LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 12 July 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 and Mrs P A Hardwick.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.35 pm.

55/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies had been received from Mr N P Jowett.

56/12 CODE OF CONDUCT
Prior to the meeting the Clerk had distributed a note to all members dated 8 July (a copy of which is attached as Annex "A"). This explained that under the Localism Act 2011 the Council's existing Code of Conduct, and members obligations under that code, ceased to have any effect after 1 July 2012 and that fresh proposals regarding a replacement code are expected from Chichester District Council later this year.
In view of this the Chairman put the following proposition to members;

"That the Council adopts the Code of Conduct originally adopted by the Council on 10 May 2007 (referred to in agenda item 40/07), subject to any regulations made under Section 30 of the Localism Act 2011."

This was approved unanimously and a copy of the Code is attached as Annex "B".

57/12 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

58/12 MATTERS ARISING
The question as to whether the insurance cover was adequate in respect of the Cricket Pavilion was raised under item 44/12. Mr Hayhurst said that subsequent to the meeting he had given further thought to the matter and, for reasons he outlined, had concluded that the present cover was satisfactory. Members accepted this and no further action was to be taken.

59/12 OPEN FORUM
There were no members of the public present.

60/12 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

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Mr Duncton mentioned that the Council's application for a grant towards restoration work on the village phone-box had been approved in the sum of £750 (cheque received). He explained that due to an extraordinary weather-related pressure of work there are delays in Highways dealing with local issues, and added that having already made savings, the County Council was faced with finding a further £38m over the next two years. Beyond that, further cuts were expected.

Mrs Hardwick covered several topics. These included;
Funding for sports activities – this was of particular interest to Mr Bonnett in respect of the "football-field" and he has the necessary contact details.
Planning issues in respect of Barfold Farm, and the general need for the Council to have a representation where applications have been referred to Committee.
Ward Profiles – these have been produced by the District Council and one is available for Plaistow Ward. This can be viewed on the District Council's website.
New Register of Members Interests – members were in course of completing these.

61/12 FINANCE
The Clerk distributed annex "C" 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. It also included a cheque for £200 which had already been issued (re Jubilee grant) and for which retrospective 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 payment of all cheques listed.

62/12 HIGHWAYS
Flooding. Mr Bonnett referred to a note received recently from Highways. This included an encouragement to parishes to report blocked gullies by using the unique number allocated to each gully as identification, and sending a photograph of the gulley whilst blocked. Highways would then instruct the contractors, Balfour Beatty Living Places, to empty the gulley. Mrs Martin-Jenkins pointed out that this in itself would not cure the larger problem of associated flooding unless at the same time the adjoining pipework was jetted through. It was agreed that parishioners should be encouraged to report blocked gullies to the Clerk and a note should be placed in the Newsletter to this effect.
Mr Duncton raised the idea that the Parish Council might employ a local contractor to carry out the work instead of suffering possible delays associated with the WSCC contractors. This would require prior approval by Highways, including costs as these the Parish Council would seek to recoup. Clerk to investigate.

Mr Harden mentioned the fact that water flowing off fields above Boundary Cottage was not being collected by the drain lower down. He said that the construction of the "bagging" was preventing the water entering the drain. Clerk to contact Highways and ask them to look at problem.

63/12 RIGHTS OF WAY
Mr Harden reported that bridges have been damaged on path 2028 and that trees need clearing on 2026. Clerk to investigate and report.

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64/12 PLANNING
Dr Wilding reported on the following planning applications;

APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

SDNP/12/00384/TCA
Meadowside

Notification of intention to up crown lift lower sector to give a 2m clearance above ground level (removing any growth emanating from the main stem back to source to leave a clean stem) on 1 Yew tree.

DECISIONS RECEIVED

LG/12/01227/DOMNP
The Lodge, Jobsons Lane

Single-storey rear extension, first floor rear extension, new windows to rear and side elevations, removal of redundant chimney stack and replacement of flat roof with pitched roof.

REFUSE

LG/12/00626/FULNP
Lower Roundhurst Farm, Tennysons Lane

Provision of ancillary staff accommodation within existing part garage building requiring change of use from garage to staff accommodation.

PERMIT

SDNP/12/00384/TCA
Meadowside

Notification of intention to up crown lift lower sector to give a 2m clearance above ground level (removing any growth emanating from the mainstem back to source to leave a clean stem) on 1 Yew tree. NO OBJECTION

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Dr Wilding also mentioned;

Upper Blackdown House. A report has been sent to CDC Planning that an entrance has been created from this property on to Fernden Lane. A response from CDC is awaited.

Barfold Farm A report has been sent to CDC Planning that an entrance has been created from this property on to Jays Lane. CDC has responded that subsequently two visits have been made by Enforcement officers and that the entrance is "temporary". It will be reinstated when work on adjoining land has been completed. No time-scale given for this.

Abesters Following the Enforcement Notice the Council has asked the Enforcement Officer to look again at the position, with particular reference to the

replanting of trees removed in the course of creating the entrance on to Roundhurst Lane.

Lower Roundhurst Farm. It was brought to members attention that the website for this property advertises "The Barn" as being available for "exclusive hire for celebrations or corporate events". Bearing in mind the implications this might have on noise and traffic levels, members instructed the Clerk to enquire of CDC as to whether this contravened planning regulations.

65/12 PLAYGROUND

Mrs Wood reported that she continues to carry out weekly inspections of the Playground and that, apart from the malfunctioning of the gate, she was not aware of any particular problems.

66/12 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that Leconfield Estate had replied to the Council's letter of 19 April regarding the fencing which an allotment-holder had erected around both their own and an adjoining plot. The Estate are agreeable to the fencing remaining in position on the condition that the Council inform in writing those concerned that if a) they relinquish their plot, or b) Leconfield require the land back, then the fencing must be removed. Clerk to write.

The work on three gates referred to at the May meeting (49/12), and for which members had agreed a maximum expenditure of £150, had not been carried out and Mr Harden undertook to look into this.

67/12 VILLAGE GREEN

Drainage ditch Prior to the meeting Mr Hayhurst had circulated a report to members (attached as Annex "D") which referred to re-profiling work which could be carried out on the ditch at the eastern end of the Green. He explained the advantages of this and members approved the work being done. The issue of possible danger to cricket players and visitors by the present construction of the ditch had been raised by the Cricket Club in an e-mail to the Council on 11 June 2012. In response the Council had replied that the long grass around the ditch had been strimmed in order to make it more visible and asked that the club take future responsibility for such work. The club have accepted this undertaking. The Council had also asked the club to ensure that all cricketers are aware of all hazards around the Green and to undertake and publish a risk assessment.

Phone-box Referring to Mr Hayhurst's report, members approved the use of the £500 recently received as a "filming fee" towards the proposed restoration work on the phone-box.

68/12 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

69/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Mr Harden raised the question of a speed limit around the Green, and the possibility of associated road markings. A discussion concluded with the agreement for members to give thought to the previously-discussed idea of "gates" being erected at the

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entrance to the village along High Hampstead Lane. This would then be discussed at the meeting in September.
The Clerk mentioned that members were welcome to suggest items to be included in future Council meetings.

70/12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
The date of the next meeting is 13 September 2012.

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

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