

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT LURGASHALL VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 20TH JULY 2023 AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present: Mrs B Burkhart (also in attendance as District Councillor), Mr A Loughan, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman), Mr N Jowett, Mr A Stainton and Dr A Tate

In Attendance: Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk)

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed all to the meeting. There was one member of the public in attendance who joined the meeting at 8pm.

Public Question time

There were no questions.

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

65/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Jane Landstrom and District Councillor Eleanora Newbery.

66/23 CODE OF CONDUCT

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

67/23 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

There was no co-option. There are two vacancies.

68/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

69/23 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

70/23 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Janet Duncton had sent through a written report as follows:

As ever, there is lots happening. It seems that when a break is looming, like August, everything gets crammed in before. However, that's not always a bad thing and if anything arises during August that you need to know, I will keep you informed.

We are still working hard at **County Highways** to get up to date with roads and their problems in West Sussex. Now that Midhurst is open, we have to put a lot of labour into doing the roads up around Midhurst that of course get badly damaged when the main highway was closed to traffic and of course Pulborough needed extra attention on its side roads as well.

We had an online meeting today regarding Locality issues and population trends since the **2021 Census**. This is for Chichester District. They always appear to come through slowly but there is a tremendous amount of data to get through. One or two interesting items I picked up from the meeting I will try and give you a flavour: these figures are for the Chichester District only and match quite well with Horsham and Mid-Sussex but vary enormously in other Districts and Boroughs. There was a lot of information regarding Afghan and Ukraine

refugees. Originally, we had some 2250 Ukrainians with sponsors, that number is now about halved for many various reasons. Some of the hosts only committed to the 6-month period, some refugees decided to go back to Ukraine or indeed other Countries, some in Europe and some further away and many returned to Ukraine for various reasons often connected to family members. I think the figure given was 25% gone back, 9% move to other Countries and some 3% what are called tourist visitors who in the 3 years they are allowed to stay and choose to go back and forth. We are still looking for host families if you know of any who would consider taking anyone in. I do not have a lot of information about Afghan refugees but there has been some real success I know. Many who were well educated let's say as Doctors and Nurses in their Country have been taken through University in this Country so they are able to practice here. Another interesting statistic which won't come as a surprise is the average house price in the Chichester District. The highest is Wisborough Green with an average price of over £700,000. Quite staggering when you look back at the sort of prices that property used to be.

The other item of interest to us all is **Highways** and the dreaded potholes! We now have three of the great patching machines going around the County which do a marvellous job. I for one am glad that we are getting rid of the, if I may use the terminology, bucket and spade approach which we all know does a quick job but doesn't last so back they have to come again. To keep working on potholes and as three patchers can't be used everywhere, the contractors will be using the cutting out and filling method which have been used successfully for some years as well. Obviously, it is not as good as the patcher but it cuts out where the holes are and they are filled properly once cut out. All I can say more is that I report all I am made aware of and see for myself and would encourage anyone who wants to, to use the online facility on the web to report a highways issue. www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-pothole-online/

I have recently visited the Platinum House Fire and Rescue facility at Broadbridge Heath which is fully open for use this mid-July. Already we have Fire and Rescue services across the Country looking and, in some cases, booking training at this facility. It truly is state of the art.

If there is anything anyone needs Councillor Duncton to look into, please contact her directly. janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk or mobile 07979 152898

District Councillor Brett Burkhart reported as follows:

First, may I express my thanks to those who gave me their support at the recent Local Elections. Ellie and I plan to work together on everyone's behalf and do our best for our community.

Midhurst

It's a relief that North Street in Midhurst has now reopened; the contractors, who were charged with shoring up the facade of the burned-out hotel, finished 10 days ahead of schedule. Chichester District Council has worked hard to try to support businesses in Midhurst, with £300,000 set aside for grants and other forms of support. The Council has also sponsored a marketing package to promote the town with everyone encouraged to visit and shop there when possible. The Artisan Makers and Vintage Fair will take place on Saturday 22nd July from 10am-4pm which is an opportunity to pick up homewares, antiques and artisan products. MADhurst arts festival takes place during the whole month of August. www.madhurst.co.uk The Midhurst Summer Street Party will be on Saturday 26 August from 11am - 3pm with music, stalls and fairground rides.

Planning.

The Local Plan Review (LPR) Consultation has finished, and it seems that the new administration will not try to pause or pull the plan in its present format.

Policing.

A meeting was held between the Police Rural Crime Team, the Farmers and Game keepers. The Commissioner

Katy Bourne attended as did the new Inspector Ian Barker who is taking over from Insp Oli Fisher. Officers from CDC also attended Pam Bushby and David Hyland, Pam for communities and as part of the Community Safety partnership and Dave as lead on Fly Tipping. It was a useful meeting where the farmers expressed their Concerns over poaching, theft of machinery and dumping of rubbish, areas being targeted and lack of visible Policing. Hopefully the Commissioner took that away and will target visible policing when she reviews her Strategy. It was agreed further meetings should be arranged. The force is now up to strength in PC's but there is still more to do to recruit more PCSO's, so hopefully we will see more of a presence going forwards. If you see anything or have a crime committed against you or your property or you experience any Anti-Social Behaviour, please do report it. Unless you do, the Police will target their resources elsewhere. This should improve police presence and response times.

