

**LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2017**

**Members present:**

Cllr Denis Cruse	DC
Cllr John Uren	JU
Cllr John Francis	JF
Cllr Steve Cannella	SC
Cllr Clive Stott	CS
Cllr Sam Nicholas	SN
Cllr David Hurst-Brown	DHB
Cllr Rolf Smith	RS

**In attendance:**

Barbara Uren (Parish Clerk)	BU
Chris Hamilton (Minutes Secretary)	CH

**Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the councillors and those in attendance to the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These had been received from EH and BN

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none

**3a. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

The minutes were approved with one amendment: Accounts, page 3, “*JU*” should read “*JF*”.

**4a. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**Pg.1 HMO, Hoggarden Close.**

Nothing further had been heard regarding the status of the house.

**Pg.3 Defibrillator**

SECAM would no longer replace the pads when they needed changing and these were now overdue. The War Memorial Hall caretaker had ordered replacements and might have removed the defibrillator in order to carry out the work. It was noted that the defibrillator should not be removed as it would continue to function on the old pads. CH undertook to ensure that the machine was reinstated at once if it had been removed. The council unanimously agreed to take on the expense of maintaining the defibrillator. The amount on this occasion was £36 plus VAT..

**Playground Signs**

This had not yet been done

**Pathway adjacent to play area**

CS reported that a site visit would be held soon to mark out the area.

**Hedge near Brown Trout**

It was reported that this had now been cut.

**Elephant’s Head Public House**

This had not closed and was now under new management.

**Pg.4 Greg Clark and Broadband Service in the Parish**

DC had replied to say that broadband was improving but gradually.

**3b. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

These were approved with no amendments

**4b. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
Water Leak**

BU had dealt with this. The leak had been on capping in an area of pipework no longer the responsibility of the council. The hall would be aware if any charge was made for the water on its next bill. If a charge was evident BU would contest it.

**5. ACCOUNTS**

Accounts for payment were mostly routine but included the annual insurance bill and the commercial services bill. JF also circulated the quarterly accounts. He projected a possible surplus, as for the previous year. He recommended a small increase of 1.3% on the precept, from £40,000 to £40,500, which would be 12pence per year on a band D property. This proposal for the precept was put to the council, who agreed unanimously. It was further agreed that any additional expenditure on the public conveniences would not be covered by the precept but could be met from the reserve. DC thanked JF, on behalf of the council, for the preparation of the statements and the budget.

**6. COMMON LAND AND ALLOTMENTS**

The encroachment issue highlighted on the walkabout was largely dealt with and one outstanding issue in hand and being monitored.

It was estimated that 76 of the posts on the Down were now rotten and in need of replacement. A quotation to carry out this work in tannalised softwood had been received. The council discussed the merits of carrying out the work in longer lasting hardwood, which would carry additional costs. As no consensus was reached, it was agreed that further information and costings should be sought for the various options. DHB would also investigate the issue and this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

A quote of £1,116 had been received to raise the beacon on the Down to its former height. The work was necessary as the post had rotted, having been built onto a brick plinth which filled with water. The original erectors had built the plinth because they had hit sandstone. The current quote was from a contractor who would drill through the rock and supply a durable pole. All agreed that the work should go ahead with this quotation. It was agreed that this could come from the reserve set aside for improving the amenities of the area. It was noted that BU had applied for the common land, at Hook Green and Free Heath, to be registered with the Rural Payments Agency prior to starting the process to carry out coppicing. As she had heard nothing further she would investigate.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Items 1&2 Matthew Balfour KCC: Negative Response to Hook Green Speed Limit Petition and letter from Greg Clark offering to set up a meeting between the Parish Council, KCC & Residents at Hook Green to discuss proposal for speed limit or other possible traffic calming measures.**

There had been further representation from Hook Green residents on this issue. The comment that “alterations could be pursued and funded by parish councils” was noted. A meeting would allow the council to raise questions as to what this entailed. The clerk was instructed to accept Greg Clark’s offer to

facilitate a meeting at his earliest convenience and to copy this to Hook Green residents.

**Item 3 Michael Hardy KCC: Offer to set up a Community Speedwatch Programme.**

If LPC would like to participate he would contact the relevant people to begin the process. He would need a representative and contact details for the Speedwatch team to liaise with. It was noted that a number of residents, probably around 12, would be needed to man this continuously throughout one day. SN agreed to be the representative and to try to assemble a volunteer team.

**Item 4 SAMARITANS, Tunbridge Wells Branch: Requesting a modest donation from the PC as in previous years.**

JF agreed to check the charity's reserves before voting on this in the March meeting.

**Item 5 For information: TWBC CCTV Signs Covert/Overt Cameras.**

TWBC had identified fly tipping hotspots within the Borough as a result CCTV signs were appearing at various locations, possibly within this parish, to help deter fly tipping. It was noted that there had been fly tipping near Grantham Hall. BU would investigate and report this as necessary.

**Item 6 For Consultation**

**NALC: Local Councils Dependant Carers Survey: Should Parish Councillors have the same rights as principle authority councillors to be able to claim the Dependant Carers Allowance?**

At the moment Parish Councillors could not reclaim childcare and similar to attend parish council meetings. Councillors generally thought that they should. BU would respond on behalf of the council if a collective response was required or let councillors know if individual responses were needed.

**8. PLANNING**

**Court Lodge**

There was discussion of the re-submitted applications. It was agreed that the impact of noise and parking issues had now been minimised but there were still concerns about the effect of excess traffic, particularly on Church Road. The clerk was instructed to draft a response which she would circulate. LPC would ask Edmund Hastie and Barry Noakes to call this in such that it was decided by committee

**16/06424 and 0028/2016/TPO**

**Land Adjacent to Hoathly Cottages Mount Pleasant**

It was noted that a Tree Preservation Order had been placed on the entire pond area.

**16/06805**

**Tollisly, Bayham Abbey**

It was noted that retrospective planning for the lake had been refused.

**Old School Clock**

LPC had communicated with all necessary parties and awaited developments.

**9. REPRESENTATIVES/ SUB- GROUPS REPORTS**

**War Memorial Hall**

Nothing to report

**Bowl Water**

See item 12

**Playing fields**

Nothing to report

**Youth / Playground Working Group**

Nothing to report

**Buses/Transport**

Nothing to report

**Police**

Nothing to report

**Highways**

Nothing to report

**Footpaths**

Nothing to report

**Flooding**

Nothing to report

**Housing**

Nothing to report.

**Common Land**

Nothing further to report

**Events**

Nothing to report

**KALC**

Nothing to report

**Parish Chairman**

Nothing to report

**Business**

The village shop had reopened and it was now paramount that it should be widely used by the community. SN would draft a letter of welcome to the new proprietor.

**Website**

Nothing to report.

**School**

Nothing to report

**10. BEWL WATER PLANS**

DHB presented the report from the Bewl Water monitoring Committee of Wadhurst, Ticehurst and Lamberhurst Parish Councils. Bewl Water was expected to submit a planning application for a 60–unit self-catering development, to accommodate 240 occupants, on the former dinghy park. The committee would prefer not to see major development but did not oppose this in principle. However, there were concerns as to the proposed site, an area of ancient woodland there, the visual impact, noise and light pollution and the fact that this development might be an initial phase of something much bigger and akin to Centerparcs. DHB would let councillors know when a date for the next meeting was confirmed. The project could be viewed at [www.bewlwater-earthlodges.co.uk](http://www.bewlwater-earthlodges.co.uk).

**11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Jim Boot's presentation was discussed, as were his proposals and quotation for taking LPC forward to the next stage. It was agreed that it was important to take this further in order to give the parish a voice in its own future. A number of Tunbridge Wells parishes were already involved in the process. A working group was set up, consisting of DHB, SN and CS. Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April was proposed as a date for the APM, at which the matter could be presented to

the parish.

**12. MATTERS OF URGENCY AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

**Letter from golf club regarding dog bins**

The golf club had written to request that the council erect dog bins at the entrance and exit to the golf course. As there seemed to be a misconception as to what was parish council land and what was not, it was agreed that RS would attempt to clarify matters with the Golf Club.

**13. EXEMPT ITEMS**

See separate sheet.

**The meeting closed at 9.40 pm**

