

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

Members present:

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

In attendance:

Barbara Uren (Parish Clerk)	BU
Chris Hamilton (Minutes Secretary)	CH
Borough Councillor Edmund Hastie	EH

1 member of the public**Welcome**

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

Item PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 1** A resident wished to raise the subject of a house in multiple occupation in Hopgarden Close which had been granted HMO status in September, having been so without legal status prior to this date. The owner lived abroad. Properties in the Close were all contracted into a building scheme run by a management company. TWBC had invited this resident to apply for an HMO licence in breach of this building scheme and now seemed disinclined to discuss this further, to give any assurances on maintenance or fulfil any of the obligations of the building scheme. There was an additional effect in that Brewer Street was under extra pressure from parked cars. Residents felt that the borough council failed to understand the nature of the building scheme, which was not simply a restrictive covenant. Residents did not seek to prevent the letting of the property but wanted the borough council to remove the HMO licence. Edmund Hastie had made representation to TWBC and residents wished the parish council to set up a meeting between borough council officers and owners and tenants of properties in Hopgarden Close in order to further discussion. There followed some discussion, after which a vote was taken. 5 councillors were in favour of facilitating such a meeting whilst 2 abstained.

JF felt that an internal solution would nevertheless be the better solution and DC asked EH to lobby the relevant people to see if they would review the situation. Should this fail the parish council would facilitate a meeting and DC would chair it with support from other councillors. The parish council would not, however, advocate for either side. EH agreed to keep LPC abreast of developments.

Item 2. A petition had been received from Hook Green residents requesting changes to speed limits in the hamlet, with a 40mph limit through from the village boundary to Winbridge. Councillors were asked to support the petition. All agreed. The clerk would write an accompanying letter, to KCC, stating that the petition had the unanimous support of the council. Thanks were recorded to those who had organised the petition.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These had been received from SN

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

3. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR EDMUND HASTIE

EH explained that the upcoming constituency boundary changes would put Lamberhurst in the Weald constituency rather than Tunbridge Wells. Each party would have the opportunity to hold an open primary. This change would happen in time for the next scheduled election in 2020.

EH explained that Alex King was retiring as county councillor. The new candidate was Sarah Hamilton. Elections would be held next May. The county council boundaries had been redrawn but this did not affect Lamberhurst.

The borough council had plans for a new civic complex on a strip of land near Dunorlan Park. EH felt this to be unaffordable.

He had completed his sponsored bike ride and hoped to make a contribution towards the Lamberhurst Community Cinema.

RS asked EH about the North Farm roundabout and the A21 works. Was it not possible to have a traffic management system to allow people to get to work? Both carriageways were often affected and there were stories of mistakes in the construction process. EH suggested anyone who felt strongly should raise the issues in person at a full council meeting or write to Greg Clark and ask him to put the questions to Highways England.

BB reported that leaves on the road at the Slade were making cars spin and blocking drains. BU explained that leaves on the road and drains were the responsibility of KCC whilst TWBC was responsible for leaves on pavements. JU raised the issue of the new pavement on Spray Hill. Signage had been removed and replaced without lights. This concern should be addressed to KCC.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016

These were approved with 4 amendments:

Page 1 SC should be removed from the list of members present

Page 6 *Beech* should read *Beach*, *plotin* should read *plot in*, and *factthat* should read *fact that*.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Common Land Walkabout

JU reported that this had taken place. Several issues had arisen from it which were now all in hand. It was agreed that BU should put the walkabout as an item on the agenda at every APC meeting.

School Access Improvements

The path had been laid and was considered excellent. JU would follow up the issue of lighting on the replaced signage. AK had emailed detailing his allocation of funds from his member's grant. A vote of thanks was recorded for his contributions to the path and the community cinema.

Replacement Trainer for Defibrillator

Training was no longer offered but attention was drawn to online videos which showed how to use it. BU would try to contact SECAM to find out if the pads had been changed and checks carried out.

Neighbourhood plan

DHB reported that there would be a meeting on December 13th to which a speaker had been invited to give the background to this. CH agreed to come and write a memorandum of the discussion.

Playground

The clerk had followed up the low risk items with the company concerned. Despite their recommendations, they would not quote to lift and relay the rubber matting but quoted instead £5000 to replace the matting. It was agreed that as this was low risk it would be enough to monitor the situation at the moment. BU would contact a company which sold spares to deal with some of the other items on the list e.g. rubber buffers. It was agreed that a local company should be asked to produce the signs if necessary. BU agreed to investigate and was authorised to spend up to £200 on this if necessary between meetings

Pathway adjacent to play area

CS reported that this was an area approximately 36ft by 4 ft. It should be dug out, a membrane laid and then probably type 1 above. JU stated that the surface must be a loose one as there was a water main, much deeper, running below. It was thought that the cost would be in the region of £400 including materials. A formal motion was put to the council that up to £500 might be spent, as soon as possible, to improve the pathway adjacent to the play area for the purpose of pedestrian safety. This was agreed unanimously and the clerk was given authority to spend up to £500.

Hedge near Brown Trout

There had been no changes as yet.

6. HALL: COMMUNITY CINEMA

CH reported that grants totalling £1300 had been received. LPC had kindly loaned £300 and the War Memorial Hall £400, allowing the cinema to purchase its own equipment. The screen was already in place over the stage and other items on order. CH thanked the parish council for their help with this and was confident that the loan could be repaid quickly.

SC offered, on behalf of his company, Kent and Sussex Campers, to sponsor the community cinema with the sum of £250. CH thanked him on behalf of the cinema for his generous offer.

7. ACCOUNTS

JF had circulated the accounts along with half yearly ones to September. Expenditure was less than half what had been budgeted but payment on the amenity vehicle and public conveniences had not yet occurred and the insurance was also still to be paid. The payments were duly approved by the council.

8. COMMON LAND AND ALLOTMENTS

It was reported that the gravel pit had gained a bronze award in the Richard Neame Wildlife Awards and a certificate was on its way.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

i. **TWBC - Confirmation receipt of Elephants Head Application as an**

Asset of Community Value

Noted

ii. Greg Clark - letter regarding Broadband service in the parish

Greg Clark stated that things were improving in the parish. DHB added that Open Reach currently had a live project for which people could register but it depended on which box the phone line was connected to. DHB would investigate and DC would reply to GC when he had the necessary information.

iii. **Kent Men of the Trees Competition** wrote that they had enjoyed their tour and they suggested some planting but this was not on our own land. LPC recorded its thanks to Mark Lawton, the tree warden, for taking them around the parish.

iv. **Email from resident at Hook Green** asking for permission to erect two "Please Clean Up After Your Dog" signs along the track leading past the Old Post Office. The council agreed that the signs could be erected.

v. **Markerstudy Leisure.** Invitation to a public exhibition to view their proposals on Wednesday 9th November between 12 – 8pm at the Waterfront Restaurant (the old visitor centre)

DHB would be going and would report back

vi. **Broadband Hook Green** Email from Caroline Price with attached letter from Greg Clark. This had been taken with ii.

Consultations

Cemetery & Churchyard Survey. This campaign drew attention to the growing shortage of new grave space in rural communities. Cemeteries were not mentioned in the NPPF. The Society advised that Neighbourhood Plans and District Local Plans should address this issue.

St Mary's had some years ago purchased more land for the churchyard and there is still plenty of space.

TWBC Local Plan Settlement Role and Function study.

The clerk reported that she had to respond to the designation of green spaces. A number of sites were identified to put forward.

10. PLANNING

16/06562 and 16/050805 Old Park, Church Road

Both applications had been approved

16/06424

The application for a new barn had been refused

BT application for removing pay phones at Hook Green and the Down. The payphone on the Down had been used 30 times in the last year. That at Hook Green had not been used at all. The other criteria for retaining the payphones had not been met and the payphones would be lost.

It was noted that neighbours were no longer to be notified of planning applications.

11. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW

This had been discussed previously

12. REPRESENTATIVES' AND SUBGROUPS' REPORTS

Playground Group

Nothing further to report

War Memorial Hall

Nothing to report

Bowl Water

Nothing to report

Buses/Transport

Nothing to report

Police

Nothing to report

Highways

Nothing further to report.

Footpaths

Nothing to report

Flooding

Nothing to report

Housing

Nothing to report.

Common Land

Nothing further to report

Events

Congratulations were recorded to the Bonfire Society for the recent splendid event. CS would convey the council's thanks to the organisers.

Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing further to report

KALC

See item 12

Business

Nothing to report

Website

Nothing to report.

School

Nothing further to report

MP Liaison

Nothing to report

Parish Chairmen

Nothing to report

13. KALC – AGM INVITATION

DC was unable to attend. He would pass on the paperwork to anyone who might wish to take his place.

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Gala Lights would be coming on Monday and Tuesday of the following week. Any councillor who could be there at any point was encouraged to do so if they wished to oversee the work.

15. EXEMPT ITEMS

See separate page

The meeting closed at 22.05 pm

