

LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th March 2016

Members present:

Cllr Denis Cruse	DC
Cllr John Uren	JU
Cllr John Francis	JF
Cllr Steve Cannella	SC
Cllr Clive Stott	CS
Cllr I Mepham	IM
Cllr Bernard Bryant	BB
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 DHB, who was away, from Borough Councillor Edmund Hastie and from County Councillor Alex King. SC apologised that he would have to leave the meeting at 9pm.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none. IM retrospectively expressed an interest in two items which concerned business clients of his: Correspondence Item 2 and the Planning item regarding Bewl Water.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 12TH JANUARY 2016

The minutes of this meeting were approved with no amendments

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12TH JANUARY

Old School Clock

This would be discussed under Exempt Items later.

Pg.1 Lights on the Village Green.

DHB had spoken with the installers but nothing further had been heard since. He intended to follow this up in stronger terms. However, after discussion, it was agreed that the council's solicitors should be contacted. The council wished the installers to remove the lights and to give a full refund as they had been unsatisfactory from start to finish and were not fit for purpose. The clerk would instruct the solicitor to this effect.

IM arrived at this point.

Gullies at Hook Green

It was reported that these had been cleared but were now blocked again

Pg.2 Fly a Flag for the commonwealth

BU had obtained a quotation, for an angled flagpole, of £228.90 including VAT (£183.12 without VAT) and delivery. This did not include the installation. BU would liaise with RS and find a builder to install it. It was unanimously agreed that the clerk should be authorised to spend a maximum of £200 for installation by a suitably qualified and insured contractor. The money was to

come from reserves set aside for parish enhancements. It would now be too late to fly a flag for the Commonwealth Day this year but a flag could be raised for the Queen's birthday in June. It was agreed that both the Commonwealth flag and the Union flag should be bought.

Public Conveniences

JU reported that requirements were being itemised and a specification should be in place for the next meeting, after which quotations would be sought. DC felt that the work should be completed in time for Summer activities and the influx of visitors.

Item 4 Accounts

JF had examined the accounts of the Samaritans and discovered that they were a charity with considerable reserves. In the light of this he wished to reconsider the previously agreed donation to the cause. As the decision had been made and minuted, the donation would go ahead this year but could be reconsidered in future years in the light of this. JF added that he would wish to examine all accounts before discussions of future donations to any cause.

Pg.3 Item 5 Common Land and Allotments

BU reported that the High Weald Project had now installed the interpretation boards at the Gravel Pit, the Down bus shelter and at Hook Green. The voice box at the Gravel Pit was in operation and that at Hook Green was expected to be completed soon.

Caroline Price had organised a litter pick at Hook Green as part of the Clean for the Queen campaign and collected 45 black sacks of litter. DC had written to thank her. Nothing had been heard about plans for any similar event in the village.

Pg.4 Queen Elizabeth's Birthday

The council wished it to be known that there was £250 available from the County Council via Alex King and possibly more from TWBC if any parishioners wished to organise a street party to mark this event. It was unanimously agreed that the parish council would also contribute £250. CS would inform parishioners that he knew were interested and an announcement would be made in the parish magazine and on the website. Any road closure notice would need to be organised soon.

5. ACCOUNTS

JF had circulated a list of payments since the last meeting and there was nothing to add. A payment of £245 had been made to The Living Forest. The payments were duly approved by the council.

6. COMMON LAND AND ALLOTMENTS

DC reported on his meeting with a parishioner who worked in land management and who had a long term interest in working with LPC's common land group. Management of common land had been discussed alongside concerns about habitats if land were not managed. The tree warden was also keen to be involved. DHB had suggested strongly that LPC should still carry out the original management plan, grants for which were available and would cover most of the cost. DHB would convene a meeting with all interested parties on his return.

The contractor's estimate for common land work in the coming year remained unchanged but with one item now to be done free of charge. It was therefore agreed to renew the contract.

Tarmac on the footpath leading up School Hill needed attention, being

covered in leaf mould and twigs. The clerk would contact TWBC.
The water would be switched back on soon at the allotments.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- i.** A letter had been received from two residents asking for more permanent repairs to the path beside the doctors' surgery. Loose gravel was currently making access to the surgery difficult, especially for wheelchairs and push chairs. The clerk would liaise.
- ii.** Election nomination packs were available for councillors to pick up if intending to stand again.
The email regarding the flagpole had been noted previously. The War Memorial Hall Managers wrote to offer to renew the licence for the public lavatories for 2016/17 on the same terms as previously. The clerk would write to confirm.
- iii.** The TWBC Call for Sites email was discussed as an exempt item with no firm conclusions.
- iv.** The information in the letter from SLCC was noted and it was agreed to await the NALC's recommendation before further discussion.
- v.** The Wadhurst Rotary Classic Car Run asked to use the Down again on 3rd July for produce stalls. All agreed, with the usual proviso that this could happen only if the ground was dry enough.
- vi.** **Consultation 1 Electoral review of Kent**

There was no change to the TW Borough representation. This was noted

Consultation 2 TW Borough Local Plan Site Allocations DPD Modifications

It was noted that changes were made removing the protection to the land adjoining Bewl reservoir.

Consultation 3

Mobile Library Service

It was proposed to reduce the service to a fortnightly rather than weekly visit and alter the timing from afternoon to morning. Parishioners wishing to comment on this should be urged to do so via the KCC consultation website.

www.consultations.kent.gov.uk

Consultation 4 Petition for the Right of Appeal

A petition was currently being signed that councils be allowed the right to appeal to planning decisions to the planning inspectorate. Anyone could sign the petition on the parliamentary website

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110489/signatures/new>

8. PLANNING

Court Lodge

Some of the outcomes were still awaited

Oast House Town Hill.

LPC had recommended refusal.

Bayham Lake Estate

It was stated that there should be no impact on flooding. LPC had said that they needed assurances of this from the Environment Agency and consultation with English Heritage in case it impacted on the Abbey. BU agreed to copy her original comments to Neil Gunn at the Environment Agency.

SC left at this point.

IM thought that another exit on the lake would make water flow more quickly when rising in flood conditions

9. REPRESENTATIVES/ SUB- GROUPS REPORTS

Playground Group

Nothing to report

War Memorial Hall

Nothing further to report

Bewl Water

JU, BU and DHB had attended a meeting with Markerstudy Leisure, the new owners of Bewl Water Country Park, at which they outlined their future plans. They had reduced parking charges from £8 to £2 and were refurbishing the visitor centre and sailing clubhouse. They intended to maintain all footpaths, provide a water taxi service and support existing activities. To make this financially viable they wished to build a hotel. Access from the A21 would be in the Lamberhurst parish although the hotel would not. Plans were expected to be submitted before the end of the year. It was noted that there would be increased traffic on the access road and that sewage capacity would need to be monitored but the general opinion was that this could be good for the village and its businesses and services.

Playing fields

Nothing to report

Buses/Transport

Nothing to report

Police

Nothing to report

Highways

There had been emails between petitioners and County Councillor Alex King regarding speeds on the road from Forstal farm roundabout and on School Hill. AK noted that a survey had already been carried out but the recommendations not implemented and it was hoped that he would now put this right. Caroline Price had reported that one speed watch had been done at Hook Green and another was planned. DC reported that Ross Shearing had assisted in Sissinghurst.

Footpaths

Nothing further to report

Flooding

Nothing further to report

Housing

Nothing to report.

Common Land

Nothing further to report

Events

Nothing further to report

Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing to report

KALC

Nothing to report

Business

Nothing to report

Website

Nothing to report.

School

The school was still working on access improvements and footpaths and looking for funding. The cup and memorial bench in memory of Douglas Collins were now at the school.

MP Liaison

Nothing to report

Local Board

Nothing to report

Parish Chairmen

Nothing to report

Rural Sounding Board

Nothing to report

10. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS MAY 5TH

This had been raised previously

11. MATTERS OF URGENCY AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

DC had received a newsletter from Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre which he invited councillors to read and showed samples of medallions which could be acquired by interested parties for the Queen's Birthday celebrations. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on April 12th at 8pm and it was planned to have speakers giving information on Fire Awareness at the Village Hall, Flooding, the Queen's Birthday Celebrations and the prospective Village Film Club.

St Mary's Church had approached LPC regarding plans for a Church Service on the green on June 12th. No objections were raised.

12. EXEMPT ITEMS

See separate page

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

