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LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall

Thursday 14 November 2013

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

Also present Mrs J Duncton and Mr N Thomas.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm.

89/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies had been received from Mr N P Jowett.

90/13 CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct

91/13 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the following amendment;

with reference to item 78/13 Mrs Duncton was recorded as saying that SDNP is likely to be making available land for "Travellers". This is incorrect and Mrs Duncton actually said that the District Council is looking for sites in West Sussex.

92/13 MATTERS ARISING
The Chairman referred to the recent "Mischief Festival" and said that at the subsequent public meeting there appeared to be less complaints than anticipated from those present. Mrs Duncton said that certain matters were being looked into by the licensing authority and the outcome of this was awaited.

93/13 OPEN FORUM
There were no members of the public present.

94/14 COUNCILLORS REPORTS
Mrs Duncton said that the only matter she had to report was her recent appointment as "Childrens Safeguarding Champion"
Mr Thomas mentioned that the District Council's Local Plan was being finalised, but as this concerned the area outside the National Park it did not directly impact upon Lurgashall. He said the SDNP Plan is not likely to be published until 2016. He reported that the opening date set for the new Midhurst centre was 31 January 2014 and that

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currently there were three major Supermarkets who would like to create a new store on the old site.

95/15 FINANCE

The Clerk said that letters of thanks had been received from both the L.R.A. and the Village Hall Management Committee in respect of the grants recently made to them.

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.

96/13 PLANNING

Dr Wilding commented upon the following planning applications.

APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

SDNP/13/03065/HOUS
Deerfell, Fernden Lane

Alterations and extension to dwelling. Internal alterations. Two-storey extension on footprint of existing single-storey lean-to. New dormer window, new stone mullioned windows to match existing. New front door.

SDNP/13/04109/HOUS
Leverton, Fernden Lane

Construction of oak-framed barn style garage and games room.

SDNP/13/04612/HOUS
Pear Tree Cottage, The Green

Erect a greenhouse

SDNP/13/04702/FUL
Upper Roundhurst House, Roundhurst Lane

Construction of tennis court

SDNP/13/04695/FUL
Northhurst Farm, Dial Green

Retrospective application for the formation of a new track within farm.

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DECISIONS RECEIVED

SDNP/13/02748/LIS & 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.

APPROVED

SDNP/13/03065/HOUS
Deerfell, Fernden Lane

Alterations and extension to dwelling. Internal alterations. Two-storey extension on footprint of existing single-storey lean-to. New dormer window, new stone mullioned windows to match existing. New front door. APPROVED

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

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

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

SDNP/13/04109/HOUS
Leverton, Fernden Lane

Construction of an oak-framed barn-style garage and games room. APPROVED

Other Matters.

a) Smugglers Cottage The Enforcement Officer reported that the work being carried out is "permitted development" and no further action will be taken.
b) Orchard Park Farm A fresh application is still awaited for work which has been started on this property.
c) Upper Blackdown House.This concerns the removal of part of a wall fronting Fernden Lane. The Enforcement Officer reported that this was "permitted development" and as such there is no requirement to reinstate the wall. However, members felt that the original requirement was for the wall to be rebuilt. The Clerk is to return to Enforcement on this point.
d) Planning meetings. Mrs Martin-Jenkins said that at the meeting scheduled for 4 November only two members of the committee were present, this being insufficient for a quorum. She indicated that the recently-introduced arrangement whereby the meetings were held on the first Monday of every month was proving difficult for committee members . The Clerk was therefore asked to send out a reminder every month, during the week preceding the meeting.

97/13 HIGHWAYS
Signage adjacent to the "gates" on Hampstead Lane. Following the members choice of signage at the previous meeting, the Chairman said that Highways had subsequently informed the Council that to install this would cost circa £400. Members thought this excessive and asked the Clerk to return to Highways to see if this cost could be reduced, and also look in to the alternative of having signage made locally.

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Carrigeway Surface Dressing. Highways had informed the Council that this will be carried out on The Green, Blind Lane, and High Hampstead Lane in 2014-15. No precise dates but notice will be given beforehand.

98/13 VILLAGE GREEN

a) North-west corner of The Green. Prior to the meeting Mr Hayhurst had distributed a paper, attached as annex "B". This sets out a proposal to erect a trianular bed made of treated railway sleepers. Members discussed the project and acknowledged that whilst objections had been raised, no practical alternative solutions had been put forward to solve the problem of the present unsightly mess. Leconfield Estate has approved the scheme set out in the paper. Subject to the approval of Highways, Mr Hayhurst proposed that the scheme be implemented at a cost of £580 plus VAT and this was seconded by Dr Tate. On a vote this was approved, with one objection.

b) Eastern end of Green, Common land. Prior to the meeting, Mr Hayhurst had distributed a note, attached as annex "C". This details work to install some rails on the land to prevent vehicles driving on beyond a certain point. The rails would be in natural chestnut. Mr. Hayhurst proposed that the work be carried out at a cost of £78.30 plus VAT. Mr Bonnett seconded this and it was duly approved by all.

99/13 WINTER MANAGEMENT

Mr Bonnett reported that all the salt bins had been delivered by Highways, filled with the salt/grit mixture and these were in the previously agreed positions throughout the parish. However, an e-mail from Highways dated 27 September said that the bins would be 400 litre capacity, whereas those delivered appeared to be much smaller. Clerk will investigate.

He then mentioned that a letter had been received from the Council's insurers, Aon Limited, dated 1 November, which set out certain restrictions upon the Council in respect of Snow clearance, salting and gritting. The Clerk had responded to Aon seeking clarification on certain points and had also sent a copy of the letter to Highways to see if their insurance cover would extend to any aspect of the work carried out by Councillors. Replies were awaited.

100/13 PLAYGROUND.

Mrs Wood said that in due course a little painting would be required on the swings and that the Adventure Trail ropes should be kept under review as there were early signs of chafing wear.

101/13 ALLOTMENTS

Garden Escapes have charged the Council for hedge cutting on the allotments. Mr Harden queeried this. The Clerk will clarify with the contractors.

102/13 RIGHTS OF WAY

The Clerk reported that the WSCC Rights of Way team had submitted a report following the recent routine inspection and follow-up work. This included;

17 new waymarkers, 1 new bridge, 5 repaired waymarkers and the clearance of 50m of vegetation.

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Mrs Martin-Jenkins said that she felt there was a good deal of waste in the work, including the method of disposing of some waymarkers. She also said that many stiles were in a dangerous condition.

103/13 REPORT ON ALL-PARISHES MEETING.
Prior to the meeting Mr Bonnett had circulated a report on the meeting he and the Chairman had attended on 17 October. The comprehensive report is attached as annex "D". He said that he felt the meeting was very worthwhile and that future ones should be attended by members of the Council, with a report then being presented to members.

Although not related to the "All-Parishes" meeting, Dr Tate then reported upon a meeting he and the Clerk had attended on 6 November, organised by CDC Planning. This centred upon the changes to be introduced in April 2014 when CDC will no longer issue paper copies of planning applications and what steps Parish Councils may have to take in order to be able to properly evaluate an application. This will very likely mean the purchase of some equipment, possibly a laptop and a larger viewing screen. It was suggested that it would be prudent to include the provision of £750 in the budget for 2014-15 and it was generally accepted that this was a sensible suggestion.
Dr Tate highlighted the need to follow (via the acting Planning Officer) those applications where the Parish Council had raised an objection, in order to have the opportunity of strengthening such objection before a final decision was made.
From April 2014 the Parish Council will be consulted on applications via a new "Consultee Access" (as part of the Public Access system). This means that the Council will automatically be sent a link to new applications which can then be downloaded without the need to search for them.

104/13 CORRESPONDENCE
The Chairman mentioned a meeting to be hosted by Easebourne Parish Council on 28 November, to be attended by Fiona Baker (WSCC), Midhurst TC and Lodsworth PC in order to discuss how adjacent parishes might work together. The Chairman said he will attend but there were no other volunteers.

105/13 PARISH MEETING 2014
The Chairman said that the Village Hall Management Committee would like to take advantage of the meeting by opening their proposed exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the hall. Other village organisations may wish to give brief up-dates on their activities.

106/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Mrs Martin-Jenkins reminded members that the Budget Committee would be meeting later this month to consider the budget for 2014-15, and that if they had any items they would like the committee to consider then these should be submitted in the near future.

Reverting to the wider matter of speeding, which had been mentioned in the context of the "gates" installed on Hampstead Lane, Mr. Harden suggested that a mini-roundabout could be installed at "signpost corner" in an effort to slow down traffic entering the

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village. The Chairman said this was an idea which could be considered by members and discussed more fully at a later date.

107/13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
The date of the next meeting is Thursday 9 January 2014

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.33 pm.

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