

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT LURGASHALL VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present: Mrs B Burkhart, Mr R Cooper, Mr N Jowett, Mrs J Landstrom, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman), Mr A Loughan, Mrs V Semmens and Dr A Tate

In Attendance: District Councillor Peter Wilding
County Councillor Janet Duncton
Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk)

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed all to the meeting.
There were no members of the public in attendance.

Public Question time
There were no questions

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

86/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
There were no apologies.

87/22 CODE OF CONDUCT
The Chairman reminded members of their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct.

88/22 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR
There was no co-option.

89/22 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6th October 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

90/22 MATTERS ARISING
There were no matters arising.

91/22 COUNCILLORS REPORTS
County Councillor Janet Duncton reported on:

- Children's Services: This continues to improve but as I always say, we are not there yet. A small OFSTED recently was encouraging but we are expecting a thorough OFSTED inspection sometime early in 2023. I do assure you though that we are getting there and it is such an improved Service than it was. As ever it's very difficult getting social workers and we do train many ourselves now. We have also taken some from other countries that of course we have to train as we want them to work. They are aware that although qualified they will have to take on training that West Sussex require. We are not alone. Rather like planning officers, social workers are hard to recruit.
- Fire and Rescue: A recent inspection from His Majesty's Inspectorate is happy that we have cleared backlogs especially the home safety visits etc. Always something that needs attention though and attending times have on occasion slipped but that is work in progress. Some will have noticed that the new Fire and Rescue buildings at Broadbridge Heath are coming on a pace and this will also provide

training facilities for any Fire and Rescue Services across the Country that would like to make use of them.

- Members have had the usual workshops to keep us up to speed with many items that are dealt with by County and this of course includes the budget which is not expecting to produce any substantial cuts in Services for 23/24. Things get more difficult as we go further forward but that's for another time.
- You will have seen on the news the tragic deaths of 6 young people in West Sussex from suicide. A tragedy hard for all to bear. Mental health is not the remit of West Sussex County Council to deliver the Service. But we must all work together with all the Services. The local Authority is leading the way in developing a ground breaking Mental Health triage service bringing together all partners to the table which is forming the bases of National learning. Such a difficult time for all concerned.
- For those of my parishes that are inside the South Downs National Park we are also having to find savings and every member of the staff was written to some time back and informed of the situation and asked for their views on leaving or taking redundancy. When I say leaving of course that is an option but some moved to different positions taking on other responsibilities etc. This is working well at the time of writing. Twice a year all members and staff have a meeting together which helps us all understand one another's position on the various responsibilities. We are still very keen to make sure that access to the SDNP is easier for all and as a National Park we have the biggest population on our boundaries and inside the park than any other National Park in the country. It's a great place for all so we must try and make it accessible for all.

Any queries of a county nature, please do not hesitate to contact Janet Duncton on janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk or mobile 07979152898

County Councillor Janet Duncton left the meeting at 7.40pm

District Councillor Peter Wilding reported on the following:

Council's Finances

The Council's finances are now being impacted by inflation. This is arising from: staff pay rises, increased fuel costs affecting the refuse collection fleet and a significant increase in the energy costs for the Leisure Centres in particular the Westgate Centre. The combination of these and other factors could adversely affect our budget by between £1m and £2m per annum.

Levelling Up funding

CDC have submitted a £13.7 million Levelling Up bid to government to help revitalise Chichester. The Council expects to hear the outcome by the end of November.

Local Plan

The Planning Policy Team have made significant progress in concluding the outstanding issues, including transport and A27 mitigation where we have reached agreement with the highway authorities on a level of development for the plan; together with an emerging strategy for dealing with water neutrality in the north of the plan area, waste water disposal and flood risk. The draft Plan should go to Council in mid-January. If Council approve the plan for consultation, then the intention will be to hold the consultation immediately and following that, to submit the plan for formal examination.

Any queries of a District nature, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Wilding on pwilding@chichester.gov.uk

District Councillor Peter Wilding left the meeting at 7.50pm

91/22 FINANCE

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 2a and b which included:

- a) A statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts as at 10th November 2022 incorporating details of payments which needed to be made, and for which approval was sought.
- b) Budget Monitoring sheet as at 10th November 2022

The Council's current financial position at £34,279, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted.

The members duly approved the payments for Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Sept & Oct Salary) @ £778, Glasdon UK (new litter bin) @ £272 and The Leconfield Estates (Allotment Water) @ £179. Payments for J Wright (allotment hedge cutting) @ £90 and Shepherd & Graham (War memorial repairs) @£714 had been approved in between meetings.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 13th December at the Village Hall to discuss the budget and precept for 2023/24.

92/22 PLANNING

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3. The following planning applications were discussed:

SDNP/22/04590/TCA

Location: The Green High Hamstead Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9ET

Proposal: Notification of intention to height reduce by up to 3m, reduce north, west and east sectors by up to 2m, reduce to 1m clearance from property on south elevation and crown lift to up to 3m (from ground level) on 1 no. Yew tree.

SDNP/22/02995/HOUS

Location: Dickhurst Hall Petworth Road Lurgashall Haslemere West Sussex GU27 3BG

Proposal: Change use of loft space to habitable accommodation including the insertion of dormer window and rooflights. Installation of new timber staircase at first floor.

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/22/02329/HOUS

Blackdown House, Fernden Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3DR

Single storey pool house

Decision: Approved

SDNP/22/03650/PRE

Land to The North of Blind Lane Maverick Farm Blind Lane Lurgashall West Sussex

Construction of a new single barn in the location shown on the accompanying plan. The position of the barn on a previous application (SDNP/22/00098/FUL) has been a point of contention so advice is sought to establish the best position for the barn.

