 per annum to support the printing costs. The Editor has requested that this arrangement be continued in the coming financial year and members approved this request. Clerk to confirm to Miss A Grout.

Donations
The members approved the following donations;

Arun and Chichester CAB	£50
Waverley CAB	£50
Surrey Air Ambulance Fund	£50

26/12 HIGHWAYS
Reports of pot-holes have been sent to Highways in respect of locations in or near to Old Mill Farm, Gatehouse Farm, Jobsons Lane (Greenland Farm) and the Village Hall.

Members requested that reports be sent regarding the following locations;
Lavant Hill, Jays Lane and Tennysons Lane (close to the County border).

It was mentioned that following the work at the junction of The Quell and Jobsons lane, the contractors have not removed the associated signage. Clerk to report.

27/12 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
The Clerk reported that a full survey of the Rights of Way within the parish had recently been completed, the survey carried out partly by the Clerk and partly by the WSCC. A copy of the Clerk's report to WSCC was distributed and members were informed that the contractors should carry out any necessary repairs within the next two weeks.

28/12 PLANNING

Dr Wilding reported on the following planning applications.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

LG/11/04863/FULNP
The Lodge, Windfallwood Common
Construction of two new lakes for domestic use, including removal of trees and new log cabin.

LG/12/00319/LBCNP
Greenland Farm, Jobsons Lane
Conversion of existing garage into a personal gym, conversion of existing former stables into guest accommodation and home office/studio with the removal of existing greenhouse and resultant repairs to the outer wall.

DRAFT

LG/12/00068/FULNP
Boxalland Farm, Gospel Green
Installation of 40 ground mounted solar panels

LG/12/00326/DOMNP
Greenland Farm, Jobsons Lane
New Outdoor swimming pool

LG/12/00334/LBCNP
Greenland Farm, Jobsons Lane
Two-storey rear extension

LG/12/00254/TCANP
The Old Rectory
Notification of intention to reduce back to west (boundary) wall, lowest 2 no. branches (at about 3m above ground level) on western sector on 1 no. Chestnut tree. Reduce back to 3m. from the trunk on 3 no. branches on south side (at about 3m. above ground level) on 1 no. Hornbeam tree.

LG/12/00506/LBCNP
Blackdown Park Farm, Fernden Lane
Conservatory to south-west elevation.

FH/12/00452/FULNP
Upperfold Farm, Lickfold Road
Demolition of existing house and outbuilding, erection of new two-storey house. Dismantling existing barn to provide indoor swimming pool.

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

LG/11/04977/FULNP
Jays Farm, Jays Lane
Installation of photovoltaic panels to roof of agricultural barn. PERMIT

LG/11/04080/FULNP
Upper Blackdown House, Fernden Lane
Proposed swimming pool, pool building and glasshouse. PERMIT

LG/11/04896/DOMNP
Aldworth House, Tennysons Lane
Outside swimming pool and associated landscaping. PERMIT

DRAFT

OTHER APPLICATIONS

LG/11/04079/FULNP
Upper Blackdown House, Fernden Lane

Vary condition No.2 (no departure from the plans) to allow for an enlarged basement further to the consent under LG11/02227/FULNP on 21 July 2011

WITHDRAWN

29/12 PLAYGROUND

The Chairman reported that Playsafe Playgrounds had carried out the work contained in their agreed contract. The only exception was in respect of the gate to the playground. The closing mechanism for this does not work properly and a meeting is to be arranged for an on-site discussion as to how this will be solved.

30/12 ALLOTMENTS

As instructed at the previous meeting, the Clerk had written to Leconfield Estate asking if it would reconsider the proposed increase in rental to £170 per annum commencing this year. The Estate had replied by offering to "step" the increase as to £150 in 2012, £160 in 2013 and £170 in 2014. Members instructed the Clerk to accept this proposal.

The Clerk reported that all those holding allotments in 2011 are taking them up again in 2012, and an interest has been expressed by someone-else in having a full plot. Clerk is to meet with prospective holder to choose a plot.

Mr Sharp and Mr Harden (and an attending member of the public who is an allotment-holder) said that there were some repairs that needed to be carried out on the allotments. The Clerk will meet with those concerned to assess what needs to be done.

31/12 VILLAGE GREEN

Mr Hayhurst informed members that the Council had been awarded the sum of £750 as a grant in respect of the proposed work around the pond area, and reminded members that the work would not take place until the Autumn of this year. The contractor, Mr Lilleywhite, had agreed that his price would hold through to this time and members agreed that Mr Hayhurst could confirm acceptance of the price (£1925).

The Chairman informed members that a meeting had been arranged for 4 April which will be attended by himself and Mr Hayhurst for the Council, Mr Nick Cutter on behalf of Leconfield Estate, the publicans from the Noahs Ark, and Mr Stephen Radford, Estate Manager of Greene King. The object of the meeting will be to hear what plans the brewery have for providing car parking for the customers of the Noahs Ark.

Lengthy consideration was given to the proposal by Mr Sharp (seconded by Mr Harden) that the work previously approved by Leconfield Estate in respect of the area of land at the eastern end of The Green, known locally as The Triangle, be carried out without further delay. Members voted on the proposal and it was approved by a majority.

DRAFT

The Clerk reported that two work parties from the South Downs National Park had carried out work on the road-side hedge bordering the football-field. The first party had carried out growth cutting and clearance and the second had planted replacement hedging for those earlier plantings that had failed.
The project leader had emphasised that the new plantings must be kept watered in the coming months and Mr Harden has kindly offered to look after this. It was also suggested that the area behind the hedge should be cut thoughout the summer to keep bracken growth down, and the Chairman is to arrange this with Mr Caird. Finally, failure of previous plantings are largely attributed to weed/bracken growth amongst the young plants and this should be dealt with during the coming months. Bearing in mind that the new plants have been provided free of charge, and the work carried out by external volunteers, it is very unlikely that we shall receive further support unless the parish takes responsibility for the above matters.

32/12 LOCAL WINTER MANAGEMENT PLAN
Mr Bonnett said that the WSCC had taken into account both weather forecasts and actual day-to-day conditions in deciding not to distribute bags of salt throughout the parishes so far this Winter.

33/12 CORRESPONDENCE
A letter had been received from CDC to the effect that up to £200 of matching funding could be granted to the Council, should it so wish, in respect of spending on or in support of local celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
The Council has not drawn up plans to celebrate Jubilee as it is understood that a group within the parish has already done so. The Clerk will investigate as to whether this money might be made available to the organising group.

34/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Because the previously arranged date of 10 May for the next meeting clashes with the annual meeting with the parishes, the Chairman asked members to consider an alternative date. It was agreed that the date of both the next meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting will be changed to 17 May. Clerk to publish in Newsletter.

35/12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
The date of the next meeting will be 17 May 2012.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

DRAFT