

**DRAFT**

**LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall**

**Thursday 9 January 2014**

**Present** Mr R E J Cooper (Chairman), Mr J S Bonnett, Mr J W Harden,  
Mr N P Jowett, Dr A H J Tate, 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.

**1/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Mrs A Martin-Jenkins and Mr G J Hayhurst.

**2/14 CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

**3/14 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4/14 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**5/14 OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

**6/14 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Mr Thomas said that at a recent CDC Cabinet meeting it was shown that the finances of the Council were in good order, with sound reserves. He added that they were meeting all the current service needs.

He mentioned the next meeting of the N E Forum, to be held on 13 March, which would include a presentation on grants presently available. Due to this date clashing with the next meeting of the Parish Council, Lurgashall will not be represented but the Clerk is to seek a copy of the presentation. Mr Thomas said that the opening date for the new Midhurst Centre is now to be during March and a final decision is still awaited as to the choice of the new supermarket which will be adjacent to the centre. Finally he mentioned that the choice of a site at Westhampnet to accommodate "Travellers" is subject to planning approval being obtained.

Mrs Duncton discussed the problems of communication between the Parish Council and Highways and the delays experienced in obtaining responses to matters raised by the Parish Council. She offered to provide the name of someone in WSCC to whom issues could be directed.

7/14 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.

"Garden Escapes" annual contract. Members considered the quotation from Garden Escapes (annex "B") for work to be carried out in 2014. The Clerk was authorised to accept this.

Budget for the year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

On behalf of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Mr J S Bonnett presented the draft budget for the coming year ( annex "C"). After discussion, members approved the budget as presented but with one amendment. It was agreed that the budget figure for I.T. equipment be raised from £500 to £750. Subject to this, the proposal to adopt it was made by Dr A H J Tate, seconded by Mr N P Jowett and approved by all.

Precept for 2013 – 2014

In presenting the budget, Mr Bonnett said that the budget committee recommended setting the Precept for the coming year at £13000. However, following the upward adjustment of £250 for I T equipment members felt that this should be reflected in a similar increase in the Precept which should therefore be £13250. This figure was then proposed by Mr Jowett, seconded by Mrs Wood and approved by all.

Risk Assessment

Prior to the meeting members had received a copy of the Risk Assessment prepared by the Finance and General Purposes Committee dated 25 November 2013. Members approved the conclusions reached in the report and a copy is attached as annex "D"

8/14 PLANNING

In the absence of Dr Wilding, the Clerk commented upon the following applications;

APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

SDNP/13/O5519/LDE

Plash Barn Farm, Jobsons Lane

Works of alteration to and change of use of a former agricultural building to a building used as ancillary to a dwellinghouse.

SDNP/13/05311/HOUS

1, The Quell Cottages, Quell Lane

Development works for the new property entrance and replacement of dilapidated storage barn.

DECISIONS RECEIVED

SDNP/13/02714/FUL

Greenland Farm, Jobsons Lane

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

APPROVED

SDNP/13/04612/HOUS

Pear Tree Cottage, The Green

Erect a greenhouse.

APPROVED

Other Matters.

Orchard Park Farm. A regularising application is still awaited for work started on this property.

9/14 HIGHWAYS

Signage for "gates" on High Hampstead Lane

Several weeks ago, WSCC Highways had undertaken to obtain details of a non-standard road sign, to incorporate a place-name. However, details were still awaited. The Clerk to follow.

Mill Lane adjacent to Old Mill Farm.

A problem had been brought to the attention of the Clerk by the tenant of Old Mill Farm, in that on several occasions very large farm machinery travelling down the hill had failed to negotiate the tight and narrow bend and as a result had partially fallen into the ditch. Highways had been asked to investigate whether work could be carried out to stop the problem. A clear response from Highways was awaited. Clerk to follow.

Other issues

1 "West Sussex" county boundary sign fallen down on northern exit from parish en-route to Haslemere.

2 Culvert outside Herne Lodge blocked and road flooding.

3 Drainage ditch outside Noahs Ark appears to be blocked.

4 Flooding adjacent to "Rose Cottage" at Dial Green.

These will be investigated by Clerk and reported to Highways.

Special report to Highways

Members agreed that a separate report should in due course be sent to Highways asking for proper resurfacing work to be carried out on certain stretches of road in the parish. It was agreed that the narrow length of Jobsons Lane north of the entrance to Greenland Farm needed resurfacing. Before submitting a report it was agreed that the parishioners

should be asked to put forward suggestions for any stretches of road in the parish that they feel warrant special attention. These can then be considered by members and, if felt suitable, included in the report. Clerk to prepare note for Newsletter.

Finger-posts

Mr Bonnett reported that he had cleaned the finger-post which stands at the junction of Jobsons Lane and Roundhurst Lane and said that there were others which required similar attention. If possible it would be helpful to have the remaining posts “adopted” by members/parishioners living nearby.

10/14 VILLAGE GREEN

The Chairman mentioned the work recently carried out on the Green by Mr Matthew Boxall and all members expressed their appreciation to Mr Boxall for this.

Prior to the meeting, Mr Hayhurst had circulated a note regarding certain matters pertaining to the Green, including mention that he had now obtained a lower quotation (£496 + VAT) in respect of the materials which will be required for the proposed “planter” to be erected at the north-west corner of the Green. Permission for the installation of this is still awaited from Highways (letter sent to them dated 29 October last) and the Clerk will continue to chase.

11/14 WINTER MANAGEMENT

Mr Bonnett reported that all the salt bins were now in place and filled.

12/14 PLAYGROUND

Mrs Wood reported that the playground appeared to be in good order and she was not aware of any problems.

13/14 ALLOTMENTS

Mr Harden said that he was not aware of any problems with the allotments at this time.

14/14 RIGHTS OF WAY

The Clerk mentioned that the name of the successor to Nick Scott as the WSCC person responsible for the Rights of Way in Lurgashall parish was still awaited. When this is known the Clerk will try and have the individual attend the Council’s March meeting.

15/14 CORRESPONDENCE

1 A letter had been received from WSCC informing the Parish Council that a review of the usage made by parishioners of the Community Mobile Library showed that no-one had used it since April 2013. As a result, WSCC are to discontinue the service to Lurgashall after March 2014.

2 An e-mail had been received from the owner of “School House” in which several issues had been raised regarding the area of the Green, chiefly matters concerning parking. A suitable response will be sent.

16/14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

1 L.R.A. Mr Bonnett said that the hedges around the perimeter of the field now owned by the Association had been cut back and would in future be regularly maintained. He also mentioned that letters were being sent out to all parishioners inviting them to become members of the Association.

2 Annual Parish Meeting. The date of this meeting for 2014 will be Thursday 10 April.

3 Post-meeting notes in the parish Newsletter. Members confirmed that they would like to see these continued.

4 Commemoration of the First World War. The Clerk asked members if they would wish the Parish Council to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in any way. There was general agreement that it would be appropriate for the Council to do so and certain ideas were put forward. Finally it was agreed that a note should be put in the Newsletter asking for the views of the parishioners as to how they would wish to mark the occasion. Clerk to action. Mr Harden will ascertain whether the Lurgashall PCC has any plans in this respect.

17/14 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 March 2014.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

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