



LAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Also in attendance: Cllr Nick Bennett and 3 members of the public.

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

2. Declaration of Members interest – Cllr Carey reported that a recent planning application had been received from Mr and Mrs Nightingale. They are both involved members of the Parish Council Mrs Nightingale is the treasurer of the village hall and Mr Nightingale currently carries out various gardening duties. Members debated due to the personal interest in the Parish that they should not comment on planning application.

Resolved- No comments were to be made regarding the planning application. The clerk would draft a letter to Mr and Mrs Nightingale.

Two members of the public left the meeting

3. Minutes of the meeting of June 15th 2016- These were agreed a true record

4. Questions and statements from members of the public, relating to matters on the agenda - A hire form for the Pelham field and the Village Green was given out to a member of the public.

5. East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council Reports – Cllr Nick Bennett prepared a report that he discussed. A copy of the Report is to be circulated to each Cllr and attached to the minutes.

Cllr Mortimer reported that the flooding issue in Common lane has become increasingly worse, Cllr Bennett explained the contracts between the highway companies have been renewed and he will follow up on this matter.

Cllr Nick Bennett left the meeting

6. Planning,

a) Plans – None received

b) To consider any planning applications that have been received after agenda has been published.

WD/2016/0821/F – Demolition of existing timber frame holiday accommodation, new two bedroom holiday accommodation as single storey. **No comment on application reason stated in section 2 members interest.**

WD/2016/0600/F – Rear single storey extension to existing residential dwelling. **Decision to be made by email.**

WD/2016/0599/F – Rear single storey extension to existing residential dwelling. **Decision to be made by email.**

c) Planning applications refused, approved, referred, withdrawn or appeals – The following decisions were noted by members. Members also noted that including these approvals, a total of twelve new dwellings had been agreed for Laughton since the beginning of 2015.

WD/2016/1324/LB- Ground floor Garden room **Approved.**

WD/2016/1323/F – Ground floor Garden room **Approved.**

WD/2016/0604/FA – Variation of condition to allow 365 day usage for one mobile home within existing Caravan Park **Approved.**

WD/2016/2759/F – Woodside Farm, Broomham Lane, Removal of agricultural buildings and erection of two dwellings. **Approved**

d) To note approved responses to applications and appeals approved by email -

WD/2016/0906/F – 1 Pound lane, proposed double storey side extension and extension of existing decking over 300mm high. **Refused**

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 constructed and reviewed at the next meeting and will prepare this for the next meeting.

An email from Shelley's estate agent was sent to the clerk regarding a scheme of houses to be built and a percentage given to the Parish. After small consideration the Parish Council are not willing to take on these houses or scheme as the Parish have to ensure the council have zero liability. It was agreed Cllr Mortimer would draft a letter on behalf of the council.

7) Dog Waste Issue- An issue has been raised that dog mess is not being cleared up in popular dog walking area in Pound lane. There is no dog bin or signage.

Signage has now been put up by the gate and on the telegraph poll. Also a notice will be put in the Parish magazine.

It was **Agreed** to email the person who initiated the investigation to see any improvements have taken place and report back in next meeting.

A consultation form from Wealden district council regarding dog and litter bins was received by Cllr Carey, Clerk will ask for an extension so a copy can be distributed to all Cllr's and report back on next meeting.

8) Playground inspection Report – Cllr Carey and Cllr Cook agreed with the report that certain work needs to be carried out for health and safety purposes. Parish Council are responsible for the Junior and Toddler Playground. A quote from Matthew Winter for the work to be carried out was undertaken by Cllr Carey. Totalling in £1019 ex VAT

Resolved- After a vote 4:2 for the work to be carried out,

9) Financial Matters- A list of Cheques are attached with the minutes.

10) Travellers Site Appeal – Cllr Alexander reported that his investigation regarding the information was becoming a struggle. Cllr Carey and Cllr Breed and three members of the Parish attended the appeal. Members felt this was a very poor attendance for the Parish.

Resolve- Clerk to disseminate information to Cllr's and awaiting results from appeal.

11) Maple Trees – Cllr Cook planted two Cherry trees these were removed and replaced by maple trees which grow to 45ft. After Investigation a parent from the school replaced the trees without realising their significance. The Head teacher Rachel West has **Agreed** these trees will be removed and two cherry trees will be put back in place.

12) Playground Equipment to be approved – The school have asked to place a number of new equipment on the stretch of grass on the right hand side of the playground.

Refusal- On the grounds that the position and area, it impacts on the surroundings and setting, could they utilise the equipment with the current play areas already existing.

13) Flooding – Common Lane at Hammonds floods regularly, Cllr Mortimer is trying to resolve the matter. He prepared a report and pictures for members to view. East Sussex highways now outsource Highways Services to Costain CH2M, which made it difficult to establish who to contact regarding this issue. Due to his recent experience Cllr Mortimer will create a list of contacts for future purpose. Cllr Mortimer is looking further into the matter and will report back on a later date.

14) Safety Pedestrian signs- East Sussex County Council will fund the safety pedestrian signs on 'Common Lane' and no cost will be incurred by Laughton Parish Council.

15) Correspondence –

a) Booking Forms received for approval – 3 booking forms received

b) To consider a Village Green/Pelham Field booking committee- **Agreed** copies to be sent to clerk who will scan and send to all Cllr's to agree over email.

c) To consider amendment to Village Green/Pelham Field booking form- Amendments are to be made to the form and a copy to be sent to all Cllr's.

16) Christmas Lights- A discussion of funding through other means will be looked at this year. The clerk will report back after investigation possibly looking into local council funding.

17) Power on Laughton Village Green- Cllr Mortimer prepared a power point report of the different break downs and how the village could have a proposed power source.

The council **Agreed in principle** to allow a power source on the village green. It was agreed to propose a decision on funding this until next meeting, once public interest in fund raising is established via LPC email and website. However, the annual cost will be covered by the Parish Council.

18) Council for Protection of rural England – Resolved to not renew subscription

19) Village Green tree Pruning – Cllr Carey reported the Oak tree work on David Templeman’s land should be funded by the Laughton Parish Council as a ‘good will gesture’. Mr Templeman has been more than generous with his provision of electricity from his house, and hedge cutting on his property to create an open space on the Village Green, which adjoins his property. After a discussion it was put to a vote and 3:2 in favour **Agreed** to pay £348 including VAT for the work on the oak tree which overhangs the Village Green, the money to be paid from the village centre fund. It was suggested that Cllr Carey would approach Mr Templeman to possibly contribute towards the cost. (Cllr Breed did not vote)

20) Over grown Footpaths – It has been reported the footpath that runs along Church Lane towards the school has overgrown hedges and bushes causing a safety hazard. The school children are being forced to step in the road which is an unacceptable safety risk for pedestrians. A previous complaint to the council elicited a quick response from the council, a visit to the site and letters were sent to the houses responsible. Cllr Cook will look to investigate and report back at the next meeting.

21) Outstanding matters – Members noted the following items remained outstanding, and would be addressed by the new clerk; the matters are being dealt with and are an ongoing process reported by the clerk.

Meeting closed at 9.45