

LURGASHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Councillors Present: Mr N Jowett, Mr A Loughan, Mrs A Martin-Jenkins (Chairman), Mr A Stainton, Dr A Tate and Mr P Wilding

In Attendance: District Councillor Ellie Newbery
Mrs H E Cruikshank (Clerk)

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

Public Question time
There were no questions.

PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

21/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Mrs J Landstrom and Mrs B Burkhart

22/24 CODE OF CONDUCT

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

23/24 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

There was no co-option.

24/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11th January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

25/24 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk had written to the National Trust about its riparian responsibilities for the ditches on Quell Lane and been told that the Petworth team are looking into it. She would follow up on this.

Mrs Martin Jenkins thanked the volunteers who joined the Parish Councillors to clear litter from the various lanes in the parish. A huge amount of rubbish was collected so it was very worthwhile. Mr Loughan said he would do the rest of Mill Lane. The Clerk to order some more purple sacks. There will be another opportunity for residents to help with a further session later in the year.

26/24 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Janet Duncton sent through a written report:

At last, the WSCC budget is done for 2024/25 and what a task it's been. We've had 3 workshops during the year for us bank benchers to have our input and although some will be disappointed, I am sure we now have a balanced budget with no cuts to our Services. As I have said before this is not only achieved by making cuts, it

is much about doing some things differently and most of the time we have found ways to perform our responsibilities without making cuts but doing things in a different way. This year we had a new Director of Finance who looked at every issue and did just that. It was thought we may need to use some reserves however just days before making budget decisions, the Government came up with another £16 million plus and the upshot was that we did not have to touch the reserves.

Just some headlines

- An additional £31.2 million for vulnerable children and young people
- £18.3 million more for adult's social care
- An extra £4 million to maintain the County's 4000km of roads
- An extra £27.8 million to manage increased costs, as inflation levels remain high and the increase in minimum wages

It will be a 4.99% increase in County Council Tax which equates to £1.57 per week on a Band D property.

There's also been a very busy period at South Downs National Park. I have said before but both South Downs and County are looking to get new Chief Executives. In County's case the current excellent Chief Executive is returning to East Sussex full time and will remain at West Sussex until we have replaced her. In the case of South Downs National Park, the Chief Executive officer left on 1st January and we are in the middle of a long process to get a new one. Judging by the experience of other National Parks, there are large amounts of people applying for these positions so we expect many applicants which will have to be sifted through and a short list obtained. It is probably unlikely to have a new Chief Executive until at least July/August. On top of this both organisations have also had to replace key Directors and in the case of SDNP this has already been achieved but at County Council we have only recently been appraised of our great Finance Director obtaining a new position in a London Borough. She really has been an asset to County and we are sorry to lose her.

Highways have had a very difficult time with the weather conditions, as you can imagine and some of the hot spots I have in my division. That said I am in competition with 69 other Councillors so need to keep working at it.

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

District Councillor Ellie Newbery reported on the following:

Hyde

We are concerned about the potential increase in service charges on Hyde properties – please can you let us know if you hear of anything about this from residents. If there are problems in individual properties if you contact ElectedRepresentatives@hydehousing.co.uk or let me know and I can report this to the housing officers at CDC and also the leader meets with Hyde monthly so any issues can also be raised there. We are hoping to collate difficulties so that they can be taken to Hyde.

Budget

The Budget was passed on 27 February 2024. The net budget requirement of £17,618,700 for 2024-2025 was approved. Council tax will rise by 2.99% which equates to £5.41 on the council tax Band D average, or just over 10 pence per week. This is the maximum allowed but part of central government settlement is based on this figure (so in effect if the Council doesn't increase Council tax by this amount, then there would be a shortfall). There was extra funding from central government this year of £149,195 which was gratefully received but confirmation was received late in February and the Council leader called on the government for earlier confirmation and also for settlements for longer than one year to give certainty and assist the Council in planning. There is a £586,000 surplus mostly due to late notice from central government on the settlement this year and also because of an accounting change on how New Homes Bonus is accounted for. The budget is balanced and allows CDC to continue to run its statutory and non-statutory services (including Supporting You

and Social Prescribing). The budget supports CDC's aims of enhancing environment, supporting our most vulnerable and having a robust and sustainable economy.

Play Equipment

I asked a question at Council about play equipment for rural areas. They encourage parish councils to get in touch with Sarah Peyman Speyman@chichester.gov.uk at CDC to see if any grants are available. CDC Grants and Concessions Panel are particularly sympathetic to requests for new play equipment (rather than replacement equipment). Sports England may also be a source of funding. CDC also suggest the Lottery Fund -particularly for accessible play equipment which is very popular and can attract visitors from further afield.

Stonepillow

We had a talk from the CEO of Stonepillow about the work they and CDC to address homelessness in Chichester. They are doing some really valuable work and any support that we can offer would be most welcome. If anyone sees any rough sleepers, please report them on this link StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services (thestreetlink.org.uk) All referrals via Streetlink are automated sent to the relevant local authority who are then responsible for acting upon the referrals.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain became mandatory on 12 February. Biodiversity Net Gain uses habitat types within a calculation metric to assign a biodiversity 'value' to different areas of land. It is now mandatory for all major developments to create at least 10% extra biodiversity (net gain) above and beyond their initial site baseline. This can be achieved by enhancing existing habitats or creating new ones and can even include the implementation of green roofs and enhancing particularly unique areas such as ancient woodland. These habitats must be maintained for a minimum of 30 years. Implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain also incentivises nature to thrive in the most strategic of places, aiding in the development of wildlife corridors and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. This will mean that biodiversity in England can become measurably better for nature, people, places and the environment for many years to come.

Climate Champions network

The Environmental Strategy team have recently sent out a short survey to parish councils and local environment groups to gauge interest in establishing a new Climate Champions network. The aim of the network is to support parish councils and their residents to share best practice and identify actions that they can do locally to tackle climate change and support our council's Climate Emergency work. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) encourages local (parish and town) councils to take action on climate change, and the Climate Champions network can showcase some of the great work happening in our communities and inspire others to do the same. Please do respond if you can. The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete and the deadline is 28 March 2024.

The next full council meeting is on 19th March 2024.

Meeting your District Councillors

Brett can be contacted on email bburkhart@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07876594168

Ellie will be available in Fernhurst Hub on Wednesday 27 March 1-2.30pm or please contact on email enewbery@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 01428 656 94

27/24 FINANCE

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3a and b which included:

- a) A statement of the position of the Council's bank accounts as at 7th March 2024
- b) Budget monitoring sheet as at 7th March 2024.

The Council's current financial position at £33,618, bank account and budget monitoring sheet were noted.

The members duly approved the payments for Mrs Helen Cruikshank (Clerk's Jan & Feb Salary plus expenses) @ £801 and The Leconfield Estates (three payments for; allotment water @ £24, playground site rent @ £91 and allotment site rent @ £215).

The Clerk had carried out a VAT refund claim for the past year @ £793. The Clerk to explore the suggestion of changing banks and to find a new savings account.

The members discussed the question of donations (Appendix 3c). It was agreed that the following donations be made and payments for these were approved;

Waverley Citizens Advice Bureau £250 (The Clerk to check that the Haslemere branch is still in existence)
Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance £250
Chichester (Petworth) Food Bank £250
West Sussex Mind £100
Tylers Trust £100

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 3d, the Newsletter year-end accounts and update from the editor, Liz Stedall. Members agreed to continue its financial support @ £500 for 2024/25. Thanks were given to Liz for all her hard work and commitment.

The Parish Council agreed the updated costs for the village grass cutting for 2024/25 by Garden Escapes.

28/24 PLANNING

The Clerk had previously distributed Appendix 4.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DISCUSSED SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/23/05113/HOUS

Foxholes Tennysons Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU27 3BJ

Renovation of dwelling and studio outbuilding including internal works, various window changes, new rooflights on north, south-west and north-west elevations. Amendments to Soil Vent Pipe and stove flue positions. Refurbishment of existing flat roof extension including new rooflight. Replacement of timber decking and balustrades

SDNP/23/04912/FUL

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

Construction of agricultural barn including access track

SDNP/23/05177/FUL

Location: Centre of pond, Near Weyspring Park, Bell Vale Lane, Fernhurst GU27 3DJ

Proposal: Single storey building at the rear of main building for staff restroom and laundry extension

SDNP/23/04614/HOUS

Location: Millicent Hillgrove Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9EP

Proposal: Underground basement parking

DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM CDC/SDNPA SINCE THE LAST PC MEETING

SDNP/23/04615/HOUS

Location: Millicent Hillgrove Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU28 9EP

Proposal: Partial conversion of and extension of garage to form guest/staff accommodation

Decision: Refused

SDNP/23/03204/LDE

Barfold Farm Tennysons Lane Lurgashall West Sussex GU27 3BN

Existing lawful development - use of walls, entrance gates and an access track

Decision: Approved

SDNP/23/02657/HOUS and SDNP/23/02658/LIS

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

Alterations to existing ancillary building to create residential annexe including changes to fenestration

Application withdrawn

SDNP/23/04912/FUL

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

Construction of agricultural barn including access track

Decision: Refused

29/24 HIGHWAYS & WINTER MANAGEMENT

More complaints had been received about the tree felling on Jobsons Lane, opposite the old winery. Following concerns raised at the last meeting, the Clerk had been in contact with the owners whose tree surgeons had confirmed that all the trees removed are Ash trees infected with Ash dieback. They are adjacent to a road and a footpath. It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure the trees do not present a danger to the public. The works have been carried out in accordance with the condition of the felling licence, which stipulates natural regeneration rather than planting.

The Clerk to report the potholes which are reappearing on Jobsons Lane and by Dickhurst Farm. Please do continue to report potholes, drainage issues, overgrown vegetation, fly tipping and much more at

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

Dial Green Lane is due to be closed on 22nd– 24th April while Southern Water install a new communal pipe and meter.

30/24 VILLAGE GREEN

It was agreed to order a D-Day 80 Flag to be flown on Thursday 6th June from 9am.

The replacement Oak tree has been planted. The Clerk to write and thank The Leconfield Estates.

The Parish Council agreed that the Village Green could be used for a tea party to celebrate the birthdays of two Lurgashall centenarians on Saturday 5th October.

The white posts are still a mess.

There are a couple of drainage issues; on the track outside the pub and opposite Signpost Cottage. Mr Jowett kindly offered to clear the drains by the pub as this is not Highways land. The Clerk will report the other blocked drain to WSCC.

31/24 PLAYGROUND

Mr Loughan will progress the playground maintenance and repairs once the weather improves.

32/24 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that the invoices for the new season are due to go out at the end of the month. The allotment communal tidy up is being held on Sunday 24th March from 10.30am.

33/24 RIGHTS OF WAYS

The Parish Rights of Way are a mess and mainly under water. Walkers are not sticking to the footpaths.

34/24 L.R.A

Dr Tate reported that the L.R.A quiz had been successful with a reasonable amount of money raised. Joanne Vaughan has stepped down as Chair and has been replaced by Miles Fairston. The talks are still ongoing about the L.R.A taking over the lease of the pavilion and the maintenance of the cricket pitch from the Cricket Club.

35/24 MOBILE SKIP

The date for the next mobile skip at the Village Hall car park is Saturday 27th April at 10am.

36/24 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday 9th May 2024 after the Annual Parish Council meeting. It is hoped all local organisations will attend and give a brief report.

37/24 CORRESPONDENCE

The Village Hall Management Committee has sent through the insurance policy. Still awaiting the Cricket Pavilion one.

The Clerk attended the All-Parishes meeting with interesting presentations from Hyde Housing and Chichester District Council.

The official portrait of King Charles III has been ordered and it is hoped to be put up in the Village Hall (with their permission) as the Parish Council's meeting place.

An email update from the Chairman from the Village Shop had been received which all members had seen.

38/24 TO CONSIDER URGENT MATTERS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Mrs Martin-Jenkins politely requested that Councillors acknowledge emails.

39/24 ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Please let the Clerk know of any additional items by Thursday 2nd May 2024.

40/24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7pm

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm