

LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 14th November 2017

Members present:

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

In attendance:

Barbara Uren, Parish Clerk	BU
Borough Councillor Sarah Hamilton	SH
Minutes Secretary, Chris Hamilton	CH
Two members of the public	

Welcome

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

A. COUNTY COUNCILLOR SARAH HAMILTON

Sarah Hamilton was welcomed and invited to address the council. She reported that she had been assessing traffic issues in the locality and wanted to see where she might best use the community grant. She had been shown round and was thus aware of the following issues:

- a. Speeding and build-out issues on the road and build out near Church Road
- b. Speeding and signage issues in Hook Green.
- c. Speeding and build-out issues on School Hill especially the interactive sign (not connected) considered to be on the wrong side of the road or facing the wrong way by the build-out near the War Memorial

With regard to the first issue (a) DHB stated that he would like to see a 30mph limit closer to the roundabout and DC added that the build-out might perhaps be moved nearer to the roundabout. SH added that the council should not feel restricted by the Members Grant but consider what their aspirations were. DC asked councillors if they felt that these suggestions would solve the problems. JF, CS, SN BB, DHB and SC, agreed. RS and JU thought it would be sufficient to install clearer signage to clarify priorities and give warnings. SH thought it important to investigate what studies had been done, if any, since the bypass was built. SC had heard that all traffic calming installations, such as humps, that forced motorists to brake and then accelerate would be

removed by 2018. If this were so, then the solutions would change. SH agreed to seek confirmation as to whether this was to happen.

With regard to the Hook Green issues (b) the aspiration was a 40mph speed limit all through Hook Green and thereafter a 50 limit to the county boundary. SH asked if 20mph limits were of interest in the parish. It was thought that they were not appropriate.*

SH believed the council to have achievable objectives but the solutions still needed to be decided. Once the council had determined what was required, an application for a members' grant should be completed and sent. SH was keen to see the money spent correctly on the right solution. DC would draft an email and circulate this to councillors before sending it to SH.

SN raised the issue of school transport issues which were affecting some families locally. SH explained that officers were obliged to work rigidly with the new rules and the way through was by appeal. She was working on this and representing someone in just such a case. SN spoke of the discrepancies between different cases, the confusion and poor communication between the bus companies, the schools and the council and the need for this to be resolved. SH's support was much appreciated.

The issue of discrepancies in the broadband service locally was raised. SH had responded to emails about this and spoken to a KCC officer with expertise in this area. (Greg Clark's office had also been involved.) They would come and talk to concerned residents if the parish council set up a meeting. DHB agreed to arrange such a meeting in the new year.

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*A member of the public thought that a 20mph might indeed be an aspiration of Brewer Street residents. He was happy to make enquiries. DC agreed that he would pass on the results of any such enquiries to SH should Brewer Street residents so wish.

In relation to the proposed application for development at a site near the Brewer Street allotments, the council was asked for any updates regarding access to the site. The clerk confirmed that the applicant had a right of way across the allotments to the field in question but that did not mean he had a right to alter the access by creating a roadway or changing the surface. There was also a 30 cwt weight restriction on it. LPC could allow that to increase or make other changes if it so wished. The council was asked if any informal meetings had taken place. The chairman confirmed that a meeting had taken place with himself and the Vice-chairman who had listened to the applicant's views and expressed the same concerns as before. The council would consider a further application and discuss it again once it had been lodged. No further informal meetings were currently planned.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017

These were approved with one amendment – BU’s name should be removed from the list of those present.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Hopgarden Close

DC had written the requested letter of support. Nothing further had yet been heard.

Old School Clock

This matter was progressing, albeit slowly.

Beacon on Down

The work was now done.

Non-Performing Assets

The transfers were now almost complete after 4 years of work. There was a minor land registry issue to resolve on the Brewer Street case but LPC had signed the transfer. DC was inclined to address a complaint to David Jukes at the way the whole affair had been handled by TWBC.

Gala Lights

Gala Lights had told the clerk that they would be in touch regarding maintenance contracts. She would follow this up.

6. ACCOUNTS

JF asked approval for 2 bills.

- a. Posts around War Memorial.
- b. Post for the Beacon

The first was approved and it was confirmed that the second had already been agreed and minuted some months previously.

JF had contacted the caretaker of the public conveniences with the council’s decision.

7. COMMON LAND AND ALLOTMENTS

Protection of Lower Down

JU confirmed that the common land group had not yet discussed solutions on the Lower Down to protect the area from the possibility of incursion. DHB, SN and SC would investigate what might be involved. SC would arrange quotes from a contractor as necessary. DC proposed that if, after inspection, work was considered necessary then SC should be asked to arrange it. If the sum exceeded £500 then LPC would need to be consulted again first. The clerk was concerned that there were significant Health and Safety issues surrounding this. The common land group was therefore asked to come back with recommendations and to email councillors as appropriate.

Common Land Management

SN was waiting for a professional colleague to look over the management plan before proceeding. His expert advice would be invaluable. It was also important to meet with interested parties in Hook Green and a meeting would be arranged in due course.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Item 1: Road Meeting 4th September – KCC Highways recommendations

This had already been discussed

Item 2: KCC LED Lighting Project

The clerk was due to talk to them soon. SN would be against lighting that was not dark sky friendly. DC asked that the clerk discuss with them the power of the lights as some could be very bright.

Item 3: South East Water: Pipework maintenance for three weeks from Monday 6th November.

It was reported that there would be some traffic disruption

Item 4. Power Cuts: Update, Email from Greg Clark

This was partly resolved but there were ongoing negotiations with the National Trust for final and proper cabling to be put through.

Item 5: TWBC Planning Policy; Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Area

Application: Consultation:

DHB had met with Jim Boot and he had moved them on and given a quote for the next phase as well as showing how he could apply for grants. SN and DHB still needed to consider the next move. There would be a pre-meeting on November 27th and then a meeting on 7th December to set up a steering committee. If support was not forthcoming at that meeting they would be continuing to look for it in the coming weeks. Completing the project was contingent upon enough volunteers coming forward to steer it and this should be emphasised. The meeting on December 7th would be held in the Brown Trout and would be advertised.

Item 6: ACRK. West Kent Community Led Housing Hub

For information

Item 7: Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review: Consultation

Councillors were asked to look at this and make their comments as appropriate.

9. PLANNING

JU drew the council's attention to one application where the council had recommended refusal.

It was noted that there had been no further developments on issues at Bewl Water.

10. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

War Memorial Hall

An application from the hall managers to the council for a grant would be raised later

Bewl Water

Nothing to report

Playing fields

Nothing to report

Youth / Playground Working Group

The replacement of bins with lidded ones would cost between £250 and £300 per bin (supply only). It was agreed that it was necessary to replace both. DC would circulate a link to the bins and speak to the council's contractor.

Buses/Transport

Nothing to report

Police

Nothing to report

Highways

Nothing to report

Footpaths

Nothing further to report

Flooding

Nothing to report

Housing

Nothing to report.

Common Land

Nothing further to report

Events

Thanks were extended to the Bonfire Society for another excellent event. It was reported that there had been an incident but that the procedures in place had worked well and all had been dealt with efficiently. It was agreed that a representative of the Bonfire Society should be invited to attend the LPC meeting in September 2018 to discuss the next event and ensure all was in place for this well ahead of time. There had been some excellent events at Lamberhurst Community Cinema recently and thanks were also extended to the Lamberhurst and Bayham branch of the British Legion for organising the Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial.

KALC

Nothing to report

Parish Chairman

DC and JU had attended the meeting on the vision for the future of TWBC. DC would pass the documentation to interested councillors.

Business

Nothing to report

Website

Nothing to report.

School

Nothing to report

11. NEW EU DATA PROTECTION BILL

Consultations were ongoing and changes were still being made. JF reported that LPC needed a Data Protection officer. Some had suggested that TWBC might provide one, or parish councils might consider sharing one. Various suggestions had been coming forward. The new bill would come into force in 2018 and the parish council needed to be aware of this and keep it on the agenda.

12. RELINQUISHMENT OF BIKE TRACK FIELD

This had not been used for some time and the track had become overgrown.. A parishioner had asked for it to be reinstated. DC asked her to discover what the demand was and if there was appropriate demand then LPC could consider this. Nothing had been heard since. The council would re-visit the topic in January and SN agreed to highlight this in the parish magazine, to canvas opinion.

13. PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY CHANGES

It was considered unlikely that these would happen in the near future and discussion was therefore postponed until deemed necessary.

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

As remembrance Sunday would fall on the 11th November in 2018, parishes would be invited to light beacons and parish councils to be in attendance at the ceremony. The clerk had already expressed a willingness to have the beacon lit.

Posters were circulated for the Mayor's Toy Appeal.

The Tunbridge Wells CAB annual report and accounts had been received and were available for those who wished to see them.

The latest High Weald Wild Guide was also recommended to councillors.

15. EXEMPT ITEMS

See separate page