Petworth Festival

The Petworth Festival will be holding events from 11- 29th July including music, theatre and talks.

www.petworth.org.uk/whats-on

Loxwood Joust

This medieval and jousting festival takes place on 12 -13th August from 10am - 6pm.

<https://loxwoodjousting.co.uk/>

Environment

The council is currently promoting a range of home energy efficiency grants and so please do let residents know about this. People can apply for help to fund air source heat pumps, insulation or solar panels. They can check eligibility and find out more by visiting: www.warmerhomes.org.uk or calling 0800 038 5737. We have held two resident events highlighting the options available and we hope to hold another of these events in the year ahead. Tips on how people can reduce their carbon footprint, along with online calculators that offer personalised advice can also be found here: www.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange.

Fly tipping

More days of action are planned, whereby the council joins up with Sussex Police to stop and check commercial vehicles carrying waste. These days are disrupting fly-tipping and are proving successful in enforcing adherence to correct waste disposal. You can find out more at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/working-together-to-scrap-fly-tipping/>. Residents and businesses can report fly tipping at: www.chichester.gov.uk/reportflytipping

Tree planting

More funds are available; see the District Council Web site for details.

Supporting You Team

They will do everything possible to help, and anyone struggling should make contact with the team using the email supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign>.

Technology doesn't Byte (ongoing)

visit <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/choosework> or contact them directly at choosework@chichester.gov.uk.

Any queries of a District nature, please do not hesitate to contact Brett Burkhart on bburkhart@chichester.gov.uk or Ellie Newbery on enewbery@chichester.gov.uk or

71/23 FINANCE

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 4a and b which included:

- a) A statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts as at 13th July 2023 incorporating details of payments which needed to be made, and for which approval was sought.
- b) Budget Monitoring sheet as at 13th July 2023

The Council's current financial position at £36,973, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted. CDC had approved the Parish Council's Coronation grant for the flagpole @ £432.

The members duly approved the payments for Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk's May & June 2023 Salary & Expenses) @ £813 and Parish Online (Annual Subscription – digital mapping) @ £72.

71/23 PLANNING

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3. Mrs Martin-Jenkins stated the following planning applications had been discussed since the last Parish Council meeting.

SDNP/23/01554/HOUS

1 The Quell Cottages, Quell Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BW
Erection of oak garden pergola on existing stone patio base

SDNP/23/02412/CND

Sods Farm, High Hampstead Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9EX
Erection of Agricultural Workers Cottage (removal of condition F of permission LG/3/48 – removal of agricultural occupancy condition

SDNP/23/01616/FUL

Park Farm, Dial Green Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9EU
Stationing of 1 no. mobile home within existing agricultural building

SDNP/23/02393/FUL

Old Herne Farm, Petworth Road, Lurgashall, Haslemere GU27 3BG
Reinstate horse walker on existing foundation

SDNP/23/02658/LIS

The Cottage, Jobsons Lane, Windfall Common, Lurgashall GU28 3BX

SDNP/23/02281/FUL

Weyspring Farm, Bell Vale Lane, Fernhurst GU27 3DJ
Extension building to existing residential care facility, providing accommodation for 30 residents and 15 key workers, along with associated facilities

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/23/01587/TCA

Lurgashall Village Green, Lurgashall GU28 9ET
Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Horse Chestnut tree
Decision: Approved

SDNP/22/04126/HOUS

Meadow Cottage, Cotchet Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BS
Erection of 1 no. garage and associated works following demolition of 3 outbuildings
Decision: Refused

SDNP/22/03461/FUL

Meadow Cottage, Cotchet Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BS
Erection of a dwelling together with associated works following demolition of existing building
Decision: Refused

SDNP/23/01238/FUL

Barfold Farm, Tennysons Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BN
New gated access and associated works
Application withdrawn

SDNP/23/00847/LDE

Sods Farm, High Hamstead Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9EX
Existing lawful development – occupation of dwelling without compliance with an agricultural occupancy condition.
Decision: Approved

SDNP/23/00946/DCOND

Dial Green House, Dial Green Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9HA
Discharge of conditions 18 & 19 of planning permission SDNP/22/02798/CND
Decision: Approved

SDNP/22/05165/LDE

Millicent, Hillgrove Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9EP
Existing lawful development to establish that the dwelling and detached garage have not been built in accordance with the approved plans for a period in excess of 10 years
Decision: Approved

SDNP/23/00266/FUL

Maverick Farm, Blind Lane, Lurgashall GU28 9ET
Erection of 1 no. wooden barn
Decision: Refused

SDNP/23/01376/HOUS

Smugglers Cottage, Jobsons Lane, Windfall Wood Common, Lurgashall GU28 9HA
Remodel existing void/under croft garden store to a garden store, sensory room and exercise equipment room (following refusal SDNP/01576/HOUS)
Decision: Approved

SDNP/23/01554/HOUS

1 The Quell Cottages, Quell Lane, Lurgashall GU27 3BW
Erection of oak garden pergola on existing stone patio base
Decision: Approved

73/23 HIGHWAYS INCLUDING WINTER MANAGEMENT

Dr Tate kindly agreed to take on responsibility for the Winter Management Plan. He will carry out an audit of the grit bins and submit to WSCC and liaise with the local contractor.

