

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM

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

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

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and wished everyone a Happy New Year. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Public Question time
There were no questions.

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

1/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs B Burkhart and Mrs V Semmens.

2/23 CODE OF CONDUCT

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

3/23 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

There was no co-option.

4/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 10th November 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5/23 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda this evening.

6/23 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Janet Duncton wished everyone a happy and healthy new year. Although there is quite a lot going on and of course budgets at this time of the year she gave a brief note on some of the things that have been happening and are continuing to happen.

- First of all, you will have heard of the landslide on the A29 Pulborough at Church Hill. This could take some time to resolve as most of the land is in private ownership and this always makes things a little more difficult. However, everyone is working on it and depending on which way you are going there are diversion signs in place. Probably best to check before you travel.
- A reminder that those looking for Primary School places for next year have until the 15th January.
- There is a case of Bird Flu at Horley and you will know there was one at Arundel. Sadly, all chickens and birds still have to be kept inside.

- Some will have noticed that the decisions on our roads and especially our rural roads have now been published. In the right circumstances it should make it easier for us rural areas to get TROs etc. This could be especially useful on our small country roads that are used for walking, cycling and riding where you can apply for lower speeds. In the normal way you need your County Councillor support but my policy is to support my parishes and then we have to wait to see if it meets criteria etc. from Officers. It should also be a lot easier to get 20mph outside of our schools if that is something parishes would like. The Clerk to send New Speed Limit policy document to all Councillors.
- Ten whole time Fireman have completed their 13 weeks intensive training and will now be taking up their positions. You will also notice if you have travelled in a Horsham direction that the new Fire Station at Broadbridge Heath is taking shape and as I've said before this will provide training for Fire & Rescue training for any Force that would like to hire it.
- Not exactly in our division but you may be interested to know that we are building a new School at Burgess Hill for about 900 pupils. The cost is some £57million but when complete is will be zero Carbon rated. This is hopefully the way forward.
- 25,500 potholes have been filled by WSCC Highways from April-December 2022. In the first 11 days in January 2023, 2,500 reports have been received compared to 1,400 for the whole of January 2022.

With regards the awful state of Jobsons Lane, Mrs Martin-Jenkins stated it is the first time that the Parish Council feels it has had no co-operation or help from WSCC Highways. They don't appear to realise the severity of the situation and how thoroughly dangerous the road is. Mr Jowett said Jobsons Lane is the main road into two villages and cars are being damaged daily.

Mrs Dunton said she supported the Parish Council and the prioritising of the repairs under job reference 6501543. Pre-surface dressing patching should progress in 2023/24. Councillors did not feel this was good enough. There are huge swathes of the road which are very treacherous and the village is fed up and needs to see action. If the road is not going to be repaired immediately then warning signage should be erected as the road is not fit for purpose. There is so much water on the roads that potholes are hidden where the road is so uneven and in parts, collapsing.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Dunton for coming to the meeting.

Any queries of a County nature, please do not hesitate to contact Janet Dunton on janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk or mobile 07979152898.

Mrs Dunton left the meeting at 7.50pm

District Councillor Peter Wilding reported on the following:

Local Plan

The draft Local Plan should go to Council on 24th January. If Council approve the plan for consultation, then the intention will be to hold the consultation immediately between 3rd February and 17th March and following that, to submit the plan for formal examination. If approved by the Inspector, the District will have an approved Local Plan which will provide a much more robust defence against speculative development.

District Council Elections

These will take place on Thursday 4th May and the Council will be busy preparing for these. There are also Parish Council Elections on the same day.

All Parishes Meeting

All Parishes Meeting has been arranged for 6th February; the main item on the agenda will be progress on the Local Plan and how Parishes get involved in the Consultation.

Levelling Up funding

CDC have submitted a £13.7 million Levelling Up bid to government to help revitalise Chichester. The Council is still waiting to hear the outcome of the bid.

Mr Wilding added that the community broadband fibre project on Jobsons Lane has started.

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

Mr Wilding left the meeting at 8pm

7/23 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 5th January 2023.
- b) Budget monitoring sheet as at 5th January 2023.

The Council's current financial position at £33,590, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted.

The members duly approved the payment for Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's Nov & Dec Salary plus expenses) @ £835.

8/23 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022/23

Mr Jowett presented the draft budget for the coming year 2023/24 as part of the report of a Finance & General Purposes meeting which was held on Tuesday 13th December 2022. All PC members had previously been sent this report as Appendix 3.

Mr Jowett stated that the proposed 2023/24 figures included the continued maintenance of the village green, playground and the three visits of the mobile skip for residents. The proposed figures see no increase in the precept due to the cost-of-living crisis. The committee did however feel that local organisations would need and deserve more help financially given the current economic climate and potential lack of external funding. Therefore, there was an increase in the amount budgeted for annual donations and a reassessment of grants. More money had been put aside for the playground as new fencing and equipment would be required over the next year or so. To enable this and to keep within the financial guidelines for s137 donations, the Village Shop donation would be reduced to £2,000 for 2023/24.

Mr Loughan suggested that Lurgashall support the local foodbank by devising a plan to collect suitable donations of food items in a similar way to acquiring bottles for the Bottle Tombola stall at the Fete and/or a donation box at the Village Shop.

The budget figures for 2023/24 were approved unanimously. It was agreed the precept remains at £25,000. The Clerk to inform CDC of the decision.

9/23 RISK ASSESSMENT

Mr Jowett presented the Risk Assessment report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee dated 13th December 2022 which members had previously been sent as Appendix 4. Members approved the report.

10/23 PLANNING

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 5. Mrs Martin-Jenkins said there would be a planning meeting after the main meeting to discuss the following planning applications:

SDNP/22/05648/HOUS

Location: 1The Quell Cottages, Quell Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BW

Proposal: Erection of 1 no. domestic potting shed in rear garden

SDNP/22/05844/HOUS and SDNP/22/05845/LIS (since withdrawn)

Location: Barfold Farm, Tennysons Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BN

Proposal: New gated access and associated works

PLANNING APPLICATION DISCUSSED SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/22/05165/LDE

Location: Millicent, Hillgrove Lane, Lurgashall GU278 9EP

Proposal: Existing lawful development to establish that the dwelling and detached garage have not been built in accordance with the approved plans (of appeal ref: app/13815/a/07/2056846) for a period in excess of 10 years

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/22/05377/DCOND

Blackdown Park, Fernden Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3DR

Discharge of conditions 4 and 8 from planning permission SDNP/22/05377/HOUS

Decision: Approved

SDNP/22/02442/FUL

Castle Copse, Fernden Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BS

Construction of new secondary access

Application withdrawn

SDNP/22/05201/DCOND

The Quell, Quell Lane Lurgashall Haslemere West Sussex GU27 3BW

Discharge of condition 4 from planning permission SDNP/22/02601/CND

Decision: Approved

SDNP/22/03058/FUL

Location: Tappers Barn Jobsons Lane Windfall Wood Common Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9HA

Proposal: Change of use of disused winery to holiday lets with replacement single storey side extension and demolition of outbuildings

Application withdrawn

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.

Decision: Raise no objection

SDNP/22/00797/HOUS

Woodkeepers Cottage, Jobsons Lane, Windfall Wood Common, Lurgashall GU27 3BX

Conversion of roof void over garage to provide ancillary accommodation for use with the occupation of the main dwelling.

Decision: Approved

The Clerk to report the two recently built shepherd huts at Sybs Farm to CDC enforcement.

11/23 HIGHWAYS (JOBSONS LANE AND FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH LODSWORTH PC)

Mrs Martin-Jenkins and Mrs Burhart had met with Tom Richardson and Caroline Neville from Lodsworth Parish Council to discuss the road from the A272 to Gospel Green. The Clerk to ask Tom Richardson for advice on a way forward with getting Jobsons Lane repaired as a priority as he is also a County Councillor and the road safety advisor to the cabinet member. It is imperative that residents keep reporting the potholes and any issues with the highway. There is a new way of reporting potholes and problems with roads and pavements: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/> The Clerk to put an article into the newsletter and on the Lurgashall Link Facebook page encouraging people to do so. The Chairman to write and complain about the lack of progress in the repairing of Jobsons Lane to Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP.

WINTER MANAGEMENT

Mr Cooper reported the Winter plan had been completed and grit bins were still full.

12/23 VILLAGE GREEN (FLAGPOLE, LITTER BIN AND NOTICEBOARD)

The Clerk reported the new litter bin has arrived and is being stored with Mr Loughan. Dr Tate said Warren Green is no longer based in the parish so is unable to install the bin. Mrs Landstrom will ask Jonathan Wright if he could do it instead. The flagpole from the Old Winery is in concrete so the owner is looking to see whether this can be moved easily and will let the Parish Council know in due course. The notice board will be refurbished in the spring.

13/23 PLAYGROUND

Mrs Semmens had kindly sent through a written report saying that she would mend the latch on the gate this weekend as a screw had come loose. She has emailed Playsafe Playgrounds, but as yet no reply but she will chase. She outlined all the issues the inspection highlighted and asked for prices. She has found some more playground companies so will also contact them for quotes as it is always good to get more and compare.

She noted that highlighted on the RoSPA report was an issue with the ground and a problem that the apparatus is coming away from the sides therefore a potential trip hazard. She had noticed it is raised (swollen) due to the recent bad weather so is more prominent and it is a trip hazard. That said, the ground is so uneven (maybe due to moles), that is probably more of a hazard than the raised surface as that is easier to spot!

14/23 ALLOTMENTS

Mrs Landstrom said there was nothing much to report. The majority of the tenants had paid their share of the additional water charge for last summer. She needs to check the taps.

15/23 RIGHTS OF WAYS

Mrs Martin-Jenkins said the footpaths were a mess due to the weather. There was very little evidence of any clearance works being carried out.

16/23 L.R.A

Dr Tate said there was nothing to report.

17/23 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on several forthcoming meetings and emails:

- CDALC steering group email from Andrew Shaxson.
- Police All Parishes monthly zoom meetings (last Monday in the month) – Monday 30th Jan is the next one 4-6.30pm)
- All Parishes Meeting – Monday 6th Feb at 5.30pm via Zoom (main item is the Local Plan - proposed plan strategy and policies for managing housing and other development over next 15 years)

- SDNP workshop – Weds 15th March 6pm at South Downs Offices in Midhurst
- Update from Vanessa Semmens on the tankers and Southern Water at Greengates. The number of tankers is reduced, only coming on Tuesdays, the day when they empty all the tanks. So, fingers crossed it stays that way for a considerable time yet.

Please let the Clerk know if you would like to attend any of the above meetings so she may book places. She and the Chairman will be attending the WSALC Chair and Clerk forums – Monday 16th January at 10.30am (Clerk) and Weds 25th January at 7pm (Chair).

18/23 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no urgent matters.

19/23 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Lurgashall Fete and village as a whole supporting the local Foodbank

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items by Thursday 2nd March 2023.

20/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Thursday 9th March 2023 at 7.30pm

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm