



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th June 2016

Present: Cllr Miranda Dart (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Genesis Alexander, Cllr Jackie Breeds, Cllr Mike Cook and Cllr Chris Mortimer.

Also in attendance: Andy Beams (Locum Clerk), Sue Redshaw (Tree Warden), Fiona Hensher (New Clerk – to be ratified)

1 Apologies for absence – Received from Cllr Alex Carey and District Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris.

2 Declaration of Members interests – None.

3 Minutes of the meeting of 18 May 2016 – These were agreed as a true record, and signed by Cllr Dart, subject to an amendment to item 12 relating to responsibility for road closures. The Locum Clerk confirmed to Members that the correct procedure was to apply via the District Council, who would then undertake the necessary consultation process.

4 Questions and statements from members of the public, relating to matters on the agenda – None.

5 East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council Reports – In the absence of the County and District Councillors, no reports were given.

6 Ratify appointment of new Clerk to Laughton Parish Council – Cllr Dart reminded Members of the appointment and interview process, and that the panel had been impressed with the skills, knowledge and attitude of Fiona Hensher. Cllr Mortimer proposed appointing Fiona to the Clerk role. This was seconded by Cllr Cook and unanimously agreed.

11b (item moved forward by agreement with Members) Tree Warden report on diseased oak tree – The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and was summarised by Cllr Mortimer. Members debated the proposed options, and while sympathising with the predicament of the owner, agreed it was not the Parish Council's responsibility as the tree was not on their land. The Tree Warden advised that there was the possibility of work being carried out at a significantly reduced cost by Plumpton College if it was done soon, and offered to liaise between the college and landowner to discuss this option. Cllr Dart thanked the Tree Warden for the comprehensive report, and proposed the Parish Council took no further action until feedback was received as to whether the college and landowner had reached agreement. The Tree Warden left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

7 Planning

(a) **Plans** – Members reviewed the plans below, and agreed comments as recorded:

WD/2016/1323/F BACHELORS, LAUGHTON, BN8 6AJ

Ground floor garden room.

Member comments: No objection

WD/2016/1324/LB BACHELORS, LAUGHTON, BN8 6AJ

Ground floor garden room.

Member comments: No objection

WD/2016/1311/F Laughton Cottage, Brickhurst Lane

Demolition of existing wooden garage and proposed alterations and extensions to existing garage/workshop to form new carport with garage/workshop and ancillary garden room/studio.

Member comments: No objection, subject to a condition imposed to restrict use of the new structure to ancillary use only, and prevention of future use as a separate dwelling or annexe.

(b) **To consider any planning applications that have been received after the agenda has been published** – None received.

(c) **Planning applications refused, approved, referred, withdrawn or appeals** – The following decisions were noted by Members. Cllr Dart thanked Cllrs Cook and Carey for attending the Planning Meeting South to discuss the Broomham Field Farm application. Members also noted that including these approvals, a total of ten new dwellings had been agreed for Laughton since the beginning of 2015.

WD/2016/0423/F Broomham Field Farm, farrowing shed and 2 storey barn. Refused.

WD/2015/2490/F Parkside Farm, conversion of empty building to holiday let. Approved.

WD/2016/0787/F Harbens Farm, replace swimming pool with 2 storey extension. Approved.

WD/2016/0308/F Cleavers Farm, 2 houses in place of an agricultural barn. Approved.

(d) **To note approved responses to applications and appeals approved by email** – Members noted the following responses.

WD/2016/0960/F 1 Pound Lane, extension. Recommend refusal.

WD/2016/0899/F Lower Vert Wood Farm. Convert shed to dwelling. Recommend refusal.

(e) **Other planning matters – To discuss or note any other planning matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council** – Cllr Dart stated that the enforcement list needed to be reviewed at the next meeting. A possible breach of planning conditions attached to a structure on Shortgate Lane has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council and needs to be added to the list of identified enforcement issues.

8 Agree wording of ‘hire’ forms for Village Green and Pelham Field – Cllr Mortimer had prepared and circulated draft documents in advance of the meeting, based on similar procedures at other local councils. Members ran through the documents section by section, with a number of minor amendments agreed. Cllr Mortimer would circulate the amended versions to Members via email for agreement. Cllr Dart thanked Cllr Mortimer for his work regarding this item.

9 Power on the Green – Cllr Mortimer reported that he had contacted UK Power Network and found a consultant who would complete the necessary work if the Parish Council decide to proceed. He recommended an item on the next meeting agenda to discuss fully, by which time he would have obtained three quotes and the Parish Council could then make a decision whether or not to support the idea in principle, and how much of a financial contribution they would be prepared to make.

10 Play area inspection report – Cllr Cook reported he was dealing with this along with Cllr Carey and would provide an update to Members at the next meeting.

11 Correspondence – Members had anticipated attendance at the meeting by the residents affected by recent flooding issues, but no-one had attended. Members agreed to put the item on the next agenda as it was hoped some information would be available via the County Councillor at that time.

12 Parish Council vacancy – Members noted the current vacancy and agreed to publicise in the next edition of the Buckle.

13 Outstanding matters – Members noted the following items remained outstanding, and would be addressed by the new Clerk once in post. The Locum Clerk offered to check the procedure regarding the non-submission of the Annual Return and inform Members of the required action.

- (a) Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- (b) Review of Parish Council Risk Assessment
- (c) Internal and External Audit

14 Financial matters – Members approved payments totalling £219.00 for the period 2 February 2016 to 3 June 2016

15 Reports – Cllr Dart reported that two letters of thanks had been received from organisations who had been awarded grants by the Parish Council. Cllr Breeds reminded Members of the traveller site appeal on 6 July, which she and Cllr Dart planned to attend. Cllr Alexander agreed to research the appeal process and inform Members of what was required.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm