

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2016

Councillors Present: Mr R E J Cooper (Chairman), Mr J S Bonnett, Mr J W Harden, Mr N P Jowett, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins, Mr G Sharp, Dr A H J Tate, Dr P Wilding and Mrs R Wood

In Attendance: Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk)
County Councillor Mrs J Duncton
District Councillor Nick Thomas
There were no members of the public present.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm and welcomed all to the meeting.

25/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from PCSO Heidi Hay

26/16 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct. The Chairman declared an interest in item 35/16 as Chairman of the Cricket Club.

27/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 14th January 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

28/16 MATTERS ARISING

There were no other matters arising which were not to be covered on tonight's agenda.

29/16 OPEN FORUM

There were no questions from the public.

30/16 COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor Mrs Janet Duncton spoke of the large problem regarding scamming in the County specifically with the targeting of the over 74's from cons of clairvoyants to lotteries in Australia to fake tradesmen knocking on doors – it is all a crime. She encouraged parishioners to keep an eye out for the elderly and vulnerable, for smaller rural communities such as Lurgashall it is essential. Mr Harden said that Lurgashall has an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which helps keep people up to date. Any questions or problems, then don't hesitate to contact Mrs Duncton on 01798 342528 or email janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk

District Councillor Mr Nick Thomas reported that the cabinet had agreed a small increase in the district part of the Council Tax which would enable them to continue to fulfil their full range of services to the public which he felt would be acceptable to most. He spoke of the Chichester District ward boundary review with its consultation currently in progress to reduce the number of councillors by 2019 and encouraged all to respond and have their say www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/west-sussex/chichester. Mr Thomas reminded the parish that

there was a £250 grant available for villages from CDC for events celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. He added that there was new contractor, SLM Ltd who had taken over the running of the Westgate Leisure Centres. Any questions or problems of a District Council nature, then please don't hesitate to contact Mr Thomas 01730 810837 or email nthomas@chichester.gov.uk

Mrs Duncton left the meeting at 7.45pm

31/16 FINANCE

Members had previously been sent Appendix 2 which included:

- a) A statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts as at 2nd March 2016 incorporating details of cheques which needed to be issued, and which approval was sought.
- b) Budget Monitoring sheet as at 2nd March 2016
- c) Donations requests 2015/16

The Council's current financial position at £21,537, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted. The members discussed the question of donations (Appendix 2c). It was agreed that the following donations be made and payments for these were approved;

Arun & Chichester CAB £50

Waverley CAB £50

Sussex Air Ambulance £50

Chichester (Petworth) Food Bank £50

Haslemere First Responders £50 (awaiting confirmation that the group is still running before payment is made)

The members duly approved additional payments for Chichester District Council (Election 2015 costs) @ £177, Garden Escapes Design (Grass Cutting) @ £426, Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's Jan & Feb 16 Salary and Exps) @ £698 and Mr REJ Cooper (Chairman's half yearly allowance) @ £150

Clerk confirmed that the VAT refund of £2,546 had now been received. She stated that CDC would no longer be accepting cheques from 1st April 2016 and as the Parish Council does not have online banking facilities or any other way of paying invoices at present this is a worry. District Councillor Mr Nick Thomas said he would look into this.

32/16 PLANNING

Clerk previously distributed the planning list. Dr Wilding commented upon the following applications;

APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED SINCE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/15/06312/FUL

Old Hearne Farm Jays Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU27 3BL

Retention of the east barn and its immediate surroundings for mixed agricultural and equestrian purposes and the erection of a stock building.

SDNP/16/00099/HOUS

Bishops Court Chase Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU27 3AG

Retrospective application for erection of a timber shed.

SDNP/16/00210/HOUS

Northurst Farm Dial Green Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9HA

Construction of swimming pool and pump house.

SDNP/16/00520/HOUS

Hillview Dial Green Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9HA

Proposed rear conservatory.

SDNP/15/06493/FUL

Hillgrove Stud Farm, London Road, Northchapel, West Sussex GU28 9EQ

Construction of farm house.

Dr Wilding said there was an outstanding application for a replacement dwelling at Quellhurst SDNP/16/00625/FUL however this would be discussed at the next planning meeting due to time restraints tonight. Clerk to ask CDC/SDNPA for an extension to the deadline for the PC response. The next Lurgashall PC planning meeting will be on Monday 4th April (not Tuesday 5th) due to a clash with an important meeting where Police restructuring is being discussed.

CDC/SDNP DECISIONS RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING

SDNP/15/06122/TCA

The Old Rectory, Blind Lane, Lurgashall, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 9ET

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Ash tree

Decision: to raise no objection

SDNP/15/04718/LDE

Old Hearne Farm, Jays Lane, Lurgashall, West Sussex, GU27 3BL

Erection of the western barn and storage/utility areas

Decision: Approved

An appeal has been lodged against the National Park's refusal to grant planning consent at Orchard Park Farm for the proposed chain link fencing around tennis court (SDNP/15/04781/HOUS). Clerk to look into why this was refused by CDC. Mr Sharp said he thought there were one or two dormer windows being put in to the old house and questioned whether planning permission would be required for this. Clerk to contact CDC for clarification.

33/16 HIGHWAYS INCLUDING VILLAGE GREEN, OPERATION WATERSHED AND WINTER MANAGEMENT

Mr Bonnett said he and Mr Cooper had met with John Simpson to discuss the additional works which had been agreed at the last meeting to extend the parking area to the east side of the Village Green. The Parish Council had previously agreed £2,500 as a total budget (plus £350 contribution from The Noah's Ark) for the project and as the additional works will still keep the overall cost within the original figures, John Simpson has been given the go ahead. Mr Bonnett said there were still a number of issues with the planning for the signpost and exact measurements, however he had met with J K Engineering who had re-quoted for the proposed three fingered signpost @ £2,225. This was a significant increase from the quote in November 2014 of £1,405 but does include a substantial amount of lettering and a more detailed specification as agreed at the last meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to accept the quote and go ahead with the signpost once planning permission had been received.

Mr Bonnett added that unfortunately there was nothing further to report on the Operation Watershed project at Lickfold Bridge as the water levels are still too high for the survey to be started.

Mrs Martin-Jenkins expressed her thanks to WSCC Highways as the flooding at Parkhurst was significantly better since their intervention. Mr Sharp stated that there were still numerous problems around the village with ditches and blocked drains, not to mention countless potholes. Clerk to organise another meeting with Steve Hodd, the WSCC Highways officer, to go through all the issues in the village with Mr Cooper, Mr Sharp and Mr Bonnett. Mr Cooper asked that all Councillors let him know of their individual concerns so that between them hopefully the entire parish is covered.

Mr Jowett said unfortunately the fence to his property had been damaged during the Operation Watershed works. Following the work, Mr Simpson has kindly offered to continue to clear the gullies and culverts on a regular basis. Mr Bonnett said he would ask Mr Simpson to make good the damage and notify him that he may use the gate into the property when clearing the culvert on the land rather than climbing over the fence.

Mr Cooper said that the owners of the Noah's Ark wanted to advise the Parish Council that they would like to replace the fencing which is currently erected outside the front of the pub and asked what the Parish Council would find acceptable, for example a post and rail fence. As the land is common land, it was felt that it is essential that any fence is kept at a low height so it is still easy to walk onto the land and should have gaps so wheelchairs and pushchairs are accessible. It was suggested that just the rotten posts be replaced.

34/16 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Members had previously been sent the Village Maintenance schedule detailing the new prices for 2016. All agreed the prices were reasonable. Clerk to notify Garden Escapes Design.

35/16 CRICKET PAVILION

Mr Harden suggested the Parish Council pay for a survey to ascertain what the total cost would be to sort all the problems out with the pavilion and to establish what should be done first. Mr Jowett said he had had serious concerns raised to him by a parishioner regarding the lack of maintenance of the pavilion over the years and if the Cricket Club does not fulfil its contractual conditions then the Parish Council should take the pavilion back and repair it itself. Mrs Martin Jenkins said that the Cricket Club was ultimately responsible for repairs under its repairing lease and she would have expected them to have been here tonight with their ideas. The Parish Council needs a reaction to the survey from the Cricket Club itself, with an update on what is happening and associated timescales. Clerk to write to the Cricket Club thanking them for sending the survey done by Anthony Crandon as previously requested, asking for a response, a funding update and progress report.

36/16 PLAYGROUND

Mrs Wood reported that everything was okay and tidy at the play area, although a lick of paint was required to freshen it up. She reminded people that dogs are not allowed in the play area as she had had to get rid of a couple of them recently. Clerk had received a letter from The Leconfield Estates informing the Parish Council that the rental for the play area was up for its 3 yearly review in line with RPI at the end of March.

37/16 ALLOTMENTS

Mr Harden reported that a lot of the rubbish at the allotments had now been burnt. One of the posts is broken and Mr Sharp suggested that a replacement post is required. All agreed this should be done. Mr Sharp to instruct Mr Hancock to go ahead and replace. Clerk said the invoices for the forthcoming season would shortly be going out.

38/16 RIGHTS OF WAY

These are currently under water so nothing to report!

39/16 L.R.A

Dr Tate said the AGM is due to be on 28th April and there are currently no new members. He said it was hoped the transportable wheeled cricket net would soon be in place and the L.R.A are trying to encourage the young to

use the field to play ball games and football. The two seats are now firmly fixed although unfortunately there are still problems with moles and rabbits in the field so the L.R.A will need to pay someone to catch these professionally. Canine Capers is returning once again in September.

40/16 POLICE COVERAGE IN NORTH CHICHESTER

Mr Cooper said there is a NE/NW forum meeting at Lodsworth Village Hall on Tuesday 5th April where the new restructuring is to be discussed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne and Chief Inspector Justin Burkenshaw. This is open to Parish Councillors and he encouraged all to attend if able. Both the PCSO's in Petworth have been lost and all local Police are now being moved to Chichester; the reason being the parishes in North Chichester are deemed a low crime area so no Police are required. Mr Harden stated there had recently been two benches stolen from one property in the village and one bench from another. Parishioners must stay vigilant and report any suspicious vehicles or people on 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency/crime in progress). Mr Bonnett questioned whether the Police part of Council Tax was based on banding or a stand-alone charge.

Mr Jowett left the meeting at 9pm.

41/16 QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Mrs Martin Jenkins said there was going to be a special celebratory service of Evensong at the Church, open to everyone. Wine and refreshments will be served afterwards.

42/16 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk spoke of the North Chichester CLC meeting which is due to be held on Monday 21st March at 7pm at Fernhurst Primary School should any Councillors wish to attend. Also a Community Led Development Event – Pulborough Village Hall 23rd March 7-9pm

Clerk had also received an email regarding the current electoral review of Chichester District – to reduce the number of District Councillors by 12. CDC's suggestion is to move Lurgashall in with Fernhurst for a one ward district or join with Fernhurst, Lynchmere, Milland and Linch to make a double ward. The Parish Council discussed this and agreed that it was not happy with the new proposed boundary; it has nothing in common with Fernhurst nor has it any shared facilities or links. The Parish Council feels it is imperative that the District Council re-look at this proposal. Currently Lurgashall sits with Northchapel, Loxwood and Plaistow in the Plaistow ward. Lurgashall feels it is essential that it is kept with Northchapel as not only are they similar sized parishes but they share a school, a vicar and both have significant ties with The Leconfield Estate. Northchapel and Lurgashall have similar patterns of community life, similar issues and ties which naturally set them together. It is appreciated that numbers need to be achieved but it would seem to make much more sense to put the smaller parishes in the area together i.e. Northchapel, Ebernoe, Lurgashall, Lodsworth, Tillington and Graffham all of which have links and are of a similar size so there is not one dominant parish.

43/16 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no urgent matters.

44/16 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Please let the Clerk know of any other items to be included on the next agenda by Thursday 5th May 2016

45/16 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th May 2016 (AGM).

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm