

DRAFT to be confirmed at the next meeting

LAMBERHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held in Lamberhurst War Memorial Hall (*Side Hall*)
At 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th November 2018

Members Present	Cllr Denis Cruse	DC
	Cllr John Uren	JU
	Cllr Rolf Smith	RS
	Cllr Sam Nicholas	SN
	Cllr David Hurst-Brown	DHB
	Cllr Clive Stott	CS
	Cllr Dawn Beeby	DB
	Cllr Steve Cannella	SC
In Attendance	Parish Clerk – Barbara Uren	BU
	Edmund Hastie – County Cllr	EH
	Sarah Hamilton – County Cllr	SH
	Graham White – NP Chair	GW
	Minutes Secretary – John Mottershead	JM
	1 x Member of the public	

Public Question Time: One member of the public asked a question about the proposed development in the Fairfields beside the Chequers Oast. The Chairman summarised the PC response – the details are on the TWBC planning portal

1 Apologies for absence: John Francis

2 Declarations of interest: *In accordance with the Current Members' Code of Conduct in respect of items on this agenda.* DHB Planning item.

3 Local Councillors:

EH: Will be doing another Bike Ride next year and would like to donate the sponsorship proceeds towards the new Hall Doors Fund. Thanked by the Council.

Announced that he will be standing down as Borough Cllr. Next May. Introduced Linda Hall (his mother) as the only person putting themselves forward as the Conservative candidate for seat. EH stated that he would like to donate a bench to the ward, and asked DC if he would give some thought as to where it might be sited.

DC – Thanked EH for his offer; and extended the council's thanks for the hard work that EH had put in during the 7 and a half years he has represented us.

Linda Hall – Gave a short presentation on her background and reasons for standing.

DC – Thanked her for her interest.

DC – Welcomed SH and invited her to speak.

SH – Traffic across the county is an issue .

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DC – The bollards on the traffic calming build out near Horsmonden Ponds at the top of the village have been knocked down numerous times. Perhaps they should be replaced with spring mounted variety? He feels that the speed limit should be introduced closer to the Forstall Roundabout to get cars to slow. Asked SH if there is any pressure that can be put on the County Council to address this?

JU – The bollards have been knocked down 9 times in 10 months. Given the time taken to replace them; they are knocked down on average once per fortnight.

DC – How often are the ones adjacent to the doctors' surgery knocked down?

JU – Not as often as the others; and because they are plastic they can be put back in.

DC – Asked RC and SC to put something together on the evidence regarding build-out for road furniture (bollards, etc.).

SH – A big problem with changing the speed limit is the enforcement.

DC – The council is advocating a 40mph limit from the 30mph at Furnace Lane, throughout Hook Green, to the county boundary at Wyn Bridge.

DC – Noted to SH that we haven't seen a PCSO and/or police officer at our meetings, for in excess of 12 months.

SH – Has just returned from a meeting in Coventry covering local policing in which rural policing was discussed as an issue.

JU – Mentioned the horse box parked outside the doctor's surgery which affects the line-of-sight on the road.

SH – Asked if we have any specific problems with anti-social behaviour in the village?

The general feeling is that people are more concerned with more serious crimes; and unruly behaviour is something that has been around for years; and generally confined to younger generations.

SH – Talked about public transport in the village.

GW – Mentioned that results of the NP survey showed people from the village used private vehicles not because they wanted to, but because there was no alternative.

SH – Talked briefly about costs of running a local bus service; and possible ways to improve this.

DC – Expressed an interest in the bus-on-demand service being proposed.

DC – Thanked SH for attending the meeting.

4 To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September

There were no amendments requested. Proposed by CS and Seconded SN they were accepted unanimously.

5 Matters Arising from those minutes.

DC – Encouraging that the Village Clock was working in time for the Remembrance Day service. Thanked JU for his efforts in this direction.

Page 4 – Elephants Head - DC asked CS for an update.

CS – The Elephant's Head landlord is aware that he is not supposed to have benches on The Green in front. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that any works undertaken on Common Land (such as repairing potholes on tracks) must have the approval of the Council in writing.

DC – Proposes that he is given 14 days to apply for a licence to place tables on Council owned Common Land or remove them. Asked the Clerk to write a letter stating that in 14 days from the date of delivery he should either remove the benches or negotiate for a licence. He should be advised that he is not allowed to touch any aspect of Common Land without an agreement from the Council in writing.

All agreed.

6 Accounts:

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DHB - The insurance has been renewed for a further 3 years.

DC – Does not see anything out of the ordinary in the accounts.

JU – Suggested the Finance Group has a meeting to discuss next year's Budget and the Precept.

DC – Holds the view that it is better to put the precept up by a small amount each year.

DC – Thanks to the RFO and DHB for their work on this.

7 Common Land & Allotments:

Tree Warden: Down report. JU – Commented on the tree inspection report. No major issues arose. It was decided to ask the Council's Local Contractor to deal with the minor issues in the report.

A bracken beating event is to be organised at Hook Green to improve the ecology of the area.

Sand Road Bus Shelter: Quotes for the repair work had been received and a quote for £550 had been accepted.

8 Correspondence:

Item 1: Refuse vehicle:

A request from TWBC, stating that the refuse company (Biffa) want to have vegetation removed along Farthing Lane to enable access to properties. BU and JU had visited the site but were unclear where the problem was. The Clerk will contact TWBC to ask for details.

Item 2: Website Editor Vacancy

A volunteer has been found and appointed.

DC – Offered the Council's thanks for this. Suggested that he might look into ways to move the service to a more modern platform. Also suggested that if necessary the Council may be willing to pay a consultancy fee for this service.

DB – Offered to have a preliminary report on this for the January meeting.

Item 3: Offer of craft sessions

DC – Suggests inviting the proposer to come and talk to the council at the January meeting, as the timescale is too short for the proposed December session.

9 Planning:

JU – No planning items for the council to address. Some concern over the granting of the planning permission for the extraction system at The Chequers.

A brief discussion was had regarding the accumulation of 'junk' on The Chequers grounds.

DB – Offered to talk to the Landlord with regard to this.

10 Representative/Sub Group Reports

Hall:

JU – The hall committee will possibly ask for around £4k next year for the new Hall doors.

The external toilets will also require some additional money spent on them next year.

DC – Is £10k a fair estimate for total repair work? JU will consult the Hall Committee.

Highways:

DC – Referred to a letter from resident at Hook Green, asking SH if Kent Highways could pay for the requested traffic survey (in the region of £700 - £1000). SH – Will look into the possibility of providing funds; and thinks it is feasible. DC – Formerly asked SH if we could have a grant of £1000 to cover this.

DC – If the County Council do not have available funds; what do the Parish Council feel about paying for this? This needs to be an item for discussion at the next meeting. DC asked SH if she can confirm available funds (to address Hook Green traffic concerns) before our meeting in January.

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Business:

DHB – There is a business meeting next month; and an item on the agenda is how to produce a business register for the parish.

11 DB: Community Resilience Meeting Report

DB – Who do we contact in the event of an emergency? Who has this information, or where is it held.

DC – I currently act as Flood Warden and receive flood warning information and pass this on to vulnerable properties. There is a stock of sand bags and signage stored at the Golf Course.

DB – Is e-mail an appropriate medium when there could be possible power cuts?

DC – In most cases, the clerk should be the first point of contact for emergencies affecting the Parish. Thanked DB for attending the meeting on the Council's behalf.

RS Left the meeting at this point

12 Neighbourhood Plan:

DC – Asked GW for an update on the NP.

GW – We are more or less on schedule; and approaching the end of the consultation period. We are entering what GW believes is the critical phase, which is the writing of the actual plan. We need to identify the resources required; and if they are available. Noted that Goudhurst had issued their first draft plan last week (DC has a copy).

SN – Noted that we are running alongside TWBC Local Plan, and therefore our timings are quite important as TWBC will be making some critical decisions.

GW – TWBC have said they would like to meet us (NP Steering Group) again at some stage. Noted that there is a lot of enthusiasm; but also a lot of concern over the NP. Within the Parish, there appears to be more agreement than disagreement with regards to the plan.

DC – Passed on the thanks of the Council for the work done by the NP Steering committee to date. Asked if any other Councillors had any questions?

SN – Talked about the grant we have been given for the Housing Needs survey. Asked for the covering letter to have the approval of the Parish Council?

DC – Asked if this was approved – All agreed.

DB – Thanked GW for the efforts put in producing the bonfire celebrations this year.

DC – Also offered the Council's thanks to all who had contributed to the bonfire night; and the Armistice Day and Battle's Over 100 year commemoration week-end events.

SH – Raised the topic of Broadband (the service for those who currently have a poor service.). This has shown as being a major issue in the NP.

GW – Stated that the extra work done has only speeded up the connection for people with a good connection anyway. It has done nothing to improve access for others.

13 Data Protection:

DC - Referred to an e-mail from JF advising on the use of email and the draft template assessment of personal data held by the council for review.

BU – Asked JM to update the website with privacy policy details adopted July 2018.

14 Matters of urgency at Chairman's discretion:

DC – The co-ordinator for sending information reports to The Courier has retired. Would anyone like to take this on?

DB – Volunteered to do this.

Meeting Closed 10.45pm