A resident of Gospel Green joined the meeting at 8pm.

The Clerk had previously distributed the two proposals put forward by the residents of Gospel Green regarding a change of road name (from Petworth Road to Gospel Green Lane) and a reduction in the speed limit on the same road (the lane between Gospel Green and the T-junction to Haslemere). The name Petworth Road is misleading; it is suggestive of a main thoroughfare, directing traffic towards Petworth. There is too much traffic using this road at high speed, and it is dangerous. There are four stables on the narrow lane and a blind corner,

so it is necessary to try and calm and slow the traffic down. The residents would like support from the Parish Council to apply for a Developer's TPO under the new Speed Limit policy. Members agreed to support the proposals and would discuss further once costs had been ascertained. Mrs Burkhart would liaise with the Clerk.

The resident of Gospel Green left the meeting at 8.20pm.

74/23 VILLAGE GREEN INCLUDING REPLACEMENT TREE & NEW NOTICEBOARD

Following the felling of the Horse Chestnut tree on the Village Green, Mrs Martin-Jenkins had discussed its replacement with the Head Forrester at the Leconfield Estates. He is not hugely enthusiastic about a Lime tree as they leave a sticky mess under them however an Oak tree would be a possibility. It was agreed that both the Parish Council and residents would be prepared to contribute towards a replacement in order to get a significant sized tree.

Mrs Martin-Jenkins thanked Mr Stainton for the brilliant job in moving the metal seat from around the old Horse Chestnut to the smaller Horse Chestnut on the small triangle. It was most generous of him to cover the cost.

Mrs Burkhart had spoken with the carpenter who agreed that his proposed design for the new noticeboard could fit 6 sides of A4 in each locked side with an open space in the middle for general notices. It is hoped to be in place in September. Mrs Burkhart will approach Savills to ascertain their financial support.

Following on from a parishioner's comment at the Annual Parish Meeting about the state of the Village Green surrounds, Mr Loughan concurred the area look messy, what with the squashed cones, posts and ditches plus an untidy parking area. All agreed that in parts, it does look a shambles. However, parking on the green needs to be prevented and as post and rail fencing cannot be put up due to the cricket pitch, some thought needs to be given to a solution. As a start, the squashed cones will be removed and the white posts, removed, painted and re-erected properly.

75/23 PLAYGROUND

Mr Loughan attended the annual inspection alongside the inspector last Friday. Looking at the past report, he thought that a £5,000 spend on the playground was not required but some paid labour and replacement items purchased online was much more practical. This includes improvement works to the swings, wire ropes, fencing, gates and a new picnic bench. Mr Jowett said there was money in the Playground reserve to cover this cost @ £2,500. All thanked Mr Loughan for his initiative and agreed that the repair works should proceed. Mr Loughan and Mr Stainton to liaise and action. Mrs Martin-Jenkins agreed to talk to the contractor regarding the grass cutting.

76/23 ALLOTMENTS

The high-water bill had been paid after the Allotment Manager's investigation had found there was no leak.

77/23 RIGHTS OF WAYS

The Clerk had been contacted by the West Sussex Area Footpath Officer, Ramblers in an endeavour to appoint a local footpath warden (LFW) for each parish in the county to help monitor the state of the PROW. Mr Loughan stated he knows all the footpaths in the south of the parish and already speaks with WSCC rangers when they visit to discuss any issues. Mrs Martin-Jenkins said she walks the ones in the north regularly. If anyone does come across any problems with PROWs then please report via the webform on www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way/ or by email prow@westsussex.gov.uk or phone 01243 777620

78/23 L.R.A

Dr Tate said there was nothing to report.

79/23 DEFIBRILLATOR

Dr Tate has purchased a new battery for the defibrillator.

80/23 MOBILE SKIP

The mobile skip in June proved as popular as ever. The next skip is booked for Saturday 16th September at the Village Hall car park between 10am and midday. Mr Jowett agreed to come and check in with the provider on the day.

81/23 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk has received a copy of the Lurgashall Village Hall annual report and accounts for y/e 31 March 2023.

82/23 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

The Clerk to formally write to the Village Hall Management Committee asking that the Village Hall surrounds be tidied up.

83/23 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items by Thursday 7th September

84/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Thursday 14th September 2023

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