Advice provided

SDNP/22/04457/PRE

1 The Quell Cottages Quell Lane Lurgashall Haslemere West Sussex GU27 3BW

Advice is sought to confirm there are no associated planning or listed building consent requirements to install two multi fuel stoves to the existing inglenook fireplaces in the dining and sitting rooms.

Advice provided

93/22 HIGHWAYS INCLUDING VILLAGE GREEN (FLAGPOLE, NOTICEBOARD & LITTER BIN) AND WINTER MANAGEMENT

Mrs Burkhart reported on the new noticeboard. She had discussed this with the original carpenter and together they agreed the noticeboard should be renovated rather than replaced. This was agreed in theory and he would be sending through a quote and the works would be carried out in the spring. Mrs Burkhart had spoken with Savills and they had kindly agreed to sponsor and cover the cost for this renovation.

Mr Cooper reported that John Simpson had kindly offered to clear the culverts in the parish again. He had also agreed to remain as the contractor to help with the Winter Resilience plan. A copy of his PLI certificate would be sent to WSCC Active Communities team once the renewal was received.

The Clerk to drive around the parish taking photos and reporting all the highways issues including the potholes and dangerous tree on Jobsons Lane plus the state of the road by Crossways.

Mrs Martin-Jenkins and Mrs Burkhart are due to meet with Lodsworth Parish Councillor Tom Richardson to discuss the state of the road (HGV use, road surface and narrowness) from Gospel Green to the A272 next Tuesday.

The Clerk had ordered a new bin from Glasdon (CDC's preferred supplier) for the entrance to the Jubilee field. Dr Tate had kindly agreed to organise its installation and Mr Loughan agreed to take delivery of the bin.

The owner of the old Winery had kindly offered to donate one of its flagpoles to the village and will deliver to the green. Dr Tate and Mr Cooper to organise its installation by the cricket pavilion.

WSCC Highways update on Jobsons Lane: Highways had recently undertaken a number of repairs using the Pothole Pro although, regrettably some areas did not progress (this was principally due to traffic management issues). This budget has now been exhausted and they will continue to inspect the road via their routine planned inspections which are normally undertaken in June and December each year, and throughout the year in response to any reports they receive. The pre-surface dressing patching should progress in 2023/24.

The Parish Council does not think this is at all acceptable given the reports on the state of the road started 2.5 years ago and the very worst areas have been left and continue to be very dangerous for all road users. The Clerk to chase for a response.

94/22 PLAYGROUND

Mrs Semmens said there was nothing much to report. Following the annual play area inspection and report, there were some repairs which needed to be carried out. The Clerk to send her the contact details for Playsafe Playgrounds based in Elsted, Midhurst. Funding for replacement play equipment would be discussed at December's Finance meeting.

95/22 ALLOTMENTS

Mrs Landstrom reported there had been a successful tidy up session at the allotments last month. Jonathan Wright had cut the hedges. As the water bill was high due to exceptionally hot weather in the summer, it was agreed that tenants who used their allotments this year would be charged an additional £4.20 per half plot as was stated on the yearly invoice.

96/22 RIGHTS OF WAYS

Mrs Martin-Jenkins reported there had been no summer clearance works as far as she could see. Dr Tate questioned the slippery state of the replacement bridge on FP1068. He suggested that chicken wire be put on the decking boards to prevent accidents. Clerk to contact the local ranger on both these issues.

97/22 L.R.A

Dr Tate had no update as he was unable to attend the L.R.A meeting last night.

98/22 UPDATE ON SOUTHERN WATER WORKS IN GREENGATES

Mrs Semmens met with a representative from Thames Water to explain the problem and situation following on from the letter sent out to residents by the company. There are only supposed to be 2 scheduled tankers per day at 8am and 8pm whilst the effluent continues to be of poor quality. It seems the drivers who are contractors have been coming when they like rather than at the designated times plus, they are reversing without beepers and driving at speed. Thames Water has constantly asked the drivers to adhere to the timings and drive appropriately. Mrs Semmens reported things have greatly improved but she will report back to Southern Water if this is not happening and report any road damage.

Southern Water state a new pump was fitted last year but the sewage that has been through the whole filtration process at the site is not of a safe enough standard be allowed to be released into the stream that the final tank feeds into. Long term, it is hoped an upright tank will be installed at the site that will receive the final filtered effluent. This in turn, may improve the quality so it will be sufficient enough to be allowed to be released back into the stream at the site.

The current large amount of rainfall is diluting the problem but it is a watch and wait situation. Mrs Martin Jenkins congratulated Mrs Semmens on a great job getting the answers and action.

99/22 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk is attending a Police focus group on Friday 18th November. The WSALC AGM is on Friday 25th November in Billingshurst if there are any Councillors who would like to attend.

100/22 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Mrs Martin-Jenkins sadly reported that St Laurence's Church had been burgled and various items stolen.

Mr Cooper has kindly put up the Remembrance silhouette.

With warm hubs being set up in neighbouring towns and parishes, the Parish Council is mindful that residents should have a safe warm place to get a cup of tea as the cost-of-living crisis sets in. Mrs Martin-Jenkins to talk to Amy at The Noah's Ark.

101/22 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items by Thursday 5th January 2022

102/22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Thursday 12th January 2023. Mrs Burkhart sent her apologies for this meeting.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm