LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on

THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2013

PRESENT

From the Parish Council: Mr R E J Cooper (Chairman), Mr J S Bonnett, Mr J W Harden, Mr G J Hayhurst, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins, Mrs R D Wood, and Mr M H Oakland (Clerk).

Also present: Mr N Thomas and twenty-nine members of the public (including the speakers mentioned below).

The Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence had been received from Mr N P Jowett, Dr A Tate, Mr K M Caird, and Mrs J Creamer.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 17 May 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING
There were no matters arising.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
The Parish Council met 6 times this year and Councillor's attendance was 86%, a little up on last year. 4 Councillors had a 100% attendance. The attendance of District and County Councillors was 92%, the same high standard as last year and I thank them for all their hard work on our behalf. I wish to say a special thank you to Chris Duncton who is retiring from the County Council and who has served us extremely well for the last 6 years.

The Planning Committee has considered 48 applications this year, which is the most for many years. In addition to this they have been involved in 3 cross-border applications, 1 in Chiddingfold Parish (Barfold) and 2 in Northchapel (Bordering Hillgrove).

Despite spending £1600 on the Playground last year, ROSPA still graded it as Medium Risk. Although it would be very nice to achieve a Low Risk rating I fear that this will not

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be possible without replacing our perfectly good equipment with new, because the standards are changed constantly.

The Finance Committee met in November and produced a very commendable budget which enabled the Council to continue with its various projects, without increasing the Precept.

Work on the Village Green has been put on hold this year owing to the Water Works. We are now in consultation with Southern Water and Clancydocwra to repair the damaged areas. On a positive note the Telephone box has been painted by BT and purchased by the Parish Council for the princely sum of £1. Many of you may have noticed that the Box now contains a defibrillator for Village use, which was supplied by Haslemere Community First Responders free of charge.

The major problems this year seem to all revolve around Highways.

Problem 1 Flooding

Flooding has occurred in a number of places in the Parish this year but thanks to the constant badgering of the County Council by our Clerk I think that most (not all) have been put right.

Problem 2 Winter Management (snow)

At the request of the County Council Highways, all Parishes in the County were asked to prepare Winter Management plans to include such things as number of Salt Bags required and where they were to be located. In return Highways agreed to deliver the salt to these locations prior to any serious snowfall. When the snow arrived right on forecast on the Friday we had nothing. A phone call to Highways got an answering machine saying the staff had been sent home owing to the bad weather. The next day the Clerk managed to speak to Highways and was promised that the bags would arrive that day. They didn't and to cut a long story short, 5 out of the agreed number of 14 arrived on the Tuesday when the snow was melting. To cap this fine performance, all 5 bags were dropped in the wrong locations. The views of this Parish have been made very clear to highways.

Problem 3 Pot Holes

Like every other Parish in the County, and probably the Country, we have experienced an extremely bad year for Pot Holes. However I fear that the problem will continue to get worse all the time that the County Highways continue with selective filling, which leaves a number of smaller holes to deteriorate around the one they have just filled.

There were 18 of the 25 Allotment plots taken up last year, one more than the previous year. However for the coming year 3 have been given up and only 1 new one taken , leaving us with only 16 taken. The price of a full plot has gone up from £15 to £20 for a year but if anyone wants to try a smaller area a half plot is £10.

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We have only had 1 skip this year so far, but get all your rubbish ready as the Spring skip is on its way on Saturday 11th May from 10am to noon.

In November Patrick Szell our previous Clerk presented the Parish Council with a Hand Seal based on the large seal which is to bulky for general use.We thank him for this generous gift and for all the research that went into producing it.

Also in November we were sorry to receive the resignation of Gary Sharp for personal reasons. I would like to say once more that he will be greatly missed and we thank him for his many contributions to the village over many years.

In January after all the legal protocol had been complied with, the Council made the decision to co-opt former councillor Andy Tate to fill the vacancy. We know from previous experience that he will be an active and enthusiastic member of the council.

At the March meeting we acknowledged the massive contribution to the village of ex-councillor Jim Court who had sadly passed away earlier in the year.

The Clerk will present a Financial report later, so I will not linger on that subject other than to say thank you to the Finance Committee for such an accurate forecast for the year and to the Clerk for keeping us in line.

Finally I would like to say one or two more thank you's. To all my fellow councillors for your help and support throughout the year, especially the chairmen of the various committees, Anthea ,Peter, Geoff and Jeremy. You are all important members of what I consider to be a first class team. Lastly I am very lucky to work with an excellent Clerk who takes on so much more than he has to, and if he should decide to retire any time soon he has got to warn me in advance so I can get in first.

I will take any questions after the Finance report.

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PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANACES

A summary of the Parish Council's income and expenditure for the year to 31 March 2013 was available to all those present. The Clerk gave a brief overview of the figures and invited questions, responding to those put to him.

The financial year had opened with funds held totalling £9584. During the year the Council received income of £15424 (of which £13000 came from the Precept) and it spent a total of £12616, leaving a closing balance of £12392.

PARISHIONER'S QUESTIONS

Apart from those concerning finance, there were no questions.

The Chairman then invited speakers representing individual organsiations to address the meeting. The speakers and their organisations were;

Speaker	Representing
Mrs Helen Coleman	Northchapel Community Primary School
Miss Julia Doggart	Book Group
Mrs Elizabeth Clark	St. Laurence's Church
Mr Francis Thiselton	Lurgashall Cricket Club
Mr Steve Vaughan	Fete Committee
Mr John Kinnear	Lurgashall Horticultural Club
Mrs Sarah Matthews	Living History Group
Mr Geoffrey Hayhurst	Lurgashall Recreation Association
Mrs Erica Meyer	Luncheon Club
Miss Kate Fisher	Lurgashall Village Hall

Each speaker gave an interesting insight into the activities of those they represented, and all were very well received by the audience.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8. 58 pm.

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