DRAFT

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13 September 2012

Present Mr R E J Cooper (Chairman), Mr G J Hayhurst, Mr N P Jowett, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins, Dr P J H Wilding and Mr M H Oakland (Clerk).

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

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.38 pm.

71/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies had been received from Mr J S Bonnett, Mr J W Harden, Mr G D J R Sharp and Mrs R D Wood.

72/12 CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

73/12 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

74/12 MATTERS ARISING
There were no matters arising which were not to be dealt with under this agenda.

75/12 OPEN FORUM
A member of the public asked why the Chairman had resigned from the group, now known as "Lurgashall Recreation Association" (LRA), initially involved in the proposed purchase of the Glebe land. The Chairman replied that he had done so in order to avoid the possibility of his position as Chairman of the Parish Council being compromised at some future date.
A further question was asked as to whether the Council had retained a record of any meetings held by the LRA group. The Chairman explained that the Council had no connection with the group and therefore held no record of any such meetings.

There followed a discussion involving members of the public, Council members, and two people representing the LRA. The core of the fears expressed was the use to which the Glebe land (known locally as "the football field") would be put, particularly in the light of the contents of the LRA's application for a grant of £25K from Chichester District Council.

Those from the LRA said that apart from up-grading the surface of the football field there were absolutely no plans to develop the site in any way. However, in preparing any documentation the group was anxious to avoid binding future generations of Lurgashall parishioners by being too specific about activities which would be barred under any Constitution of the LRA. It was suggested that consideration be given to ensuring that what might generally be considered "extreme" activities should not be allowed on the land, particularly where such activities involved undue noise.

76/12 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Mrs Hardwick mentioned that a planning application for Barfold Farm (LG/12/00892/FULNP) had recently been approved, but subject to certain conditions. She urged the Council to follow the conditions and monitor their implementation.
She also mentioned that the Hillgrove Stud (Northchapel PC) application will be considered in the week commencing 17 September and that work on "The Grange", Midhurst, had commenced, with completion expected in 18 months time.

Mr Duncton mentioned the checks recently carried out by the police on vehicles passing through Petworth, and also the search for volunteers to man local libraries following the cut-backs in full-time staff. He said that the Rights of Way teams had met problems controlling vegetation growth in recent months due to the wet/warm conditions.

77/12 FINANCE

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.
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.

The Clerk informed members that the Audit Commission had written (letter dated 29 August 2012) to say that the firm of Littlejohn LLP had been appointed as external auditor to the Parish Council for five years, commencing with the 2012/13 audit.

The Clerk questioned with members the purpose of having two "Business Reserve" accounts with the bank, the first apparently being a "savings" account and the second a "contingency" fund. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a note for all members in order that it could be discussed more fully at the next meeting.

78/12 LURGASHALL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Parish Council had received a letter (dated 3 September, attached as appendix "B") from the LRA asking that the Council write a letter to Chichester District Council in support of the LRA's application for a grant of £25K.
Mr Hayhurst declared that he had a prejudicial interest in this matter and left the room before any discussion took place.

Members had previously been provided with a copy of the grant application and unanimously agreed that a letter in support of the application be written on behalf of the Council. Chairman and Clerk to action.

At the conclusion of this agenda item Mr Hayhurst returned to the Council.

79/12 HIGHWAYS

Employment of local contractor for clearance of parish gullies.

The Clerk had circulated a note (25 July) to members on this matter. Members agreed that it did not look economically viable for the Council to take on this responsibility and no further action would be taken.

Water from fields adjacent to Boundary Cottage

The Clerk and Mr Sharp had met with Graham Hicks from Highways to look at this problem. Mr Hicks has produced a plan to improve the drainage and approval for this is awaited.

Flooding points in Jobsons Lane.

The Clerk had visited, photographed, and reported to Highways (Richard Speller) on three particularly bad flooding points in Jobsons Lane. These are a) between Great/Little Brockhurst entries, b) adjacent to Beards Cottage, and c) Jack Fishers Brook.

Mr Speller has subsequently looked at these, agreed they need clearing and has raised a job sheet for them to be done. Clerk to follow.

Traffic-calming "gates" on High Hampstead Lane.

Members agreed that the Council should go ahead with the introduction of these"gates" in an attempt to slow down traffic entering the village from the direction of Lickfold, and thereby make the road running alongside the Green safer for pedestrians. Chairman and Clerk to action.

Subsidence at Hillgrove

Mrs Martin-Jenkins again mentioned the severe subsidence which has occurred on the roads within Hillgrove. Although previously reported, the Clerk will again visit to photograph and report to Highways.

80/12 RIGHTS OF WAY

Mrs Martin-Jenkins mentioned that new fencing has been erected across path 823/1 (Wateredge Copse) which had made it difficult to continue on the path. Clerk to investigate.

A member of the public said the the "No motorised vehicles" sign at the southern end of High Lane needed re-installing on the path. Clerk to investigate.

81/12 PLANNING

Dr. Wilding reported on the following planning applications;

APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

SDNP/12/00788/FUL
Barfold Farm, Tennysons Lane.
Use of storage barn as estate offices.

SDNP/12/00755/HOUS
Parkhurst House, Jobsons Lane
Extensions to provide enlarged kitchen area and improved second stair to first floor. Internal alterations to improve layout.

SDNP/12/00329/LIS
Blackdown House, Fernden Lane
Sensitive repair, restoration and extension of the existing north wing and enlargement of the existing outbuilding into a health suite. Construction of a new courtyard building, store building and stable building to the north and west of the main house.

DECISIONS RECEIVED

SDNP/12/00788/FUL
Barfold Farm, Tennysons Lane
Use of storage barn as estate offices. WITHDRAWN

LG/11/02710/FULNP
High Hampstead
Change of use and alteration of barns to form holiday lets including use for vocational residential courses and staff accommodation (amendment to planning permission LG/07/02213/FUL in respect of internal roof of main barn and arrangement of roof lights on north elevations) PERMIT

LG/12/00892/FULNP
Barfold Farm, Tennysons Lane
Partial use of storage barn as offices and alterations PERMIT

OTHER

APPEALS DISMISSED

LG/11/03610/FULNP & LG/11/03609/FULNP
Old Mill Farm, Mill Lane
Retention of extensions, cladding and mezzanine to existing dutch barn for use in

connection with agricultural holding. Retention of access and hardstanding.

Lower Roundhurst Farm
Further to 64/12, the Clerk had reported the issue of usage of "The Barn" to CDC Planning. CDC had responded that a Planning Contravention Notice had been issued which requires the landowner to provide information to CDC on the alleged breach of planning control. Outcome awaited.

Upper Blackdown House
Further to 64/12, CDC report that a breach of planning control has been identified and the landowner advised to submit an application. This is awaited.

82/12 PLAYGROUND
The Clerk reported that Playsafety Ltd had carried out the annual inspection and issued a report to the Council dated 11 June 2012. The report shows no changes from the 2011 inspection, with an overall rating of "Medium" risk. Certain minor items of possible work had been identified. A summary of the report had gone to the Chairman and Mrs Wood and they will consider what, if any, work should be undertaken.

83/12 ALLOTMENTS
Further to 66/12, regarding the erection of fencing around two plots, the Clerk confirmed that the two plot-holders concerned have written to accept the terms set out by Leconfield Estates by which the fencing may remain in place.
Referring to work to be carried out on certain gates on the allotments (66/12, Mr Harden), the Clerk said that he understood that no further work was required.

84/12 VILLAGE GREEN
Mr Hayhurst reported on the following matters;
a) Phone-box In view of the fact that BT had recently carried out the re-painting of the box, it was felt that further expenditure on refurbishment could not be justified at this time.
b) Pond It was anticipated that the work on the pond should start very shortly
c) Seats around the Green The seats at the eastern end of the Green had been cleaned and moved to within the "triangle". From there, users had a much better view of the Green.
d) Surface protection to Common land at eastern end of Green Mr Hayhurst had brought with him an example of a material which could be laid in the ground, within which grass could then be seeded and which would protect the area against damage by vehicles parking there. Members approved Mr Hayhurst obtaining quotations for the supply of such material.

85/12 CORRESPONDENCE
There was no correspondence

86/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting at Chichester, held to discuss the possible impact upon parishes as a result of the impending changes to the tax system in respect of "second homes" and households in receipt of social benefits. He said that overall he did not anticipate any noticeable impact upon Lurgashall.

Members discussed the idea raised at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 17 May this year, that in future the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on a separate date. It was agreed that, for 2013, the two meetings should be held on different dates and that for the Annual Parish Meeting organisations within the parish should be invited to speak about their activities. Chairman and Clerk to agree date and format, and Clerk to arrange.

87/12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 8 November 2012.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.