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LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall

on Thursday 12 September 2013

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

Also present Mrs J Duncton.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm.

73/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies had been received from Mr J W Harden, Mr N P Jowett, Dr P J H Wilding and Mr N Thomas.

74/13 CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

75/13 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

76/13 MATTERS ARISING
"Mischief Festival". The Chairman reported that the organisers had been granted two Temporary Events Notices which should have the effect of limiting the numbers attending this event (20-23 September 2013) to just under 1000. In the ensuing discussion members felt that if problems were encountered this year then the Parish Council should take early steps to try and prevent a repetition in 2014. In the meantime it was agreed that a notice should be placed on both the website and the notice-board publicising the numbers for members of the public to phone if they have complaints to make over this years event.
Re-seeding of Dial Green. The Chairman said that this work had not yet been carried out by Clancydocwra, but he remained in contact with them and would follow to see that it is done.

77/13 OPEN FORUM
There were no members of the public present.

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78/13 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Mrs Duncton referred again to the substantial financial savings which needed to be made by the County Council, but said these would not be found only by cutting back on services but by devising better working practices. She also mentioned that funds were available for projects which could be tackled under "Operation Watershed" should the Council wish to apply, that the SDNP is likely to be making available land for "Travellers" and that the latest figures for crime in West Sussex show a substantial reduction.

79/13 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 Clerk reported that Littlejohn LLP, the external auditors, had given the Council an entirely clean audit report in respect of the annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013.

80/13 PLANNING

In the absence of Dr. Wilding, Mrs Martin-Jenkins commented upon the following planning applications.

APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

SDNP/13/02655/FUL
Courts Yard, Windfallwood Common

Erection of two detached dwellings with garages, following the demolition of and removal of all existing buildings, hard surfacing and uses.

SDNP/13/02748/LIS and SDNP/13/03150/HOUS
1, The Quell Cottages, Quell Lane

Removal of chimney and renovation, restoration and repair to roof covering, external wall finishes,alterations to porch and all associated internal works.

SDNP/13/02714/FUL
Greenland Farm, Jobsons Lane

Demolition of existing stabling and erection of new stabling in new location.

SDNP/13/03145/FUL
Millicent, Hillgrove Lane

Agricultural Barn

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SDNP/13/03203/HOUS
Victory Cottage, Hillgrove Lane

Two-storey extension in matching materials to form drawing room and bedroom.

DECISIONS RECEIVED

SDNP/13/02655/FUL
Courts Yard, Windfallwood Common

Erection of two detached dwellings with garages, following the demolition of and removal of all existing buildings, hardsurfacing and uses. WITHDRAWN

SDNP/12/00328/FUL & SDNP/12/00329/LIS
Blackdown House, Fernden Lane

Repair, restoration and extension of the north wing and enlargement of the existing Outbuilding into a Health Suite. Construction of a new Courtyard building, store and stable to the north.

Other matters

a) Smugglers Cottage, Jobsons Lane. On 21 August a report was sent to CDC that a building appeared to be in course of erection, probably a garage. The response has been that it is now in the hands of the Enforcement Officer and a further report should be received by 24 September.
b) Noahs Ark Container. This has now been removed.
c) Orchard Park Farm. A planning application is still awaited in respect of work-in-progress on this property.
d) Northhurst Farm. The matter of the recently installed driveway is now in the hands of the Enforcement Officer and a report should be received by 26 September.
e) Blackdown Park Farm. The owner has made an appeal against the decision by CDC to refuse permission for the building of an Orangery. The Parish Council did not object to this application and will not be making any representation to the Planning Inspectorate.

81/13 HIGHWAYS
a) Crossways The Clerk reported that he had discussed with the police the issue of the vehicle which is often parked outside this property on Blind Lane. He had been informed that the police had no problem with this, nor did they object to the use of the "Police" cone being used there.
b) Depth Gauge at Lickfold. Following the discussion at the July meeting of the Council, the Clerk had spoken to Highways to see if they would give consideration to the erection of an individually-designed sign being erected instead of the very large standard sign. The answer was "No", only the standard sign can be approved by Highways.
c) Signage adjacent to the new "Gates" on Hampstead Lane.
Members were provided with details of various signs which could be produced by Highways. They approved the design incorporating the wording "Welcome to Lurgashall, Please drive carefully." Clerk to take this up with Highways.

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82/13 VILLAGE GREEN

Mr Hayhurst said that work on erecting protective posts on the northern edge of the Green had been delayed because of the very dry weather. However, the posts have been sourced and work on this will be undertaken shortly.

The Clerk reported that although a letter had been sent to Leconfield Estate on 21 June seeking permission for the Council to build a small "planter" at the north-western corner of the Green, a response was still awaited.

A copy of a Tenancy Agreement covering the Green, dated 5 October 1909, between the Earl of Egmont and the Parish Council was produced to the meeting and a discussion took place as to whether the Council should approach the Estate to discuss the drawing up of a new Agreement. Members decided not to presently pursue this.

83/13 WINTER MANAGEMENT

Mr Bonnett said that the application to CDC for a grant of £500 towards the purchase of salt bins had been refused. However, the County Council had informed the Clerk that details will shortly be published of a scheme to assist Parish Councils with the purchase of these bins. The scheme will be;

The cost of each bin (purchased through WSCC) will be £200

WSCC will provide the first three bins free of charge.

Remaining bins up to a total of ten may be purchased by Councils @ 50% price, with WSCC providing the balance.

Any bins required above the total of ten would have to be purchased at full price.

Members agreed that Lurgashall required a total of ten bins. Therefore the cost to the Council would be £700 and this was duly approved. When details of scheme are received then Mr Bonnett and Clerk to place order for bins.

84/13 PLAYGROUND

Mrs Wood said that there were no problems to report, but that the gate still did not close properly. It was decided not to take any action on this for the present.

85/13 ALLOTMENTS

There was nothing to report.

86/13 RIGHTS OF WAY

Mrs Martin-Jenkins said that the stiles along the 2034 were in a poor state of repair and Mr Bonnett similarly said that those on the 2029 needed attention. The Clerk will liase with WSCC about these issues.

87/13 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence

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88/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reminded members that the "All Parishes Meeting" will take place at CDC Chichester on Thursday 17 October commencing at 6pm. He said he would be pleased if any members would like to go. He is willing to attend and Mr Bonnett said that if no other member wishes to go then he will accompany the Chairman. Members should let the Clerk know if they would like to go.

89/13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 14 November 2013.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12 pm.

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