

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT LURGASHALL VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM

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

In Attendance: Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk)
District Councillor Eleanora Newbery
County Councillor Janet Duncton

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed all to the meeting.
There were three members of the public in attendance.

Public Question time

Two members of the public raised their concerns about the vehicle passing problems in Blind Line, leading from Crossways to the village. These problems have existed since they moved here in 1976 but with the increasing number of delivery vans and larger cars (SUVs etc.) the situation has worsened considerably. These days one is lucky not to meet a vehicle when driving down to Lurgashall. They would like to make the case for widening the existing passing places (not of course those that are property entrances) and adding at least 2 more passing places, because without such improvements hickles will continue to rise which one day might lead to cars being damaged.

The Parish Council agreed action on this under 93/23 Highways in the main part of the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

85/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Neil Jowett and Andrew Loughan.

86/23 CODE OF CONDUCT

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

87/23 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Mr Peter Wilding was co-opted as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman welcomed him back. The Clerk to send him the necessary documentation.

88/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 20th July 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

89/23 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

90/23 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

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

August as ever is pretty slow for us members but of course work continues on roads, Childrens Services etc.
One or two county issues as follows:

- We have started working on a programme called Life Transition Pilot with East Sussex CC, currently running in East Grinstead and the Wick/Littlehampton areas. Basically, it is to help those that would like advice on how to go forward into their older years in the way that they would like. If it goes well, I will let you know in the future.

- Councillors have several briefing sessions coming up. In September it's Active Travel and October a workshop on School place planning. After that we have our second workshop on the Council Plan and Budget for 24/25. It occurred to me that perhaps you don't know our main 4 priorities so here they are.

1. Keeping people safe from vulnerable situations
2. Sustainable and prosperous communities
3. Helping people to fulfil their full potential
4. Make the best use of our resources

- As you know exams results are in and taking in all A* to E grades West Sussex came out with 97.2% which is above the national average. This includes all types of schools. More information can be found on the Ofqual's website.

- A brief mention again of Platinum House the new Fire & Rescue site at Broadbridge Heath. This really is state of the art and we are getting enquiries from many places for training including a lot from overseas. A feather in the County's Cap I really do believe.

- A brief word on the South Downs National Park. Like Councils we rarely meet in August but one or two things do continue, planning rarely stops and as a member of the Planning Committee I recently had the experience of attending the first day of the Boomtown Music Festival just outside of Winchester. There were 66,000 ticket holders there, mostly for 3 days and 6000 Staff including 300 who collect rubbish all day. The best I can say is it was an experience. We have with money from the South Downs National Park Trust (of which I am also a member) managed to re-instate 10 Dewponds across the National Park with more to be done. Many stiles have been replaced with gates to make easier access for those who use say wheelchairs or mobility scooters to use the Park for recreation and getting out into the Countryside.

Janet added that last year, County recycled some 200,000 tonnes of waste. Applications for current Year 7's are now open for senior school places. Trading Standards has recently prosecuted a Kebab establishment in Crawley with a fine given of £10,008. All the County maintained schools have been checked and do not have any of the RAAC material. Please contact her on janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk or mobile 07979152898 if you would like further information.

County Councillor Janet Dunton left the meeting at 7.50pm

District Councillor Ellie Newbery reported on the following:

The next full District council meeting is on 26th September.

Midhurst Recovery

CDC has continued to support businesses in Midhurst and has been working with the local business groups on their recovery plans. The independent retail training specialist from Retail Spark has now provided direct training support to over 20 town centre businesses.

The £200,000 grant fund to assist Midhurst Town Centre businesses is still open to applications from eligible businesses. Businesses located in Midhurst Town Centre are eligible to apply for up to £1,800 of funding. In order to apply, businesses are being asked to email business.support@chichester.gov.uk and they will be sent a form to complete as part of the process.

CDC really want people to get behind Midhurst by shopping and spending in the town, which boasts an array of local and independent businesses, so please do continue to show your support if you can.

Midhurst September events programme

CDC are continuing to support Midhurst following the fire earlier this year and have funded a series of special events, taking place in the town this September including on 9 September in Market Square an outdoor cinema showing the films Elvis and Sing 2 plus entertainment, kids' karaoke, and a professional Elvis tribute act.

On 16 September, the town will be filled with live music from around the world with acts performing at restaurants and pubs from 7pm and throughout the evening. Earlier the same day, the town will host a Fold Our Town origami event at the Old Library from 11am to 3.30pm — people of all ages will be able to make a large paper model inspired by Midhurst as part of the Culture Spark programme.

On 23 September, there will be a Get Active Day at The Grange Leisure Centre from 11am to 4pm, where Everyone Active will be organising activities such as BMX bike displays, table tennis, slacklining and rollerblading. The last event will be a family fun run the following Saturday (30 September), with a 5k run for anyone over 12 years old or a 2k run for anyone over 4 years old. Both runs will head off from the Wharf at 10am. People can book their free tickets for any of these events at: www.madhurst.co.uk/whats-on. For details on all of the events, visit: visitmidhurst.com/whats-on. If you can, please do come along and support Midhurst.

The Novium Museum

'May The Toys Be With You' exhibition opens at The Novium Museum on Saturday, 7 October 2023 and will run until Saturday, 20 April 2024. Tickets cost £4 for adults, £2.50 for children and £12 for a family of up to five (maximum two adults).

May The Toys Be With You is a celebration of the highly collectable vintage toy line and of the iconic design work and art of the original Star Wars movie.

Visitors can also look forward to some interactive gallery features; dress up as a Star Wars character, pose for a selfie with a Storm Trooper, trails, and an opportunity to explore other toys from the 1970's with a look through a vintage toy box.

Growth & Sustainability Business Support

CDC are holding a 'Lunch and Learn Sustainability Event' event at the Enterprise Centre on 12 September for businesses who want to learn about becoming more sustainable. This is mainly aimed at office-based businesses. We will have two speakers offering their insights and providing practical advice on how a business can make a difference and become future-ready. Businesses are being asked to sign up via Eventbrite here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sustainability-lunch-learn-business-event-tickets-680708025027

Supporting You team update

The Supporting You team continue to make a real difference to residents and the success of this team is very evident. The team can take referrals from members, using the email supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk or by directing residents to refer themselves online at via the team pages at www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign

Energy Advice Service

Citizens Advice have been given funding for the next three years to provide energy advice to try to tackle fuel poverty- please do encourage residents to make use of this service.

Meeting your District Councillors

Brett will be available in Lurgashall village shop from 3-5:15 and afterwards until 6pm at the Noah's Ark on Fridays 15th and 22nd of September and also at Milland Stores & Café from 4-5pm and at the Rising Sun from 5-6pm on Wednesday 13th September, or please contact on email bburkhart@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07876594168

Ellie will be available in Fernhurst Hub Tuesday 12th September 10am-12 noon and Camelsdale Tea Room Thursday 28th September 10am-12 noon or please contact on email enewbery@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 01428 656 941

91/23 FINANCE

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

- a) A statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts as at 7th September 2023 incorporating details of payments which needed to be made, and for which approval was sought.
- b) Budget Monitoring sheet as at 7th September 2023

The Council's current financial position at £29,309, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted.

The members duly approved the payments for Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk's July & August 2023 Salary & Expenses) @ £786 and the budgeted annual donations/grants as follows:

Lurgashall PCC £750
Lurgashall Village Hall £1,000
Lurgashall Cricket Club £600
Northchapel Primary School £1,500
Lurgashall Recreation Association £500
Lurgashall Village Shop £2,000

Moore, the External Auditors were happy with the y/e 2022/23 accounts and the Annual return. The Conclusion of audit statement has gone onto the website.

It was agreed to invite the Village Shop Committee to the next full meeting to present its future plan ahead of the Finance meeting in December where the precept and budget is set for 2024/25.

The Parish Council thanked the Village Hall Management Committee for all their hard work running the hall and for sending through a copy of the year-end accounts which were beautifully produced. The Clerk to write and politely suggest that in the future (if not already done) that the accounts should be independently examined in order to protect the treasurer.

92/23 PLANNING

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3. Mrs Martin-Jenkins said the summer had been quiet with no planning applications discussed since July's Parish Council meeting.

Members of the planning committee agreed the Clerk should reply as per Mrs Martin-Jenkin's email regarding an inquiry about the Parish Council's response to the Weyspring planning application (SDNP/23/02281/FUL).

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/23/01616/FUL

Park Farm Dial Green Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9EU
Stationing of 1 no. mobile home within existing agricultural building
Decision: Refused

SDNP/23/01554/HOUS

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

SDNP/23/01376/HOUS

Smugglers Cottage Jobsons Lane Windfall Wood Common Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9HA
Remodel existing void/undercroft garden store to a store, sensory room and exercise equipment room
(following refusal SDNP/22/01576/HOUS).

Decision: Approved

SDNP/23/00266/FUL

Maverick Farm Blind Lane Lurgashall GU28 9ET

Erection of 1 no. wooden barn.

Decision: Refused

CDC Planning Enforcement are investigating Aldworth Farm. The Clerk to report a potential Common Land issue on Jobsons Lane.

93/23 HIGHWAYS

The Clerk to chase and get an update on the sinkhole repairs on Quell Lane outside Quell Wood House.

With regard the issue raised on Blind Lane in Public Question time, the Clerk to write to The Leconfield Estates enquiring whether the passing places may be extended and the hedges be cut further back to improve and widen the existing spaces as a start.

The Clerk had sent a letter of support to CDC for the proposal of the change in road name from Petworth Road to Gospel Green Lane. The residents now need to submit an application form, location plan and the relevant cost to CDC for them to progress this. Mrs Burkhart will liaise with the Clerk with regard the application for the proposed reduction in the speed limit via a Developer's TPO under the new Speed Limit policy.

The Clerk stated that there are many road closures coming up in the parish (Jobsons Lane, Blind Lane, Roundhurst Lane and Highstead Lane). A good website to use to keep up to date with these is www.one.network/uk/westsussex

94/23 WINTER MANAGEMENT

Dr Tate will carry out the grit bin audit and submit to WSCC and liaise with the local contractor.

95/23 VILLAGE GREEN INCLUDING REPLACEMENT TREE & NEW NOTICEBOARD

Mrs Martin-Jenkins had replied to The Leconfield Estates confirming the replacement tree should be some sort of specimen oak to commemorate the Coronation and that the Parish Council and residents would contribute if a reasonable sized tree was obtained. The Clerk to ask if they need help removing the old chestnut tree stump and if so, the Parish Council would be willing to do so.

Mrs Burkhart said there had been a month's delay with the new Coronation notice board but it will be coming at the beginning of October. With Savills backtracking on their financial support, it was agreed the Parish Council would fund the entire project (£1,650).

96/23 PLAYGROUND

Now the summer is over, Mr Loughan will start looking at the required repairs to the playground.

97/23 ALLOTMENTS

Mrs Landstrom reported that the allotments are currently full with several on the waiting list. There would be a tidy up session in the Autumn and the hedges will be cut. The allotment land behind the shop which is currently

overgrown will be tidied up and be used for two smaller plots to rent out as the land is no longer required for shop storage. The Clerk to source a “Turn off water” sign for the gate.

98/23 RIGHTS OF WAYS

Mrs Martin-Jenkins reported that there had been tremendous growth on the 34 miles of parish Rights of Way. Rangers had been replacing fingerposts.

99/23 L.R.A

Dr Tate reported that the LRA had secured funding from the SDNPA to pay for the wild flower areas in the Jubilee Field.

100/23 LITTER COLLECTION DAY

It was agreed the next community tidy up day would be on Saturday 14th October at 10am at the Village Hall car park. The Clerk to organise kits and rubbish collection with CDC and advertise the date in the Parish Newsletter.

101/23 MOBILE SKIP

The Mobile Skip is booked for Saturday 16th September at the Village Hall car park between 10am and midday. Mr Wilding kindly agreed to come and check in with the provider on the day.

102/23 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on three upcoming online meetings for Councillors:

- SDNP Parish meeting – Weds 4th October at 6.30pm
- All Parishes Meeting – Monday 18th September 5.30pm
- APCAG (Association of PC Aviation Group) AGM Monday 9th October at 6pm

The Village Hall Committee has requested for a representative member of the Parish Council to join its committee. No-one at the meeting was available to take this on at the moment. The Clerk to ask Mr Jowett and Mr Loughan.

The Clerk to invite Ray Cooper to the next PC meeting.

103/23 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION

There were no urgent matters.

104/23 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items by Thursday 2nd November

105/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Thursday 9th November 2023

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm